

BENTHAM NEWS



Seasons Greetings to all our readers from the BN Committee

DECEMBER 2008

ISSUE 266

THE FROG PRINCESS: A RUSSIAN PANTO FOR BENTHAM

By Margaret Cowling

We've had a great response to our panto sign-up, and by the time you read this **The Frog Princess** will be cast and rehearsals in full swing. Then in the New Year it will be full steam ahead, and our production team, led by our director, Iain Henshaw, will be overseeing hours of acting, singing, dancing, music-making, costume-sewing, scenery painting, prop-making, wiring, lighting and filming.

We're really excited about our new script, and we're sure you'll agree that **The Frog Princess** is an inspirational choice. This panto is crammed full of fantastic characters, including the Tsar-of-all-the-Russias, and his sons, Boris, Fred and Ivan, who all have to compete for their father's favour. The princes are helped (or hindered) by their "interesting" wives Vodkatia, Tonika and Vasilisa, who has been turned into a frog by her jealous and vindictive mother, Baba Yaga. Can Ivan rescue her? Will he find the ancient tree that holds the secret of Baba Yaga's powers? He'll be helped by creatures of the wild woods, and a mad March hare, and a good witch – but watch out for the cunning Bigspybossovitch!

The panto will run from Wednesday February 18th to Saturday February 21st, and



tickets will go on sale in mid-January. Now that the Sportshop has closed we are looking for a new shop to sell our tickets, and full details will be given in the January Bentham News. Also, beginning on January 11th, we will be holding six weeks of prop-making workshops on Saturday mornings at the Looking Well from eleven till one.

And, like our panto, this article has a happy ending – it's not too late to get involved! If you'd like to help in any way please ring me on 63175, or Jane on 61362.



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NOVEMBER'S TOWN COUNCIL

By David Johnson

Cllrs Barnes, Faichney, Taylor, District Cllr Camacho and County Cllr Ireton were absent. Several members of the public attended and were given the opportunity to air their views about a proposed development at Mill Dam.

Police

PC Hayes said that the area is being plagued by late night burglaries of commercial properties, club's kiosks and churches. He asked if owners of such properties could be warned not to leave cash or valuables on their property. Extra late night patrols have been mounted and the police would be grateful to receive any information about any suspicious activity. Police surgeries will be held every Wednesday between 6.00 and 7.00 p.m. at Bentham Fire Station. If you would like to discuss something this is your opportunity! PC Hayes would also like to catch the person who kicked in the wing mirror on his police car!!

Planning

Plans have been drawn up for 34 houses on land adjacent to Wesley Close. They will be affordable housing for rent. Cllrs are in favour of the development but have asked for a site meeting with the planning officer to discuss access and drainage. Most Cllrs thought a new access road should be built near Bigber Farm from the B6480 to take some of the pressure off Goodenber Road.

The proposed conversion of a barn to a B1 workplace and living accommodation at Mill Dam led to considerable discussion. The Cllrs wondered if the plans provide accurate information about ownership, trees and streams and decided to seek clarification from the District Council before making a recommendation. The application for a stone yard at Fourlands Nursery was withdrawn at the last minute. The Cllrs decided not to pursue the dispute over the stopping up of Hillside Road because they believed the houses would never be demolished and that the enquiry would cause aggravation and be a waste of time. However, they decided to

object to the way they had been ignored. They are considering asking permission to paint a depth gauge on the railway bridge at the point where the road floods near Holmes Farm, Low Bentham.

New School

The Cllrs have met with LEA representatives and they are hopeful that progress is now being achieved.

The Common Lands Charity

The Cllrs have taken legal advice and have ascertained that any two trustees can summon a special meeting. They received confirmation that the aim of the charity is to preserve common land for the benefit of the community. They decided to send copies of this legal advice to the clerk of the charity.

Youth Café

Cllr Burton said between seven and ten people use the café on the three nights of the week that it is open. More volunteers would be welcome to assist the youth worker.

Playing Fields

Cllr Heigh said that Trevor Wheildon and Lee Hayward had gained the F.A. Standard Coaching Charter. The qualification has been achieved after a lot of hard work and the Cllrs agreed that a letter should be sent congratulating them on their achievement.

Tourist Information Point

About 2,500 visitors had used the information point this year. Cllr Marshall said that the co-ordinators, Wendy Dowbiggin and Paul Howard, were doing an excellent job.

Bonfire

About 2,000 people attended the very successful bonfire this year.

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Seasons Greetings to all our Customers



GARDEN PAGE

By Joyce Knapp



In December we may have little time for tackling any chores in the garden, but if you do get to the stage where you need a diversion from all the hustle and bustle of Christmas preparations then even a short while spent tending plants can feel quite relaxing. We can begin by looking over any perennials i.e. plants that have soft, as opposed to woody, top growth and have a life span of more than two years. It is usual for most perennials to die back to ground level during the winter and it is at this stage that we can assess what treatment to give them if any is deemed necessary. The first step is to trim off all the old, dying stems just above ground level and transfer all the discarded growth to either a compost heap, or perhaps the relevant wheely bin. Next we can assess the need to hold back the spread of each plant by checking to see if the root system has grown outwards during the previous year. With most perennials it is sufficient to simply go round the root with a

spade, slicing through it where necessary and then using a garden fork, simply lift out all the sections of root that have strayed away from the initial area of planting. Occasionally we may come across a plant that needs rejuvenating, in which case we would remove the central area of roots and move the surrounding roots in to form a new, central root ball. Once the plants have been tidied up, it only remains for us to remove any weeds from the surrounding area and apply a good layer of garden compost.

Having looked at how to care for these plants in the winter months, perhaps it would be wise to suggest one or two perennials that are particularly good at attracting wildlife into our gardens. The first one that springs to mind is Sedum as this plant brings lots of bees and other insects into the garden in late autumn. Echinops (Globe Thistle) will attract both butterflies and hoverflies and has the added benefit of producing beautiful blue heads on tall stems that are excellent for use in flower arrangements.

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CRAVEN CONCERNS

By Cllr Manuel Camacho 015242 62074

CDC Area Forum

The Autumn area forum was held in the Town Hall recently. In order to make it more accessible a new format was tried out. Previously the format was a panel and audience with presentations from CDC and Partners (like the Police) and Q&A sessions at the end. Instead this forum took the form of a series of stalls with displays from CDC departments and Partner organisations. This gave visitors the opportunity to address their views directly to the people concerned. Although the turnout was only slightly up on previous events, I believe the format was very successful and would recommend it to you. It would be nice to see you all at the Spring event.

New Chief Executive

A new chief executive Paul Shevlin has been appointed and will be in office by the time you read this article. He was selected from a group of seventy applicants in a three day selection process. At the same time we say goodbye to Brian Dinsdale who stood in during the interim period and provided stability and sound common sense during his stay.

Redundant Buildings Survey

The Council has appointed leading Yorkshire property firm Dacre, Son & Hartley to undertake appraisals of redundant and under-used rural buildings, with a view to transforming them into new business opportunities.

The scheme, which is being co-ordinated by the Economic Development Team, aims to identify 20 properties outside market towns with the potential to be developed for a range of business uses including workspace, residential, tourism and leisure, environment and the arts and media. All properties put forward will be appraised on an individual basis taking into account energy efficiency, transport consideration, planning restrictions, market potential, likely income generation and business links, as well as potential funding. Once all properties have been appraised, a shortlist of

20 will be put forward to the Council who will be hosting an event in the summer of 2009 to bring together potential land owners with property developers, with a view to developing the chosen buildings.

CDC Finances

While I was in Harrogate recently I read an article about serious budget shortages at Harrogate District Council which turned out to be caused in the main by the unforeseen cost of free bus passes. This was also the main contributor to our own difficulties. The scheme is excellent but whilst the Government pushed it through for local government to administer, it did not provide anywhere near the funding required. Let's hope that this will be remedied in the foreseeable future.

Olympic Gold Medallist visits Craven Pool

Andrew Triggs-Hodge, Rowing Gold Medallist at the Beijing Games was the chief guest at a small reception held by the Chairman of the Council, Cllr Marcia Turner, at Craven Pool and Fitness Centre on Saturday. Andrew met some of Craven's up and coming athletes at a reception held for him at the fitness centre.

The Olympic athlete visited Craven last December when he officially opened the new fitness centre extension and launched Craven District Council's Free Access to National Sports People (FANS) scheme. The FANS scheme supports local talented and elite athletes through free membership of the facilities at Craven Swimming Pool and Fitness Centre.

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GRANT FUNDING AVAILABLE FOR LOCAL ORGANISATIONS

By Jo Burton (Town Clerk)

The annual Council Precept meeting will be held on 12 January at 7.30pm in the Lower Town Hall.

Those local organisations that would like to be considered for a grant from the Town Council should apply in writing to the Clerk by Monday 5 January (late applications will not be considered). Please note that all recipients are expected to present a report at the Annual Parish Meeting on 22 April 2009. Applications should include:

1. the name and address of the organisation concerned.
2. a contact name, address and telephone number (along with this person's position in the organisation).
3. brief details (100 words max) of the project requiring funding together with the anticipated total cost should be supplied.
4. a set of accounts (preferably, or equivalent if not available) for the last complete financial year to show the organisation's financial position, including
 - the date of year end
 - total income and expenditure and funds available at the year end.

Application forms are available from the Clerk, please ring 62587. All applications should be sent to Bentham Town Council, Wynn-Stay, Springfield, High Bentham.

FED UP WITH LITTER?

By Shirley Brown

Are you fed up with seeing litter in the hedgerows and on the paths round Bentham? Do road signs that are so dirty you can't read them make you mad? Do benches that you can't sit on because they're overgrown with weeds make you wince? Well you can do something about it.

You can either contact a Bloomin' Bentham volunteer (tel: 61608 or email shirleybrown1@btinternet.com) and pass the information on, or better still you can offer to help the volunteers sort it out.

On Thursday 13th November Bloomin' Bentham collected rubbish from the hedgerows beside the road coming into High Bentham from Ingleton. Next month they'll meet on Saturday 13th December, **always the 13th, always 1pm, always the painted bus shelter.**



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DRAFT SCHEME FOR PARKING IMPROVEMENTS

By Jo Burton, Town Clerk

Traffic and parking in Bentham has always been something of a problem, not least because all the priorities cause traffic to pile up at the crossroads of Main Street and Station Road. This restricts traffic flow, and on occasions the centre can come to a standstill as lorries negotiate the turn into or out of Station Road.

The Council has been very aware of these problems and the negative effects they have on the town. At its instigation alterations were made to the parking outside the Co-Op some eighteen months ago, moving it to the other side of the road. Although it took a little getting used to there is no doubt that this has improved the flow of traffic out of the town, as well as assisting HGVs to turn left down Station Road.

Following on from this success the Council has been looking for ways to further improve the traffic flow and prevent more hold-ups. Initial discussions with NYCC Highways have looked at the possibility of moving the parking on both Station Road and the lower part of Main Street to the opposite side of the road – maps of these proposals have been put on the Council notice boards, and are available from the clerk on request.

These draft proposals aim to alter the traffic priorities so that in all cases traffic moving away from the crossroads and out of town has the priority. This may not remove the current problems, but should move them away from the cross thereby reducing the number of stoppages.

These are only draft proposals which the Council is now putting out for consultation. If you have any comments please put them in writing to the Council, care of the clerk at Wynn-Stay, Springfield, Bentham LA2 7BE. by 13 December. The comments will then be collated and considered by the Council at its January meeting. Following this, if favourable, there will be a public meeting to discuss the proposed scheme in February, at a date to be determined.

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WOMEN'S INSTITUTES

High Bentham

By Anne Yaman

The November meeting was very well attended when we welcomed two new members, Hanne Page and Wanda Lewcun and one visitor. We are all so pleased to see our WI thriving and every month the meeting has such a loyal band of attendees and the Committee would like to thank the ladies who continue to come along, and hopefully enjoy themselves.

Miss Wendy Dowbiggin presided over a busy evening when the new committee was announced, the old committee was re-elected with the addition of Miss Anne Millar, and forthcoming events, including a coffee morning on 29th November, late night shopping on 12th December and a meal at the Bridge Inn at Tatham were discussed.

Mrs Chris Lewis gave a report from the federation meeting attended in Blackburn which had included "Last Night of the Proms" with suitable flag waving and wearing of silly hats by members of the contingent who had attended.

The speaker for the evening was Elaine Burrige from Chorley who gave an interesting demonstration on gift wrapping with a difference -very topical- and we all went away wanting to do beautiful present wrapping this year (never mind what the pressie is you can be guaranteed it will be beautifully wrapped!)

The competition for a gift tag was won by Kath Dempster. The next meeting in December will be our Christmas party and we are all looking forward to a lovely meal prepared by Philippa from the Nosebag, together with some entertainment, and an early visit from the very old man in red who will be stopping his sleigh outside the Town Hall.



Low Bentham

By Jennifer Watkinson

Mrs Julie Brandon, accompanied by her husband Eddie, spoke very enthusiastically about the subject "The art of the canals", at the October meeting.

She gave a brief history of the network of canals which were built in the eighteenth century. However, after the construction of the railways, the canals began to lose business. Because of the economic situation the boatmen sold their houses and converted some of their barges into homes and moved their families into them. They decorated the cabins with brasswork, ribbon plates and crochet work. The families missed their old homes and gardens very much so they painted roses and castles on their furniture, pots and pans as a reminder of them.

Fifteen years ago Mrs Brandon went to Wigan Pier, where she purchased a book and painting book about canals. She was so interested in the subject that she enrolled on a "year drop brush work course" and learned how to paint roses and castles. Using traditional colours, she demonstrated her skills by painting a rose on a board. She brought with her several items that she had decorated, like old mill bobbins, a watering can and a milk kit.

"Wonderful" was the word used by president, Mrs Ruth Sephton, when she thanked her for coming.

Competition winners were:-

1. Mrs Sue Cooper
2. Mrs Mabel Easterby
2. Mrs Sylvia Brennand.

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THE COMMUNITY BONFIRE & LANTERN PROCESSION

*By the Bentham Bonfire
Committee*

In true definition of community spirit, Bentham's Bonfire Night was another success for the town. It was a lovely autumn evening and thankfully the rain descended elsewhere that night. The atmosphere was alive and happy; more than 2,000 people gathered to watch the lantern procession and fireworks.

The procession was led by the fire spirit and then a 15 metre long dragon made by Jimmy Ogden and Lewis Yuill. The side panels on the dragon, made by various local people, depicted "creatures that fly", the theme for this year. The Bentham Samba Band was outstanding, a first gig for band leader Judi Wright, who is about to take a break and visit Cuba for a few months.

Looking Well Studio has never been busier; during half term approximately 300 children and their families passed through the doors and made 100 lanterns.

The large butterfly lantern (designed by Nikki Johnson) was carried by newly wed couple Pete and Jamie Ball who have been visiting Bentham bonfire for a number of years and decided to include it as part of their wedding celebration, and finally, we hope that you didn't miss the flying pig!

Accompanied by the Samba Band, fire swingers Jack Parkinson and Hannah Smith provided entertainment at the auction mart and this was followed by another great firework display. Thanks have to be given to all the marshalls, ticket sellers, procession stewards, pyrotechnic helpers, lantern workshop leaders and helpers who gave up their time or loaned us their equipment to



help us make this superb community event happen.

The picture shows the dragon in the procession on Main Street, with some of the large crowd.

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Sat 20th-Martin & Knowles.

Mon 22nd Frank McGregor
(after the Carol Singing about 9pm).

Sat 27th-Vicky Price. Wed 31st Frank McGregor

COPS ON THE SPOT

By Sgt Angela Moorhouse

In my last article I wrote about the burglaries which had been occurring in the Ingleton and Clapham ward. As a result of this we received some interesting information from members of the public and I would personally like to thank you for this. Please continue to contact us and report anything which you think may help in the detection/prevention of crime.

This month I thought we'd take a look at what's been happening in the Bentham ward. There have been 93 crimes recorded in Bentham this year to date (figures correct as of 14.11.08). This compares with 67 for the previous year to date. Statistically the most crimes recorded are criminal damage (or vandalism) with 38 being recorded this year. This compares to 21 crimes of criminal damage last year. The second highest home office classification of recorded crime in Bentham is that of violence with 23 being recorded. Violent crime can range anywhere from a common assault to grievous bodily harm. This time last year 13 such crimes (violent) were recorded.

The good news in relation to these crime figures is that we have a detection rate of 36.6% across the board which is above the set target of 33%. The current force detection rate stands at 29.2%. Finally, your local neighbourhood police officers have been called to incidents/crimes in Bentham 67 times this month.

Your local neighbourhood policing team put the right people in the right places in the right numbers-working with you to be safe and feel safe. Call 0845 60 60 247 or e-mail angela.moorhouse@northyorkshire.pnn.police.uk

Crime Prevention

By PC Adrian Hayes

Christmas will soon be here and most of you will be out either shopping or celebrating the season's festivities. I would like to take this opportunity to pass on a few words of crime prevention advice to ensure that your enjoyment is not spoiled by those who act criminally or

irresponsibly. When going shopping do not leave all those attractive presents on view in the rear of your car where they may offer too much of a temptation for somebody else to break into your car and steal them. Don't leave purses in the top of shopping bags where they are easy picking for thieves. Keep them closed up in your bag or better still kept on your person.

Keep a careful eye on your bank and credit cards. Be aware of who is around you when using ATMs. Check carefully that nothing has been attached to the device and shield your PIN number from the view of others. Do not give out your PIN number to anybody else or allow anybody else to use your card.

As usual this year there will be a drink / drive campaign. This will be conducted at all times of the day. Make sure when you go out to celebrate the festivities that you have made arrangements to get home. Use a taxi or get one of your party to agree not to drink and to drive everybody else home. Also be careful the morning after. It takes several hours for the alcohol to clear your system.

Finally enjoy the festivities responsibly without spoiling the quality of life of your friends and neighbours. On behalf of all my colleagues on the Ingleton Safer Neighbourhood Team I wish you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Can You Help?

By PC Barbara Yule

Pauline Birkett's (contact tel 07962290950) pet cat was shot somewhere in the vicinity of Low Bentham. It is believed that this happened between the 05/10/08 and 12/10/08. It was a young grey tabby. It was shot in the back legs and had to be put down because of its injuries. The cat had lots of shrapnel in the legs so it was probably shot with a shot gun.

Anyone who can provide any information about this incident to PC 830 YULE, Ingleton Police Station. 08456060247. Thank you for any help.

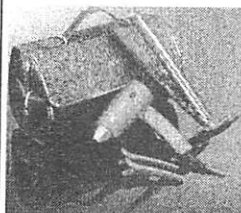
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YESTERDAY IN BENTHAM

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

December 1988

This month's edition led with a report of the visit to Bentham of the (then) Home Secretary, Douglas Hurd. He came as guest speaker at a Conservative Association dinner and this represented the first known visit to Bentham of a serving Cabinet Minister. The security arrangements for the visit were reported to consist primarily of "a young and vulnerable-looking WPC in the butcher's doorway and a constable up the road by the Brown Cow," although it was noted that there was also a scattering of men in grey suits who were clearly "in the security business."

In his speech Mr H made reference to the theoretic ability of his boss (Margaret T) to cross the Wenning without the need for stepping stones, which would have been a useful talent given Bentham's tendency to lose its bridge!

Bateman Marshall voiced his disappointment at the way guests arriving at the Town Hall were subjected to a barrage of "obscene and foul remarks" by a group of protesters, who, ostensibly, were there to present a petition to Mr Hurd,

Thankfully our Town Council are better behaved these days!

BN this month recorded the retirement of Mildred ("Millie") Guy from the Youth Club in Bentham. There was praise for the service she had given to the Club for many years as its 'tea bar lady', and it was said that both Millie and her cheese / bean toasties would be sadly missed.

Bentham also lost the services of another respected caterer with the sudden death of Doris Symonds. With a background of catering in the hotel trade, Doris cooked for the pupils at Bentham School, prior to becoming Hostess at Bentham Golf Club.

I couldn't help feeling a little sad when I read items from Bentham Scouts and

Bentham British Legion. The Scouts were appealing for leaders and the British Legion for new members. Both said that if none were forthcoming then it was likely that each organisation would cease to exist in Bentham. *I wish they had been wrong!*

Low Bentham Councillor Sue Bloxham reported on what was probably the closest Bentham will ever get to political sleaze, when she revealed that "the motley crew otherwise known as the Town Council" (her words not mine!) had been the guests of Angus Fire for what she described as a "posh lunch." *And not a Russian billionaire in sight!*

Finally, I'll afford space for the last words of 1988 to come from that famous Bard of Station Road, Mr Thomas Guy, who could always be relied upon to come up with something that would sensitively and tastefully reflect the Christmas spirit (!)

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BENTHAM FILM GROUP

By Stella Hall

Forget your Christmas preparations for an evening and come and join us for our showing of the film 'Indiana Jones and the Kingdom of the Crystal Skull'. Famed archaeologist and adventurer Dr. Henry 'Indiana' Jones is called back into action when he becomes entangled in a Soviet plot to uncover the secret behind mysterious artifacts known as the Crystal Skulls.

The film will take place on Saturday 6th December at the Victoria Institute, Low Bentham, commencing at 7.30pm. During the interval there will be refreshments to purchase and a raffle. Bring a cushion to enhance your comfort!

Tickets are £5 on the door but may be bought in advance at the **reduced rate** of £4.50 from Low Bentham Victoria Institute Monday and Wednesday 10.00am-12.00 noon and High Bentham Community Centre Monday to Friday 10.00am-12.00 noon. We look forward to seeing you there!

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THE BENTHAM NEWS STORY (Part 2)

By Gill Warren

Last month's photograph of Neil Carter handing in advertising copy, to Chris Humphreys at the Gallery, showed the start of the monthly cycle of activities which culminate with you having a copy of the Bentham News delivered to your home. The Gallery is the collection point for editorial articles, letters and advertisements, and for payments for the advertisements. There Chris Humphreys records the items, each of which gets a reference number, so that when the BN is prepared for the proof reading meeting, the team can check that nothing has been left out. The copy deadline is notified each month in the diary pages of the BN, and is usually the 15th, although not always.

These items and payments are then collected from the Gallery by the co-ordinator, Bill Kennedy. Part of his work is to type and layout the articles, advertisements and photographs on the pages. As you may have noticed, the pagination varies occasionally. This month, for instance there are 40 pages, but the normal number is 36. This preparation includes scanning graphics and logos, working on photographs in a suitable software programme, occasionally designing and laying out advertisements. When all of this is done, the pages have to be checked for errors, at a proof reading session.

Of course, there is the financial side of the project to be dealt with so the co-ordinator keeps records of payments for advertising, sends out invoices when necessary and does all the banking of cheques and cash. He prepares a report for the treasurer, Ken Robertson, who is responsible for financial reports to the editorial committee each month.

At the proof reading meeting members of the committee check the pages for typing errors, grammar etc. They may also edit articles and they decide on what will finally appear on the front page. After this has been done, and any final amendments completed, the copy goes to the printer.



But there is still work to be done! The BN is recorded onto CDs, which are prepared for posting to people who have difficulty in reading, perhaps through impaired eyesight. During the next few days, a team of volunteers read the BN and each page is recorded. The recordings are then burned to discs, and the required number of copies made. *The picture above shows Joan Clapham recording an article.*

The printing is done by Paul Metcalfe, Pica Design and Print. He produces 2,100 copies and delivers these to Mrs. Isabel Joel, Station Road, at 9.00am on publication day. Her role, with her small team, (Mary West, Olive Calverley, Peter Phillips, *(see picture below)* and often, Gill Warren and Shirley Brown, is to have the required number of copies counted out and put in named bags, for delivery to the 35 distributors and 15 other delivery points. These include Austwick, Clapham, Ingleton, Burton, Bentham and Wray Post Offices. Peter Phillips, Trevor Blackwell, Shirley Brown and Bill Kennedy look after these deliveries.





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Dear Bentham News,
I read with sadness the article in November's magazine from the new Incumbent of High and Low Bentham, regarding the hint that St. Margaret's Church might in the foreseeable future, close due to lack of support, be it financial or lack of "rears on seats".



Clive states that the congregation at St. Margaret's is small, and he quoted numbers. Whilst I agree that numbers are small, the 9, 10 or dozen folks who attend at the early service on a Sunday morning are not always the same people, making the number who actually attend church on a regular basis, be it weekly, fortnightly or monthly, slightly more than Clive implies.

I am also aware that the contents of the article will have greatly upset some older people in Bentham, who down the years have been loyal to St. Margaret's and have regarded it, as I do, as their Parish Church. Now due to infirmity they can no longer climb up the hill, but do continue to support the church, both financially and with prayer. This bolt out of the blue, coming as it has for them, via Bentham News, is to say the least, insensitive. I feel for them, and for the current congregation. I hope that Clive will be proved wrong and that St. Margaret's will once again pull itself up by its boot strings and weather these lean times.

As with the closure of the school at Low Bentham this year, and the closure of the Parochial School 30 years ago, the rot sets in more when the idea of closure is voiced around the town. Folks think "Why bother, they are going to close it anyway, why should we make an effort"? I hope that the Vicar's article does make people think, and I pray that his words are not the death knell to St. Margaret's, but that they stir the people of Bentham up so that St. Margaret's thrives again.

Taking on a new parish, in my mind is like taking on a new, but mature garden. Whilst keeping it in order to begin with, the radical pruning should not take place until you have a chance to see what is already growing there. Who knows what might blossom?

Susan Adams, Robin Lane, High Bentham.

Dear Bentham News,
The lantern procession leading to the community bonfire on 1st November was another successful evening for Bentham. I am always amazed that over 2,000 people gather in good cheer and the event is *usually* incident free.

As with all the previous community bonfires, the public, on arrival at the auction mart, are directed to the designated entrance to buy a ticket or to have their ticket checked etc. People carrying the lanterns, the samba band and disabled persons are guided through the auction mart main gate.

Unfortunately, at this year's event, in my capacity as a marshal, I engaged with one individual, out of all those people, who appeared to be a law unto himself and refused to cooperate with the instructions of the marshalls. This individual was asked by two separate marshalls to queue at the designated public entrance. I can only say that this person was verbally rude and arrogant in his response and pushed his way past and through the gateway anyway.

To my dismay, I have since learnt that the man in question is a councillor. Surely this is not the way for a public figure to project himself? However, thank you to all those other 2,000 people who enjoyed themselves and did not feel it necessary to act in an inappropriate manner.

Bentham Community Bonfire Marshall (name and address supplied)

Dear Bentham News

I recently saw the article 'Yesterday in Bentham: October 1988' in Bentham News, which was sent to me by family friend Pat Burns – and decided to send in my bit of the suggested '20 years later' update.

After a geology degree at Oxford University (which I was a year into back in Oct 1988), I went on to do a PhD at Edinburgh University and then worked for the British Geological Survey in Scotland for ten years. I'm now the geologist for the North Pennines Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) Partnership, based in Weardale in Co. Durham, and my job involves interpreting the area's geology and landscapes for the public. I'm enjoying being

Letters Continued from page 17



back among Pennine fells and dales and feel as if I've (nearly) come home – on a clear day I can just see Ingleborough from the Pennine escarpment!

I hope that some of the other people you mentioned in the article write in – it would be good to hear their updates too.

Kind regards, Elizabeth Pickett.

Dear Bentham News,

Since my last article I had many positive responses and that has been very encouraging. We have even seen a few more people in Church. It's not just about people coming to Church – it's growing God's Kingdom and sharing the all-forgiving love of God through his son Jesus Christ. It's not just about money, though as many of us are affected by the economic downturn, St. Margaret's starts from a very negative position, and I hope to be able to get help from Bradford Diocese, which itself is poor and receives outside financial support so that Parishes can remain open. I will be asking the Diocese if they can help us with a debt of over £17,000.

If anyone would like to chat to me about my last article, or about any other issues, please contact me on the address below.

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CHRISTMAS AT THE POST OFFICE

By David Alder

General

The Government has decided – after creating two years of uncertainty by putting out the work to open competitive tender - to continue to allow the Post Office to pay out pensions and allowances through the PO Card Account until at least 2015. This is good news for the future of the post office network. There still remains to be published the Hooper report into the way the Royal Mail/Post Office is organised and regulated, and the results of an internal Royal Mail review into the provision of rural services. It is to be hoped that the common sense approach now being adopted with the Card Account issue will also prevail in these other two areas.

Christmas 2008

Overseas Post - A reminder on the need to post items for Western Europe by Friday 12 December, North America, Japan and Eastern Europe by Wednesday 10 December and the Rest of the World by Friday 5 December.

Inland Post Last Recommended Posting Dates:

Second Class letters, cards and packets – Thursday 18 December
First Class letters, cards and packets – Saturday 20 December
Parcelforce 48 – Monday 22 December
RM Special Delivery/Parcelforce 24 – Tuesday 23 December

Collection and Delivery Arrangements

These will continue as normal in the period up to Christmas augmented as necessary to meet peaks in traffic. The last collections on Christmas Eve will however be as on a normal Saturday.

There will be no services on Christmas Day and Boxing Day.

There will be normal services between then and New Year's Eve – when final collections will again be as on a normal Saturday - although the arrangements for

Saturday 27 December are still to be finalised at the time of writing.

There will be no services on New Year's Day, but all will return to normal on 2 January.

Counter Arrangements

These will be normal until Christmas Eve when post offices will close at lunchtime. Post offices will be closed on Christmas Day and Boxing Day.

Arrangements for Saturday 27th are still to be finalised at the time of writing.

Normal opening will apply on 29th and 30th December. Counters will close in the late afternoon on New Year's Eve.

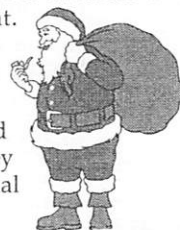
Advance payments of pensions and allowances will be made generally on the last working day before a day on which post offices are closed.

Miscellaneous

Please ensure packets and parcels for home and abroad are well packaged and contain a return address. Packages for destinations outside the EU require a customs declaration.

Please use the postcode wherever possible for all items. For inland cards please check the postage rate if one or more of the dimensions of the card are larger than 240mm x 165mm x 5mm. For overseas cards please check the weight. Large postings of cards can be made over the post office counter.

Lastly all counter and postal staff wish to convey to everyone warm seasonal greetings.



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LOCAL EVENTS IN DECEMBER



Wed 3rd

Citizens Advice Bureau at the Health Centre, 1.30-3.30pm. No appointment needed.

Coffee morning at the Methodist Church Hall, 10.00-11.30am, and every Wednesday. Donations to local charities.

Café-IN drop-in for coffee, information and internet, 11.00am-1.30pm, also on 10th & 17th.

Moving Well, gentle exercise to music, Community Centre, 2.00-3.00pm, also 10th & 17th.

Thu 4th

Indoor Bowls at the Town Hall, 1.30-3.30pm. See page 38.

Swimming at Hornby for over 50s (men and women). Cost £1.60. Telephone Barbara Shuttleworth 62873 to arrange transport. Also on 11th & 18th.

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

High Bentham Women's Institute, 7.30pm at the Town Hall, Christmas party.

Welcome-in dominoes for all ages, Methodist Church Hall 2.30pm. For transport call Nigel or Kath 62272.

Fri 5th

Age Concern at the Masonic Hall, 10.00am-2.30pm. "Table Decorations".

GFI for school years 6, 7 & 8, 6.15 to 8.00pm and for school years 9+, 8.15 to 9.15pm, at Methodist Church Hall, and every Friday in term time.

Sat 6th

St. Margaret's Church coffee morning at the Town Hall Ballroom, 10.00am-12.00noon. 

Farmers' Market & Christmas Fair at the Lower Town Hall, 9.30am-1.30pm.

Mon 8th

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

Tue 9th

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

Mon 1st

Gentle walks for women. Leave Lairgill 9.30am, and every Monday.

Toddle-in for parents/carers and babies and toddlers, Methodist Church Hall 10.00-11.30am, and every Monday except 29th.

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

Springboard Christingle and Christmas craft sale, Methodist Church Hall, 6.15pm.

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

Indoor Bowls, Town Hall, 1.30-3.30pm. See page 38.

Town Council meeting at the Town Hall, 7.30pm.

Tue 2nd

Yoga at the Town Hall. 11.00am-12.00noon, and 6.00-7.00pm and next two Tuesdays.

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

Bentham Footpath Group walk, Kingsdale, 8 miles, leader B. Ellershaw 62078. Meet at Lairgill 9.30am.

Gentle strolls (1 hour) followed by cup of tea. Leave Looking Well 2pm, and every Tuesday.

Songs to Remember, Looking Well 2.30-4.00pm.

Heart attack, stroke awareness event, 7.30pm Town Hall.

Wed 3rd

Bentham Community First Responders at the Horse and Farrier, 7.30pm. Come and talk to us about joining.

LISTING FOR LOCAL EVENTS

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

Event.....

Venue.....

Contact Tel:.....

Name.....

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

- Tue 9th Bright Hour Christmas meeting at 2.15pm in the Methodist Church Hall - Wray ladies. Mothers Union party, 2.00pm at Burton Church Room. Carol singing, all welcome.
- Thu 11th Benthams Footpath Group walk, Ubersash and beyond, 8½ miles, leader B. Sim 015395 60240. Meet at Lairgill at 9.30am. 2.30pm Friendly Hour at Low Benthams Methodist Church, everyone welcome.
- Fri 12th Age Concern at the Masonic Hall, 10.00am-2.30pm. Christmas Dinner with children singing. Evening Street Market, High Benthams.
- Sat 13th St. John's Church coffee morning at the Town Hall Ballroom, with Carols by High Benthams School Choir and the launch of the appeal for St. John's extension. 1.00pm, Bloomin' Benthams volunteers meet at painted bus shelter, School Hill. Tel: 61608 for more details.
- Sun 14th Copy deadline for January Benthams News.
- Mon 15th Craven Customer Services at the Town Hall, 10.00am-12.30pm.
- Tue 16th Benthams Child Health Clinic at the Surgery, 2.00-4.00pm. "Soup & Sing", at the Methodist Schoolroom, 7.30pm. In aid of NCH.
- Wed 17th Citizens Advice Bureau at the Health Centre, 1.30-3.30pm. No appointment needed.

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- Thu 18th Welcome-in Christmas tea with carols, following dominoes, Methodist Church Hall. For transport contact Nigel or Kath 62272.
- Fri 19th Waste paper collection at Lairgill Car park, 8.30-11.00am. Proceeds to NSPCC. Age Concern closed till the New Year.
- Sat 20th Homing Society coffee morning at the Town Hall, 10.00am-12.00noon. 
- Sat 27th Benthams Footpath Group post Christmas Ramble and Hot-Pot, 4 miles, leader K. Piper 61977. Meet at Lairgill 10.15am.

Events in early January

Fri 2nd Benthams News published.

Sat 3rd Benthams Cricket Club coffee morning at the Town Hall, 10.00am-12.00noon.

Reminder!

Would the organisations using this events page please remember to let us have their annual programmes/schedules by the copy deadline for the January edition please.

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LOOKING WELL NEWS

By Clare Hucknall

Thinking ahead for the New Year

Is one of your New Year Resolutions to do something different? Plans are underway for a series of new or repeated classes and sessions in early 2009 - and everyone is welcome. Gardening will be taking root and sessions around a variety of themes are currently in the pipeline (or should that be germinating!)

"Songs to Remember" has been a big hit with those attending and we will plan more sessions if there is sufficient demand - so if you fancy singing/listening to songs from Bing Crosby, Gracie Fields, Andy Williams etc. then do come along/contact Clare on 62672.

Café IN on Wednesday mornings from 11.00am-1.30pm is the place to come if you want to find out more, or drop us your email address and we can keep you electronically informed of our new classes/sessions

(office@pioneerprojects.org.uk).

Tai Chi can help with general wellbeing and relaxation as well as alleviate symptoms of a variety of conditions, eg ME, MS, stroke recovery, breathing problems such as asthma.

We have a number of regular activities, (walks, art class, gentle movement, support groups, swimming) so if you want to find out more please get in touch or pop into Café IN.

Lantern Workshops

The lantern workshops were a huge success; approximately 100 lanterns were produced in a very busy environment by very enthusiastic lantern makers. Thank you to all who attended the workshops and walked in the procession.

We would like to give special thanks to Liam Ellershaw, Maureen Magooligan, June Hewitt, Ann Booth, Ken Fisher, Eddie Knowles, Geraldine Holmes and Anna Read for all their hard work which helped make the lantern procession happen.

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BENTHAM YOUTH THEATRE GROUP

By Iain Henshaw

The group will shortly finish its third season. Since the early days when Beryl Hunter started the Saturday Morning Arts Club we have seen a steady growth in the youth theatre attendees. Over the last three years we have worked with a great bunch of young people who are a credit to themselves, the town and most of all their parents.

We'll be rounding off this year with a small play - Aladdin - at the Community Centre during the late night shopping on the 12th December. Many thanks to everybody who has helped over the past 12 months. We now join forces with the Theatre Group and start work on next year's panto. Youth Theatre will be back next March; keep in touch through the website bytg.org.uk or Iain on 61010.

BENTHAM CHRISTMAS LIGHTS

By Iain Henshaw

Merry Christmas everybody. We'll do our best battling health and safety and the weather to put up the Christmas trees for this year. There are six more trees to go up compared to last year - there's room for more! If you live on Main Street or Station Road get in touch if you would like a tree for next year. Thanks to Christine at Flowerfields for getting the trees and to Anthony Bateson for fabricating the new brackets. Now you all just have a good old Christmas and we'll do our best to light it up. Best wishes from Iain Henshaw 61010 and David Bedford 62846.

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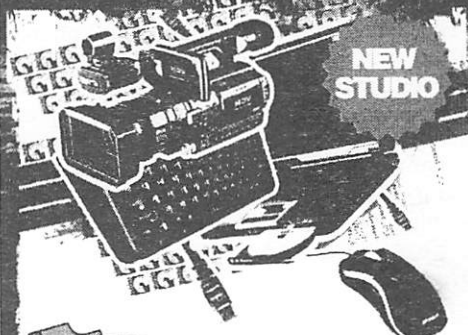
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BENTHAM IN THE BLOOD

By David Johnson

Since the publication of my last book 'Bentham As It Were' I have been inundated with enquiries from people investigating their ancestry. Programmes such as 'Who Do You Think You Are' have encouraged this.

Looking at the shelves in Bentham Post Office the other day I couldn't help marvelling at the variety of books about the area. I counted about a dozen specifically about Bentham and maybe another twenty about the locality.

All of these books contain useful background material, information and photographs that will interest the family historian. I know in my case many people have found their relations in the group pictures in my books.

If you are thinking about Christmas presents there are only about six remaining copies of 'A Century of Bentham' but the Post Office has a good supply of my latest book 'Bentham As It Were'.

This Christmas three more publications will be available. They are a book about Wray by David Kenyon, 'The Land of the Lune' by John Self and a new 'History of Ingleton' by J. Bentley. Copies of 'Bygone Bentham' are available at a reduced price.

So if you have relations with 'Bentham in their blood' I hope you will consider a visit to the post office to keep their circulation moving!

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HB SCHOOL NEWS

By Mrs. C. Boocock, Headteacher

Santa's on a tour of High Bentham again this year to help raise funds for the Primary School. Look out for him on the evening of Thursday 4th December. His sleigh will be decorated by Wennington Hall School. Santa starts his journey at 6pm at Wenning Avenue and will then travel along Station Road, Pye Busk, Springfield, Lairgill, Lakeber Drive, Lakeber Avenue, Goodenber Road, Grasmere Close Car Park, Banks Way and Main Street. He expects to head off to the North Pole from Naylor Myers about 8.30pm. Official greeters will knock on doors to wish householders a Merry Christmas and they will be able to accept donations for the school. They will have reflective jackets and labels, to ensure donations reach the right people. If you do not want us to knock on your door, please advise the school on 61412 and we will not disturb you. Thank you for your support.

CHRISTMAS TREE RECYCLING



By Judith Harrison

As Craven District Council no longer provide Xmas tree recycling facilities in Bentham, why not take advantage of the service that St. John's Hospice is offering for the first time this year, and at the same time help to support this worthwhile cause. For a minimal donation of £4, volunteers will collect the tree from your home and take it away for recycling. To book, please ring the hospice on 01524 382538 or email trees@sjhospice.org.uk Collections will take place on the weekend of the 10th and 11th of January.

NO STONE PROCESSING YARD

In a letter dated 21st October 2008, Craven District Council informed interested parties that the planning application to change the site of Ingleborough Nurseries to a stone processing and storage facility has been withdrawn.

COOKERY COLUMN

Edited by Patsy Henderson

A Christmas Pizza

Serves 4. Ready in 40 minutes.

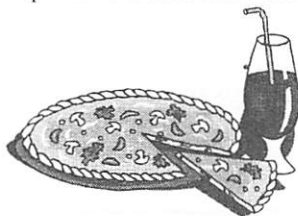
Recipe

750g ready rolled puff pastry
1 egg yolk, beaten
200g skinless, boneless cooked turkey breast, diced
140g honey roast ham, diced
125g frozen cranberries
50g chopped walnuts
250g soft cheese, e.g. Brie, rind removed, chopped
olive oil to drizzle

125g rocket or chosen herb

Method

Preheat the oven to 200C, gas 6. Roll out the pastry and cut into two circles using a 20cm plate as a template. Place the pastry circles onto baking sheets and turn up the edges 2.5cms. Brush the border with beaten egg yolk and prick the base over with a fork. Mix together the turkey, ham, cranberries and walnuts and divide the mixture between the pizzas. Top the pizzas with the cheese and drizzle with olive oil. Bake for about 25 minutes until golden brown. Top with the herb and serve.



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Diabetic Date Chutney

Recipe

Makes 800g - 1¾ lbs

100g onions, peeled and finely chopped
2 garlic cloves, peeled and crushed
450g dates, stones and finely chopped
salt to taste

300ml apple juice, unsweetened

600ml white malt vinegar

Method

Put all the ingredients, except the vinegar, into a pan and simmer gently for 20 minutes or until tender. Add the vinegar, add salt to taste, and simmer until the mixture thickens. Spoon into hot jars and seal down. When opened, store in the fridge. *Not suitable for freezing.*



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Carol, Jemma and Claire would like to thank all their customers and wish them all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

LEEDS - SKIPTON - LANCASTER - MORECAMBE RAILWAY NEWS

By David Alder

New Timetable From Sunday 14th December

Although at the time of going to press the final published timetable was not available the following draft times of Bentham Monday-Friday departures are given for advance information purposes. We hope to distribute copies of the new timetable for your use in the New Year.

To Lancaster and Morecambe:

06.22 09.33 11.37 15.10 18.09

To Skipton and Leeds:

07.43 11.29 14.14 16.54 19.53

The existing basic pattern of services is maintained but please note the following. All five Eastbound trains will now go through to Leeds. The first Westbound train continues to terminate at Lancaster but the 11.37 will go through to Heysham. The late afternoon train to Leeds [Bentham arr 16.54] will run direct from Morecambe to Carnforth – there will be a connecting service from Lancaster at 16.14. This last arrangement will be reviewed before the May 2009 timetable is finalised.

Christmas Arrangements

There are no trains on Christmas Day and Boxing Day. From 27 December to noon on 1 January trains on the Bentham line will operate between Bentham and Leeds only with bus connections between Bentham and Lancaster/Morecambe/Heysham. Please check details before travel. 08457 48 49 50 or www.llmr.co.uk or www.northernrail.org

Dales Railcard Offer

The Winter Dales Railcard Offer runs until Saturday 7 February 2009. There is a flat fare rate of £6 available to Dales Railcard holders for journeys to Leeds/Bradford and Carlisle/Brampton – up to 4 accompanying

children can travel for £3 each. Dales Railcards can be obtained for an annual cost of £10 from Settle, Skipton and Carnforth stations or by post: Freepost CE747, Appleby-in-Westmoreland, CA16 6ZZ.

Application forms are available at Bentham Post Office and Bentham Community Transport.

Happy Winter Travelling!



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Room Hire Rates:- Top room, which includes small kitchen £8.00 per hour. Sports Hall £6.00 per hour. Front Room includes kitchenette £7.00 per hour. Whole building £20.00 per hour.

If you want to start a new group and book a room on a regular basis these rates can be negotiated.

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CHRISTMAS STREET MARKET

By Sharon Haslam

On Friday 12th December 5pm - 7.30pm the Main

Street, High Bentham, will be alive with the festive spirit. The Christmas lights will be on and there will be an opportunity to do some late night shopping in your local shops. Over 20 charities will have stalls on the street selling fantastic gifts and the Carol singers will get you into the Christmas mood.

Father Christmas will be visiting the Community Centre so get your Christmas present list ready so he and Rudolf will know what to deliver to you on Christmas Day. Refreshments will be available in the Community Centre with a short performance by the Youth Theatre group.

Stall are £5 each if you are interested then please telephone Sharon Haslam 015242 61800.



COMMUNITY LINK CAFÉ

By Andrea Tuohy and Margaret Hayton

The Community Link Café in the Victoria Institute, Low Bentham, meets twice a week. (On Mondays from 1.00-3.00pm and Wednesdays 11.30am-2.00 pm) Everyone is welcome to the drop in for refreshment, a chat and a game of dominoes and a quiz.

Each week we have a variety of different activities and speakers. This month's events include armchair exercises, Christmas bingo, Christmas lunch at the Sundial and, back by popular demand, the Bentham Praise Choir which will perform in the Victoria Institute on Wednesday 3rd December at 12.30 pm. This will be followed by refreshments including a mince pie.

Everyone will be welcome to this event or to join the group. Transport can be provided on request. If you would like to have more details please contact Andrea or Margaret on 63162 or 61800.

DRIVERS NEEDED

We would like to hear from  anyone who would be interested in driving for us part time. We have a couple of vacancies for a few hours a week and there is also some ad hoc driving at weekends.

If you are interested and would like more information please contact Anne on 62753 or pop in to the office at the Station Building in Bentham between 8am and 4pm.

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AN APPRECIATION OF ALBERT COATES

By Reg Pointon

Albert Coates, who died at the age of 90 years recently, served in the RAF prior to the 1939/40 War and was stationed in the Middle East during the war. On returning to civilian life he worked for Slingers and later joined Anguses. My first contact with him was whilst I was treasurer to St John's P.C.C. He was responsible for the upkeep and maintenance of the graveyard. It was during the tenancy of Rev. Reg Parker that the P.C.C. agreed to the purchase of new petrol-driven mower and Albert used this machine for many years until health problems intervened. I recall Albert's amusing reference to Rev. Reg Parker as the 'Sky Pilot'!

I found Albert helpful, friendly, and conscientious in his work. He was a quiet mannered man and together with his sisters, Rhoda and Lily, contributed their services unstintingly to St John's church.

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BENTHAM PEOPLE

Personal Thanks

Albert Coates - Ann, Rhoda and Lily would like to thank all friends and neighbours for their flowers, cards, messages of sympathy and the kind donations in Albert's memory. Special thanks to Rev. Clive Burgess and Rev. Mabel Parr for the lovely service; Dr McKirdy; all staff at the Ingleborough Nursing Home and to Joe Morphet and staff at Brown and Whittaker.

Angela Szejnke:- Henry and his family would like to thank everyone who attended his wife, Angela's, funeral on 5th November and for the many cards and kind messages we received. Special thanks to Rev. Mgr. Anthony B. Boylan for conducting such a beautiful service, and Duncan Robinson Funeral Services. Also many thanks to the doctors and staff at Bentham Health Centre, and lastly, a very special thank you to all the carers, who lovingly cared for my dear beloved Angela and myself.

Christmas Greetings

Phyl McKenna sends seasonal greetings to family, friends and neighbours. Greetings also to Little Red Bus people (my lifeline), to the wonderful girls at the Spar shop and the ladies at Low Bentham Institute. Special seasonal greetings to Ruth and Gareth, my constant friends, and to my neice, Anne Carter, Beverley and Zoe. My love to you and thanks to you all for being there for me.

Ruth Parkinson, a former Bentham resident, will celebrate her 100th birthday on 2nd December at her home in Saffron Waldon. Ruth sends her love and gratitude and best wishes for Christmas and the New Year, to her many friends in Bentham.

Bill and Doreen Park would like to wish everyone a happy Christmas and a very fulfilled New Year.

Mrs Rose Atkinson wishes to send her best wishes for Christmas to all her relatives and friends.

Personal Assistant

Required by partially disabled female in Hornby. Must be reliable, trustworthy, and sensitive person with respect for privacy. Tel: Hornby 21785.



Congratulations

Jack and Norah Armstrong - with our love to you both for your Ruby Wedding Anniversary on 14th December, from John, Kath, Hannah, Will and Jordan.

Jackson - Leslie and Pat. Congratulations on your Golden Wedding on 6th December, with much love, Rosemary, Chris, Amy, Betsy and Connor. Anne, Phillip and Toby. Jonathan, Sara, Eleanor and Olivia.

Accommodation

To let, large 3 bed flat, phone Bentham 61367.

To let, from 1st December, 2 bed flat. Phone Bentham 015242 61367.

Council Exchange wanted. We live in a 3 bedroom house in Colne, Lancashire, at the end of the M65. Our house is not on a council estate, so a quiet area. We are looking for a two or three bedroom house with a garden, in this area. Please phone Ian 01282 867843, mobile 07879002999.

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★ Baxi Brazilia thermostatic gas wall heater, £100 o.n.o. Tel: 62307.

★ Random Sandstone - tonne bags. £40 per bag. 015242 51064 (Clapham).

★ Two Victorian cast-iron fireplaces, suitable for cottage, bedroom or similar. Ring Dorothy 61430

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Situations Vacant

Personal Assistant required by partly disabled female in Hornby. Must be a reliable and trustworthy, sensitive person with respect for privacy. Tel Hornby 21785.

Charities

Everyone connected with Bentham Age Concern would like to say a big thank you to all who supported their recent very successful coffee morning. About £400 was raised for funds which will be used for the benefit of all the members. Thank you all.

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SENIOR MOMENTS

By Trevor Blackwell

I've just been reading a small book that's made me smile – Shelley Klein's "The Little Book of Senior Moments".

Senior moments are those times of sudden forgetfulness which seem to affect most of us who are over 60, and not a few who are considerably younger. Somehow we just can't remember what it was that we came into the kitchen to get. Or we find ourselves standing half way up the stairs unsure whether we're coming up, or going down. Or we confidently re-enter the PIN number we've used for years only to find it won't work. Or we're about to introduce someone to an old friend when we discover a complete blank where their name should be.

Shelley Klein opens her book with the story of two women of a certain age who, friends for many years, met once a week to go shopping in Oxford, and then took tea at Fuller's. "On one occasion they had settled at their table and ordered tea and slices of the famous walnut cake, when a look of absolute horror passed across the face of one of the ladies. Clearly deeply troubled, she turned to her companion and said: 'My dear, the most dreadful thing has happened. We have been friends for so many years, we see each other regularly and speak often, but suddenly, and unaccountably, I have forgotten your name. I am sure it will come to me in a moment, but could you possibly just tell me what it is? I really am most dreadfully sorry...' Her friend stared at her in silence, frowning and obviously thinking very hard. The pause lengthened, as she gave all her attention to what her friend had just said. Finally, after the wait had lengthened to some minutes, she replied: 'When do you need to know by?'"

These sudden moments of forgetfulness are funny to read about, but they are deeply embarrassing when they happen to you. It's like your brain's stopped being reliable. And, somewhere behind the embarrassment, there's fear. You know. Are these moments of forgetfulness the first signs of something more serious? Perhaps it's silly to think this way, but the fear is there.

The experts say that the best way to hold these senior moments at bay is to keep the mind active – and they recommend crossword puzzles (apparently a minimum of four a week!), Sudoku, large jigsaw puzzles, painting, and reading. They also stress the importance of maintaining contact with other people, which Bentham is good for.

So keeping your mind active, and getting more involved with other people, seem to be just what the doctor ordered. Although I also like the solution found in another of the stories in Shelley Klein's book:

"A seventy-five-year-old man goes to the doctor to get a physical, and a few days after the doctor sees him walking down the street with a stunning young lady on his arm and a huge smile on his face. A couple more days pass and the old man returns to the doctor's surgery. After he has again examined the elderly man the doctor writes him out a prescription, and says, 'You're really doing great, aren't you?' The patient replies, 'Just doing what you said, doctor: "Get a hot mamma, and be cheerful!" That's what you told me, and that's what I've done.' Actually I said, "You've got a heart murmur, and be careful!" Now, while you're here, why don't we check your hearing...?'"

Though some might think, with the poet Thomas Gray, that "where ignorance is bliss, 'Tis folly to be wise".

(Shelley Klein's "The Little Book of Senior Moments" is published by Michael O'Mara Books Ltd.)

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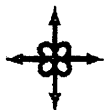
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FOOTPATH GROUP

By Maureen Ellis

This year's weather has caused many problems with the carefully constructed programme. It is to be hoped that all this month's walks are not impeded.

On Tuesday 2nd December, from Lairgill at 9.30am there is the 8 mile Kingsdale walk. It is not a difficult walk and goes along the Turbary road to Yordas cave. Anyone wanting to go in the cave should take a torch and I for one can say it is well worth it. The return is by the other side of the valley. The walk on the 11th, will meet at Lairgill at 9.30am and be of 8.5 miles but because by coincidence the scheduled walk was recently done by another leader it will be amended and probably now go to the Leck beck area. It is a mark of the care which leaders take with their walks that this should happen. The post Christmas ramble of 4 miles, and hot-pot will meet at Lairgill at 10.15. The meal will be at the Punch Bowl in Burton.



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A WARM WELCOME TO OUR WINTER VISITORS

By John Osborne

Hello and welcome to my first contribution to the Bentham News. As a local bird watcher and nature reserve manager, I have been asked by the editorial committee to produce a regular article on seasonal bird life as I know many of the readers of Bentham News are very interested in this subject.

It is my intention to write about birds as they come and go through the different seasons and maybe add a few surprise visitors too! That's the interesting thing about bird watching; you just don't know what might turn up on our island shores!

So, all our summer visiting birds have long departed and we wish them well on their epic journeys to warmer climates and look forward to welcoming them back next spring. Winter might be cold and bleak (as it was today on the nature reserve at Ingleborough where I work) but we do have

beautiful birds that visit our shores from further north; Scandinavia, Russia and even the Arctic. Birds from these countries cannot withstand the extreme winter conditions and have to fly south to warmer climates – Britain!



Redwings and Fieldfares have now arrived from Scandinavia and will be with us until the weather warms up in the spring. These 'winter thrushes' (which belong to the blackbird and thrush family – *turdus*), are common throughout Britain and are easily recognisable by their markings and calls.

Fieldfares are slightly larger than blackbirds but are much more colourful with a grey head, reddish-brown back and arrowhead spots on the breast but I think the easiest way of distinguishing them from the smaller Redwing is its flight call. The most common sound you are likely to hear is a croaking 'chak chak chak' (likened to the sound of a pair of garden shears), as they fly overhead often in their hundreds. Of course once on the ground, you can easily see the rich colours and they will often feed alongside redwings when it is easy to compare the different plumages and the size difference.

Redwings are, in comparison, a much slimmer thrush and even smaller than the Song Thrush. They lack the bold colours of the Fieldfare but have beautiful rusty-red flanks and under wing which is easily seen when in flight and a white supercilium (stripe above the eye.) Their call is very different to the Fieldfare and the most commonly heard call is a thin 'tsueep' especially in flight. It is not uncommon to hear both the Redwing and the Fieldfare as they fly overhead at night, especially on a clear evening when birds navigate using stars and it is easier for migrant birds to find their way south.

I hope I have written this in a way readers can understand and look forward to making regular contributions to Bentham News. 'Happy birding!'

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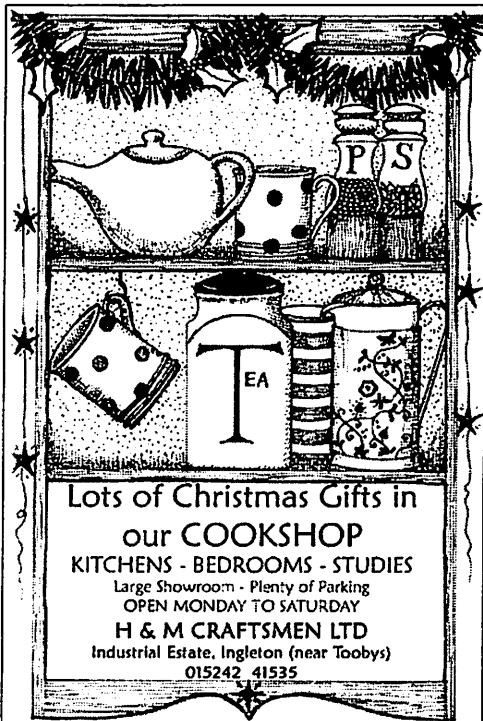
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WHEN ARE THEY COLLECTING THE BROWN BINS?

By Shirley Brown

There seems to be some confusion in Bentham about when to put the brown (garden waste collection) bins out at present. Not all householders have received the information that Craven District Council is operating a winter collection system until March. This means that the brown bins will be emptied on a monthly basis during November, December, January and February and fortnightly collections will start again in March.

In other words if your brown bin is normally collected on a Friday, your collection dates this winter will be: After 7am on Friday 28th November, Saturday 27th December (because Friday is Boxing Day), Friday 23rd January and Friday 20th February. From Friday 6th March 2009 collections will again be fortnightly.

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LIBRARY NEWS

By John Frankland, Liz Farmer and Karen Allsopp

National Year of Reading Event

Bentham Library will be a holding an author event on Thursday 11th December when local novelist Leah Fleming will be reading from her books and talking about her latest book 'Orphans of War', set during the Blitz and featuring the Yorkshire Dales. Leah has written a number of historical novels and also writes under the name of Helene Wiggin. The event, called 'Christmas Reminiscences' will start at 2pm. Tickets cost £2 which includes seasonal refreshments and are available from the Library.

Letters to Santa

A few weeks ago library staff wrote to Santa to ask him if he would write a reply to any child who left a letter for him at their local library and Santa said yes! From Monday 1st December to Monday 15th December Bentham Library will be home to an enchanted Christmas Post Box, delivered specially by Rudolph. The letters will be magically sent to Mr and Mrs Santa Claus at the North Pole.

From Saturday 20th December, Santa will leave his replies on a festive Santa display at the library where the letter was posted. In each letter there will be a secret password. Give your secret password to a member of staff when you borrow something from the library and you will be given a special present.

All letters must have a name and address and library card number so that Santa can reply. Remember that the last chance to post a letter will be on Monday 15th December.

Blind Bus

North Yorkshire County Council Library and Information Service is very happy to have invited Action for the Blind to bring their information bus to Ingleton. The bus offers information and support to individuals with sight loss and their families, providing an informal opportunity to learn about the large range of resources and equipment available. The bus will be in the Community Centre Car

Park on Wednesday 3rd December 2008 from 2.00pm until 4.00pm.

For additional information please contact Mary Whitfield at Ingleton Library on 0845 034 9536

Home Library and Information Service

Could you help to deliver books to people who can't get to the library? Would you like to have books delivered to your home?

North Yorkshire County Council's Home Library and Information Service provides a free home delivery service for people who, perhaps because of ill health or disability, find it difficult to get to the library or to carry books. The books are carefully chosen for each customer by the library staff and delivered fortnightly by volunteers. The volunteers spend time at each house chatting about the books and the customers enjoy having a regular visitor.

The local schemes in Ingleton and Bentham need more volunteers, especially drivers, so if you think you can help, or if you would like to have books delivered, please contact Claire Thompson at Skipton Library on 0845 034 9534 to find out more.

New Opening Hours

Just a quick reminder that from 1st December the Library's opening times will be changing to:

Monday	2.00pm – 6.00pm
Wednesday	10.00am – 1.00pm
Friday	2.00pm – 6.00pm
Saturday	10.00am – 1.00pm

Bentham Library would like to thank everyone for their support over the past year and to wish everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Independent Financial Choices

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BENTHAM PLAYING FIELDS

By Anne Yaman

The floodlights on the playing field have now been converted to a token operated system. If you require to use the lights the tokens are available from the Little Red Bus office at the Station between 8am and 4 pm Monday to Friday, together with a key to enable you to get in and put the token in the machine. The cost of the tokens are £5.00 each which gives you light for one and a half hours.

This machine will not take any other form of payment so there will be no money on the premises and the tokens will be emptied out regularly. If you have any queries please call Anne on 62753/64866 or Trevor on 61126.

SKATE PARK NEWS

By Pam Woof

Bentham Playing Fields Association is reaching the final stages of a grant application to the Sport England Community Investment Fund. Hopefully, if successful, we will be able to complete phase 3 of the refurbishments in the spring of 2009. The new facilities will include new tennis courts and nets, basketball practice hoops, netball court and skateboard park as well as landscaping the area around the station end of the playing fields.

Thanks to your fundraising we have a good proportion of the money necessary for our 10% contribution. However project costs are going up all the time and we cannot afford to be complacent. This year the Town Council's Bentham Calendar proceeds will be donated to the Playing Fields Association. We are very grateful for this support and urge everyone to buy an extra one this Christmas! They make great presents!

Show your support by writing!

Part of the project will be to employ a development worker to help establish the



clubs and to organise coaching, once the new facilities are up and running. We need to demonstrate strong support from Bentham people for the new activities. Please can you help by writing, as an individual, club or group that will use the new facilities? If you are not sure how to go about this please email me: pam.woof@googlemail.com. I will send you information about the project and how you can help us. Thank you.

PUNCH BOWL

Burton-in-Lonsdale

The little pub with a warm welcome.
Serving delicious home cooked food.

Christmas menu now available.

Please call to book a table :- 015242 61117.

We would like to wish all our customers
a very merry Christmas
and a happy New Year.



MIDDS BUTTY BOX

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Homemade Sweets and Quiche
made to order for Christmas.

Daily Specials

Freshly made Sandwiches & Breakfasts.

Wishing all our customers

a very

Merry Christmas

and a

Happy New Year.





BENTHAM GOLF CLUB SOCIAL EVENTS

By Rachel Dawber

Bentham Golf Club has enjoyed a varied and entertaining social calendar this year, with quizzes, a Spanish night, a summer BBQ (yes, it poured down!), an excellent magician and a 3-course meal at President's Night and an End of Season Party Night in October, with a live act.

Future events take place at Christmas, Valentine's Day and a Spring dance in March, all with live acts.

Social membership is £15 for the year. Anyone interested in a good night out (and you don't have to be a golfer!) should contact the club direct on 62470 or Tom Guy 61716, Rachel 62270 or Sally 61708.



BENTHAM INDOOR BOWLING

By Peter Shallcross

Indoor bowling sessions are held in Bentham Town Hall each Monday and Thursday from 1.30 to 3.30pm, during the winter. There are three short mats which allow up to eighteen players to play at any one time. Games are played in a very friendly atmosphere and all players, from beginners to "experts", are made very welcome.

Sadly, the number of players has declined since the Town Hall was closed during refurbishment and more players are needed if this local amenity is to remain viable. Recent weeks have seen around 12 to 16 players on Mondays, but only half that number on Thursdays. Some new players have joined but more are needed, especially on Thursdays if Indoor Bowling is to continue on both days. Why not come along and give indoor short mat bowling a try?

Do your Christmas Shopping at Elemental of Ingleton Your local Fair Trade Shop

Just Arrived – Fair Trade Clothes!

Come and try on our beautiful Fair Trade clothes for women and children. On trend designs plus fabulous hand-knitted items

Wonderful Fair Trade items from around the world

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FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION CHARTER FOR BENTHAM FOOTBALL CLUB

By Lee Hayward

Bentham Juniors and Bentham Football Club have been awarded the Football Association Charter standard award. This is the highest award possible that is awarded to grassroots clubs which achieve the standard required where all the coaches need to earn their F.A. level 1 in coaching football; as well as the clubs appointing a child welfare officer who also must be qualified in this field. First aiders must also be attached to all teams at the club.

In place at the club as part of the award must be the club's code of conduct, best practice and child protection. The club's facilities at Wenning Avenue Sports Field also helped our application with facilities being

recently upgraded to a new building with excellent new changing rooms, first aid room and access for any disabled visitors.

On the whole, by achieving this award we would hope to attract more players to come to the clubs with the promise of providing a safe, friendly environment where they can be coached efficiently and be part of one of the teams.

The picture, above, shows Lee Hayward, secretary of Bentham Juniors and Trevor Wheildon, chairman of Bentham Senior team being presented with the certificates by local councillor Wendy Heigh and Mrs Pam Woof of Bentham Playing Fields Association. Also in the picture are Liam Hayward and Hayden Ward of Bentham Juniors, Rob Burrow and Graham Cockerton, Managers of the Junior and Senior teams, and Graham Cowgill and James Earnshaw of Bentham first team.





The photographs on the back and front pages, taken around the Bentham area, have been kindly provided by Jon Brook, Bentham Imaging.

BENTHAM CALENDAR 2009 - LOCATION OF PHOTOGRAPHS

The photographs in the 2009 calendar have created a lot of interest and discussion among local people and here is a list about where they were taken.

Cover - Bentham from Lane Foot. January - Linghaw from Waterscales. February - Pye Busk/Springfield from Fowgill Park. March - Shaky Bridge. April - Hornby Castle. May - St. Margaret's from back of Lane House. June - Ingleborough from Bloe Beck Lane. July - New Butts Farm from Mewith Lane. August - Ingleborough from Burn Moor. September - Friends Meeting House, Calf Cop. October - The pond at Burn Moor, taken from Big Stone. November - Moorcock Outbarn on Slaidburn Road. December - Aikengill/Slaidburn Road Junction.

BENTHAM NEWS is published at "Latharna", High Bentham, by an editorial committee consisting of Trevor Blackwell, Shirley Brown, Linda Cressey, Christine Hodson, Judith Johnson, Peter Phillips, Ken Robertson, Pam Woof, and co-ordinator, Bill Kennedy, who can be contacted on telephone 015242 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 the Gallery, Station Road, by the copy deadline, the 14th of the month prior to publication. The BN email address is: benthamnews@lycos.com.