

BENTHAM NEWS



Bentham's very own Panto - performed and written by those who live in and around Bentham - can be seen in the Town Hall during half-term week, Wednesday to Saturday, 13-16 February.

What are the ingredients of this year's feast?

For starters there's some intriguing newcomers to the stage. Stephen Harford as Little John, Jane Callus and Bob Sloan as bodyguards, Bon Mitchell as Friar Tuck (there's a rumour that he's inflatable!), Linda Burns as the beautiful Maid Marian, and Chris Ratcliffe as the dastardly Black Knight (that is if he's well enough - please get better soon Chris, we need you!). And if that hasn't whetted your appetite, there'll also be Hannah Campbell as the Queen of France - never let it be said that Bentham is not politically aware - we can incorporate a Common Market influence in our Panto at the whim of a director's flourish! - and anyway how else could we include the ever-popular Can-Can?! Paul Morphet and Stephen Smith are here again, heavily disguised, especially Stephen....but I'll say no more, he has to be seen to be believed!

FEBRUARY 1991

The main course involves a fairly traditional script written by Patrick Colton and Boris Howarth and freely adapted by the cast, and the brilliant combined talents of Vibeke Christensen as producer and Kevin McSherry as director.

And for dessert: 35 children disguised as flower fairies, soldiers, circus performers and much more. The superb, indefatigable Fiona O'Hare has worked with the children, and has also ensured that there's unforgettable live music to accompany them.

All this can be washed down with a liberal sprinkling of anticipation as you look out for the HUGE "my little pony", and as you cringe hoping it's not you that gets picked on in the torture scene (don't worry, you're safe!).

**DARE YOU MISS THE PANTO?
EVERYONE ELSE WILL BE TALKING
ABOUT IT!**

THE GULF WAR



At this worrying time, and as events in the Gulf unfold, BN is aware that there are young people from Bentham serving out there. Whatever our individual points of view on the war are, let us spare a thought for them and their families.

ISSUE 52

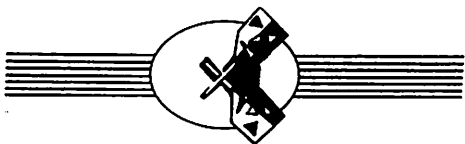
Hornby Drama Group

On Thursday, Friday and Saturday the 28th Feb 1st & 2nd March 1991 Hornby Drama Group will be presenting Hugh Whitmore's intriguing thriller **PACK OF LIES**, an ingenious, compelling play based on the lives of the spies Helen and Peter Kroger.

Performances begin at 7.30pm in the Hornby Institute.

Tickets (£2 adults, £1 children) will be available from Lamb's Garage, members of the group and at the door.

We look forward to seeing you then.



CHRISTMAS CRACKER WENT OFF WITH A BANG!!

Members of the 'Jam Club' and 'Breakout Youth Group' would like to say a **BIG** thank you to all those who gave their support to the Christmas Cracker Restaurant. The project raised over £1,000 for Third World relief.

St Margaret's Mothers' Union.

Bright Hour members were invited to High Bentham Mothers' Union January meeting.

The enrolling member welcomed Mrs Tomlinson JP from Caton who spoke about the different personages she had lived in during the last half century, as a child and as a vicar's wife.

After the vote of thanks a tea was enjoyed by all.

During December St Margaret's M.U. members were invited to join Bright Hour members in the Methodist School room to join in carol singing and hear readings from the Rev. Mr J. Bamforth of Burton in Lonsdale. The meeting ended with a lovely tea.

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OFF THE WALL

By Keith Cowling

Last autumn keen winners and diners, movers and shakers, started Bentham's own monthly community cabaret, culminating in a spectacular New Year's Eve party and family disco, and Burns Night festivities last week. On the last Saturday of each month an enthusiastic team of volunteers has been transforming the Lower Town Hall with lights, decorations and props into an 'instant bistro', while other creative types, carefully head hunted from among Bentham's finest amateur chefs, lay on a delicious meal using the newly re-equipped Town Hall kitchen. All this and great music from the likes of the 'Tango Band' (all the way from Herefordshire),

Lancaster's 'Band from Uncle' and 'Swamp Dogs' and Bentham's own 'Changes' have produced some memorable nights out for discerning punters. The club is a non profit-making venture run by its members. Organising work is shared around and the aim is for **EVERYONE TO HAVE A GOOD TIME.**

OTW runs on the last Saturday of every month all through the winter. It offers a friendly night out with good food, entertainment and a touch of night club atmosphere for a modest £5.00 and £2.00 membership charge. Membership is open to all over 18. Next Off the Wall on February 23rd.

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TOWN COUNCIL

Monday 7th January

by guest columnist D. Garman.

After last month's poor showing of Councillors, this month we nearly had a full house. Is it because Bentham News is now naming them in its column? Councillors present including Mayor Dawber were Pointon, Preston, Bloxham, Marshall. Joel, Hewitt, Hurtley, Cowling, Davies, Liberal District Councillors Atkinson and Pilkington. Apologies from Mr Telford who was holidaying in a cooler climate and Mr. Bateson. There were 10 members of the public including the local policeman.

TOWN HALL ITEMS

The new furniture has arrived, all that's needed now is the lamps to be fitted and then all the work should be completed.

The illuminated sign outside the Town Hall fell down and was then run over. A new one is to be erected and more securely fixed.

Age concern will supply some cabinets for storage in the committee room. Toddlers to use one to replace the one they used in the kitchen.

WENNINGDALE ROOM.

One Councillor rightly pointed out that if they wanted to get full benefit out of the Wenningdale Room, then there should be a plug for a kettle as committees like to have a brew after meetings.

There have been complaints about the condition of the floor covering of the bar. It was decided to buy some more.

COMPETITION

There is a competition being run by Richmondshire & Craven Projects, with cash prizes available for the winners, for the project that 'Enhances the Local Landscape and Helps the Growth of Natural Resources'. The Council decided to put forward two local projects. 1, The children's wild garden at High Bentham Primary School. 2, The tree planting alongside the River Wenning by the local anglers

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OTHER ITEMS.

The pavement (sorry lack of) along Lairgill road end has been brought up at District meetings again by Councillor Atkinson, apparently it is well down their list of priorities, so it looks as if it won't be done for some time yet!

Mewith Lane will be closed for repairs for about 3 weeks.

Local planning applications will be put on the Town Council Board outside the Town Hall for all to see.

FINANCIAL REVIEW

The Town Council is to review salaries, Town Hall charges and Market Stall charges at the next meeting. This will however be discussed behind closed doors, as the public are not allowed in on discussions of a financial nature.

AND FINALLY

Last but according to some people, by no means least. The lovely Christmas Tree, Angus Fire kindly donated for the bottom of Robin Lane, was vandalised by certain spoil sports leaving the public house opposite. They smashed the lights which had to be replaced and then, a few days later, the same thing happened again. Unfortunately the lights could not be replaced again and so the tree spent most of the Christmas period without lights.

This has led some people to wonder what the point is in spending time and money putting up the lights for certain people to spend their time taking them down!

Let's hope these vandals will have grown up by next year, so Bentham can enjoy seeing the Christmas tree in all its glory!

Richard Bradshaw

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THE MYSTERIES

at SETTLE HIGH SCHOOL.

by Margaret Cowling.

Settle High Scholl's Christmas production was "The Mysteries" a re-working of the Medieval Guild Plays, by the brilliant Leeds poet, Tony Harrison.

The original Guild Plays came from the great provincial cities of Chester, Coventry, Wakefield and York and were traditionally performed on Corpus Christi Day. Each Guild took a bible story, wrote a play and acted it on that day. The richest Guild, such as the Goldsmith's, would choose a play to display their opulence - such as King Herod's Palace. The poorer Guilds would stage simpler themes such as the Shepherd's Play. Their audience would choose a place or "station" in which to stand and during the day each play would come to them on a cart until the whole cycle of plays had been seen.

At Settle High we walked straight into the world of the Middle Ages whn we entered the school, as we had to "run the gauntlet" of a Medieval Fair with its various booths, such as one with a Bearded Lady! We were cajoled into buying sweetmeats or the "Elixir of Youth", and were constantly molested by beggars and urchins and entertained by singers and dancers. It was reminiscent of a Moroccan Souk and I was quietly 'relieved' of a toffee apple I had purchased, before I reached the end of the Fair!

The Company led the audience into the hall where we were seated along three sides leaving the centre of the hall and the stage empty. The first half of the play dealt with Chaos, The Creation, The Fall, Sin and the story of Noah.

From Chaos came an awesome, omnipotent God (Michael Hordern) who stood on a huge rock from which he summoned Adam (David Williams) and Eve (Erica Frankland), who had been curled up unnoticed. This difficult scene was done with great delicacy and restraint. Eve was tempted to sin by an

4 insidious and malevolent Lucifer (Don Ewart) and their expulsion from Eden was followed by a very provocative "Sin Dance".

Noah's Ark was constructed before our very eyes and the goodly Noah (John Watson) eventually persuaded his bossy and stubborn wife Abigail Cook-Margrett), to climb into the Ark to join the colourful collection of animals. Other members of the cast drummed on the floor to simulate torrential rain and Jan Baker made a gentle, graceful Dove as she returned with the olive branch.

The second half began with the Annunciation, when a Soleman Gabriel (Heather Lewis), with hair like a halo of spun gold, spoke to a serene Mary (Sally Cowling). Michelle Harrison sang a poignant carol as Mary reflecting on the Angel's news. Mary's calmness contrasted well with the bewildered and clumsy Joseph (Francis Fenton). In the Nativity scene, dancers carrying huge "flames" which parted to reveal Mary, with baby Jesus in her arms.

The comedy came in abundance in the Shepherd's Play the three wonderful Yorkshire Shepherds, (Catherine Haines, Iain Horton and Simon Robinson) led us in the hilarious musical round "Whose sheep are These?" They tried valiantly to control a motley flock of noisy disobedient "sheep" and also had to deal with Mak the sheep stealer. Mak dressed as a "spiv" was portrayed with relish by Andy Cowling who made him a really lovable rogue. The stolen sheep was hidden in the baby's crib much to the distress of Mak's wife (Suzie Mowatt). Eventually the three shepherds discovered their sheep after first thinking it was a strange looking baby with a long snout!

We were then transported to Herod's Palace where we watched Herod being carried on a majestic litter. Ben Haines made a splendid blustering Herod, a perfect foil to his diminutive intellectual son (Sam Dalby). Herod and son soon dealt with the Three Kings (Caroline Pilkington, Guy Kemplay and Phillip Hogg who dressed like an oil

Sheik).

The massacre of the innocents was as chillingly done as any I've seen in the Coventry or York Mysteries. The soldiers who accomplished the dreadful deed were played by Tim Mulligan, Dan Berry, Iain Ball, Adrian Fryer and Josh Wiggon. Equally shocking was the death of Herod, when a gigantic sinister figure of Death (Caroline Millard) entered and pronounced in sonorous tones the fate of Herod and he was absorbed into the folds of Death's black robe!

The Finale was the beautiful, medieval "Coventry Carol" sung by candlelight, then little silken packages containing sugared almonds were distributed amongst us. I wasn't alone in not wanting to leave the magical atmosphere created by this very special production. The whole company were so aware of each other and it was all accomplished with such poise and professionalism.

The music, too, was perfectly balanced and excellently played by James Howard, Graham Kay, Tom Jowitt and Duncan Lowery. Bentham's Dave Mulligan stepped in late to rehearsals to co-ordinate the music and he too was impressed by the enthusiasm and dedication of the musicians.

Other members of the cast who danced, sang, acted, built the Ark etc. were James Batchelor, Emily Birch, Heidi Clapham, Nicola Creighton, Emma Drinnan, Stuart Emsley, Gillian Fryer, Jo Gooch, Amanda Harrison, Helen Linklater, Laura Neale, Karl Rhodes and Hannah Stocks.

**BENTHAM
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**PROPRIETORS -
J. R. and N. H. EASTWOOD**

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This was the school's 3rd production done in conjunction with the Youth Services and Yorkshire Arts and again Linda Haigh & Dave and Leonie Pearce were the inspiration behind it.

An extra dimension was given by Peter Eastman and Keith Reeves who decided many rehearsals, and their knowledge and love of the subject was so evident in the way the cast spoke their lines with such meaning.

They were backed by a staff/ pupil production and lighting team and had marvellous art work from Peter Hubby and Pru Glossop. Who can forget the beautiful butterflies, fruits and flowers of Eden or the terrifying figure of Death?

Many Bentham people have expressed regret at having missed seeing "The Mysteries", and those who went wished they could have gone again! So I promise to publicise this year's production in the Bentham News, then none of you need miss it!

Well done Settle High - You're brilliant!!.

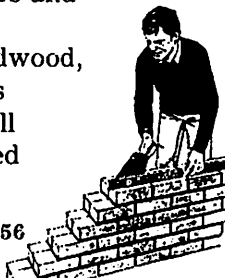
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Stone through window in Low Bentham.

At about 1.15am on New Year's day, a stone, bigger than a brick, was hurled through a first floor window of a house in Low Bentham. The light was still on in the room and the two occupants were about to settle down to sleep, having returned from a party.

The stone caused a great crash (the window is about 3 by 4 foot), which woke the rest of the household (two other adults, three children under 7, and a baby). Glass was scattered everywhere in the room, including all over the beds, and a skid mark was left on the carpet. The police were called.

Fortunately the incident did not cause any physical injury to anyone or damage to property (apart from the mark on the carpet). However, the people in the house felt threatened and shocked, and were very concerned at what harm could so easily have been caused. The beds in the room could have been differently arranged so that the people in them were in line with the stone and shattered glass. The baby slept beneath the window in the adjoining bedroom; should that window have been chosen as the target, very serious injury could have been caused. The stone was big enough to have killed someone, particularly a child.

Those affected are trying to put aside the unpleasant thought that the stone was aimed purposefully at them. They prefer to believe it was thrown by someone who had also been enjoying a New Years Eve celebration, and, perhaps encouraged by friends, was looking for kicks. They hope that, in the cold light of day, whoever did throw the stone was able to reflect on the seriousness of their high jinks, and realise that their (fun?) was very much at the expense of others.



THINK
ABOUT IT!



This month Bentham News welcomes a new column. It is hoped that we will all benefit from the helpful tips and ideas from Gertie Greenfingers.

It is a daunting prospect, but an irresistible challenge, to create a garden from a rubble and weed infested patch of earth, but armed with a carefully thought out plan and a little determination, it is possible to perform wonders in a relatively short space of time.

Nothing pleases the eye more than an immaculate lawn complimented by colourful herbaceous borders, formal rose beds, a neat vegetable plot and perhaps a small pond. So remember when planning your own garden, it should be both practical, pleasing to look at with ease of maintenance a prime consideration.

Over the next few months I hope this column will provide you with a little inspiration as well as some practical advice on how to achieve success in your garden even if you've never wielded a spade before!

TIP OF THE MONTH.

If you are lucky enough to own one of those large white porcelain sinks, you can transform it into a thing of beauty with the minimum of effort:

Coat the outside and the top 3" inside with a bonding adhesive (available from hardware stores) and coat with a moistened mixture of 2 parts of peat to one part sand and one part cement. It will take a couple of weeks to dry thoroughly and then you have a beautiful stone trough, the envy of all your friends.

GERTIE GREENFINGERS

DISTRICT AFFAIRS



Ralph Atkinson, one of our two Liberal Democrat District Councillors, reports from Craven District Council.

POLL TAX

First the good news! As most of you will have heard by now, the Govt. are putting in £1 billion to replace transitional relief this year. This will certainly mean reductions for some of us (from my estimate last month of £320) but how much and for whom is not yet clear.

The bad news, of course, is that tho' this is a substantial admission that "the Poll Tax has not met its objectives of greater accountability, curbing local spending and creating a fairer and more efficient system of local government taxation" (at least according to a recent Rowntree Trust survey!) - the Govt. is not going to get rid of it.

Another way of reducing the tax doesn't seem to have been taken on board and that is exempting students and other 20% payers where the cost of collection exceeds what is collected (20% of £258 = £51.60 in 10 installments of £5.16!). Fortunately in Craven we don't have a high rate of non-payment to account for.

HOUSING

Negotiations are proceeding on the site for the Housing Association houses in Low Bentham. Hopefully we should see the work started this year. We are also informed that there is more Govt. money available for low-cost housing, so we are bidding for our share of the pot. We are however being pushed into raising council house rents above the rate of inflation, both by Government and by the economics of the situation. As I am continually pointing out, there is no such thing as affordable housing for our low-income groups unless they are subsidised in some way.

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GYPSY SITES

The big story this month has been the proposal to establish a gypsy site in North Craven and the fantastic opposition there has been from the Ingleton area. The facts are that Craven DC must provide for gypsies in its area or get sites foisted on it by the Secretary of State. What I question is the need for a site in the north here. What serious problems we do have from travellers would not be answered by a small residential site which would not only cost about £15,000 to £20,000 a family to build, but would have ongoing costs which we couldn't recover. Also, a second site is not legally necessary for the designation which we must have. Mind you such sites are not all as bad as they are painted. There are well designed and controlled sites ~~about~~ which are not an eye sore and a continuous problem to their neighbours. Anyway the search goes on.

DOG MUCK AGAIN

I am sorry to record that dog muck on the streets is on the increase again. If any of you listened to Womens' Hour on 15th Jan. you will have heard the horrifying stories of 100s of children blinded by tape worm infection from this filth. Prosecutions will soon be possible under the new Environment Protection Bill (EPB) and I hope dog owners are now training their pets with the fines of up to £1,000 in mind - a measure of the importance Govt. gives to this problem.

STREET CLEANING

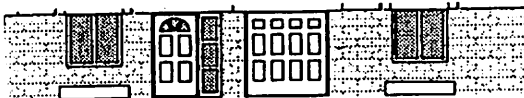
Under the EPB District Councils are now responsible for street cleaning - taking over this job from Counties. The standards expected are very high and more money will be needed to keep up to them.

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1233	1354	1436
1533	1654	1745
1633	1754	1830
1933	2054	2125

SUNDAYS

1409	1541	1613
1709	1841	1913

Lancaster Bentham Leeds

WEEKDAYS (Mon - Sat)

0721	0756	0924
0926	0956	1124
1144	1217	1351
1526	1555	1725
1844	1913	2038

SUNDAYS

1352	1423	1551
1853	1923	2051

BUS TIMETABLE

BENTHAM - LANCASTER

MON - FRI

H. Ben	0745	0940	1110	1210	1325	1510
	1530	1610	1713	1913		
L. Ben	0750	0945	1115	1215	1330	1515
	1535	1615	1718	1918		
Lanc	0830	1024	1154	1245	1409	1554
	1615	1700	1758	1958		

SAT

H. Ben	0745	0940	1110	1210	1325	1510
	1615	1713	1913			
L. Ben	0750	0945	1115	1215	1330	1515
	1620	1718	1918			
Lanc	0830	1024	1154	1254	1409	1554
	1658	1758	1958			

SUN

H Ben	1115	1815
L Ben	1120	1820
Lanc	1207	1907

LANCASTER - BENTHAM

MON - FRI

Lanc	0752	0810	0945	1045	hourly until
	1745				
L. Ben	0828	0849	1024	1123	" 1824
H. Ben	0833	0853	1028	1127	" 1828

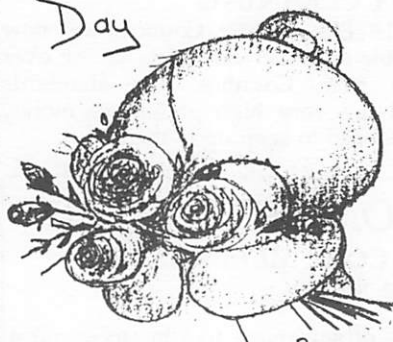
SATURDAY

Lanc	0752	0810	0945	1045	hourly until
	1745				
L. Ben	0828	0849	1024	1123	1224 1323
	1424	1623	1724	1824	
H. Ben	0833	0853	1028	1127	1228 1327
	1428	1627	1728	1828	

SUNDAY

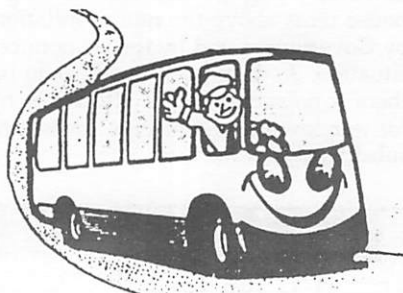
Lanc	0950	1650
L. Ben	1032	1732
H. Ben	1037	1737

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FROM COUNTY HALL



By County Councillor Ralph Atkinson.

BUDGET

As most of you know some 90% of the Poll Tax budget is used by the County Council. So fixing the County Budget is crucial to the level of the tax. I thought the principles we had to go on were well established and most committees had no difficulty in meeting the agreed policy of keeping increases to a minimum in line with the rate of inflation. However, the Education Committee has run up against a serious snag. The difficulty is what to do with £1 million of anticipated savings. Some councillors want to use it to reduce the Poll Tax (by about £2 a head) - tho' this is already well below the Govt's guidelines; Social Services want it to meet their extra responsibilities for Care in the Community and some others (like myself) think it should stay with Education to increase skill training (compared with our European partners very low) and/or nursery provision (cf. Europe even lower!). I'd be very interested to hear what you think! (Phone: 61834)

HIGHWAYS

On Highways there's both good news and bad news. The bad news is that it looks like a thoroughly disruptive summer in Bentham. In addition to the NWW sewer up Main Street, a new water main is to be laid from Duke Street down to Low Bentham and BT will be laying ducts up Robin Lane from Main Street to Fourlands. The good news is that BT's trench from Burton to Ingleton is nearly finished and they are relaying the ducts in Pye Busk so that the foot paths there should soon be in better condition. Also the parliamentary bill based

9 on the Horne Report, which proposes greater controls on public authorities digging up the roads, is due for royal assent in April, so hopefully things should improve next year.

MORE ON HIGHWAYS

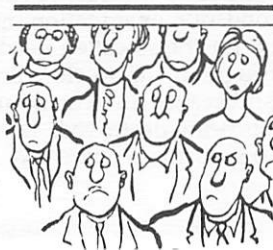
Last May I drew your attention to the affect on our roads the 1998 EEC Juggernauts were going to have, including the necessary costs of strengthening our 1,300 or so bridges in the county. More good news is that Govt. has included an extra £13 million in this year's Transport Supplementary Grant (TSG) just for this purpose. Mind you I think we are going to have to get around to restricting the roads these enormous lorries will have access to - our B and C roads are just not made for such traffic.

CALLING THE POLICE

After several people, including Ingleton Parish Council, complained about the difficulty of now getting in touch with the police I tried ringing all local police stations and when they weren't in following the instructions in the phone book to ring Settle. This number has now been changed and BT passed me on to Skipton (0756-793377). Quite apart from the delays entailed there is the extra cost - a 2 minute call to Skipton at standard rate costs 21.20 pence as against a similar local call at 6.16 pence. So, I have now drawn the attention of the Chief Constable to the difficulty and, hopefully, something will be done.

COUNCIL WORK

A recent report from the Audit Commission quotes the average councillor as spending 74 hours a month on council duties. From my diary and claims for 1989 (I haven't got around to my 1990 figures yet) I worked out a very conservative estimate of 27 hours a week or 1400 hours in the year. For this my attendance allowances, etc. (not mileage) came to £1,173.65 or 83 pence an hour. Cheap at the price or just not worth it?



GREEN COLUMN

This month I am writing about trees. I'd like to say a bit about where they all went, tropical rain forests, and to issue a ringing call for practical action about trees here.

WHERE THEY HAVE GONE

Although the Ice Age scoured most of Britain, trees began invading over the land bridge to Continental Europe a few thousand years back. By 3000 BC this area probably had a very thick cover of trees, the dominant species being hazel and oak, with some lime. Something happened to the trees, as the moors are what some call a "sheep desert", hardly a tree insight. The first people to make serious inroads were probably the Neolithic agriculturalists (4th millennium BC), looking for a bit of land to till. Climatic changes saw some species delining. Further inroads were made by Celts (400 BC) with iron tools capable of clearing clay soils. By the time the Normans arrived, the natural woodland was split into discrete blocks by cultivated land. Possibly 15% of the land was forested by 1086. At the beginning of the Industrial Revolution vast numbers of trees (charcoal) were harvested to make iron. By the beginning of the 20th century about 90% of all timber and forest products were imported.

TROPICAL RAIN FORESTS

Much is said on this subject, but not enough to suit me. I was disappointed recently when the Town Council ignored the advice of one member to buy softwood windows (which require more maintenance). Instead, they took the "easy road", using valuable hardwood, most of it tropical. Since very few of us have ever been to a rain forest and almost no one appreciates their utterly crucial role in keeping the planet fit to live on, most people don't care whether the wood they purchase is tropical or not. Convenience rules. Vast areas, beyond our imagination, are being chopped up for the so-called needs of rich people throughout the world. Entire cultures vanish because they can flourish only in the forests being destroyed. My admiration goes out to those who take militant

action, to the point of being arrested, to preserve such forests for the sake of future generations. Locally, greens often encourage merchants to forego selling tropical timber.

ACTION PLAN

I think the Town Council should appoint *tree wardens for Benthams*. This national "tree warden movement" is growing, after successful pilot programmes in East Sussex and Leicestershire. Tree wardens are volunteers who gather information about their local

Since the 1930s we have lost almost half of our ancient semi-natural woodland and 125,000 miles of miles of hedgerow, and Britain is now one of least wooded countries in Europe. We have only 10% tree cover, compared with 27% in France and 31% in Spain, and 2\3 of our woodland is coniferous.

Tree News (Sept. 1990)

trees, give advice on tree matters, protect threatened trees and encourage local practical projects to do with trees and woods. It is not merely for aesthetic reasons that trees are desirable, although a bit more variety on our landscape would please many a person. It is our obligation to conserve the earth, in small ways and big. The Town Council can do this with almost no expenditure, although a tiny budget would help the tree wardens with their job. If Ambridge can have a tree warden, why not Benthams?

Tom Cahill

PINE
STRIPPING

**LOW MILL
ANTIQUES**

PINE
FURNITURE

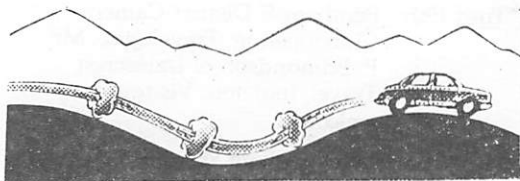
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NURSING IN ROMANIA - JILL MATTHEWS

BN committee member, Jill Matthews, is at present spending 6 weeks nursing children in a Romanian hospital. This is a voluntary effort by Jill, and we all look forward with great interest to hearing of her experiences when she returns. We hope to persuade her to write about them in a future BN.

SAMPLE BN COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP!!!!

We are constantly looking for new members for our editorial committee, and wondered if sometimes people are put off from offering as they are fearful of over-committing themselves. In an attempt to overcome this we suggest that anyone interested in serving on the committee agrees to come along FOR THREE MONTHS initially to see how the paper is produced. If they become addicted and wish to continue then they'd be very welcome to do so! If on the other hand 3 months has been quite enough then it's perfectly alright to stand down.

(For information: BN committee meets once or twice each month, usually on either Wednesday or Thursday evenings, in members' homes.)

LOW BENTHAM DISTRIBUTORS NEEDED!!

Anyone in Low Bentham with an hour to spare during the weekend that BN is normally delivered, who would like to help distribute the paper, please get in touch with WENDY DOWBIGGIN (Tel: 61573).

P.S. The pay is appalling! In other words, NOTHING!

OBITUARY

The town of Bentham was shocked recently by the sudden death of Mr. Eddie Gill. He along with his wife Winifred, have for many years been the owners of a shoe shop and repairs business in Bentham. Eddie will be greatly missed in Bentham and in Ingleton for shoe repairs, some of which he collected from the little shop in Back Gate, on a regular basis.

He had many friends, from a wide area, through his work as 'Store Man' for the North Yorkshire County Council. Having worked with Eddie over a number of years I found him to be a very efficient and conscientious worker always willing to go "the second mile" to help anyone out of a difficult situation. Added to his work at Ingleton he found much pleasure in tending the rose beds in the Depot grounds, these were a credit to him and a joy to all who work there. We can look back with happy memories of a true friend and colleague and our sympathy goes out to Winifred and her family in their time of sorrow.

William Woodburn Ingleton.



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LOCAL EVENTS IN FEBRUARY

- Fri 1st** Rock & Blues with 'DO IT' at the Horse and Farrier
- Sat 2nd** 10-11.30am St John's Coffee Morning in the Town Hall.
- Mon 4th** 2pm St John's Women's Fellowship meeting at Tenby, Low Bentham Road.
- Tues 5th** Bentham & District Camera Club. Judging of competition for The Clapham Trophy, Illston Cup and Humphries trophy. Judge Mr. G. Walden.
N.S.P.C.C. Annual General Meeting at the Black Bull at 7.30pm. All interested welcome.
- Thurs 7th** Burton in Lonsdale W.I. monthly meeting.
- Sat 9th** 'THE BERETTAS!' at the Horse and Farrier.
- Sun 10th** Guided Walk over Farelton Knott (8 miles), led by Tony & June Burnett (41304). Please meet at Lairgill Car Park, 10.30am.
- Fri 15th** The Countryside Society in Hornby Institute at 7.45pm. Subject "Organic Farming for the National Trust" by R. Harward.
WASTE PAPER COLLECTION at the Legion Hall 8.30 - 11am. Proceeds to N.S.P.C.C.
- Sat 16th** Jazz special from 'THE BAND FROM UNCLE' at the Horse and Farrier.
- Sun 17th** 10.30am St John's Annual Parochial meeting in the Church (for all electoral members) JOHN VERITY at the Horse and Farrier.
- Mon 18th** Burton in Lonsdale Horticultural Society's monthly meeting.

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- Tues 19th** Bentham & District Camera Club meeting. Travelogue. Mr P. Edmondson of Dalescrest Travel, Ingleton. Visitors welcome.
- Thur 21st** Low Bentham W.I. Subject slides on 'An African Adventure' Mr A. Marshall. Competition A Wildlife Photograph.
- Fri 22nd** **LARGE CHARITY EVENT AT THE TOWN HALL!!** Look for posters nearer the time.
- Mon 25th** Ewecross Historical Society meeting at Town Hall at 7.30pm. Subject Historical Geography by Mr D. Crutchley.
- Thurs 28th** Hornby Drama Group's **PACK OF LIES** in Hornby Institute at 7.30pm.
Bentham Footpath Group's quarterly Committee meeting, 7.30pm in the Town Hall. Anyone interested warmly invited.

LOCAL EVENTS IN MARCH

- Fri 1st** Hornby Drama Group's **PACK OF LIES** in Hornby Institute at 7.30pm
- Sat 2nd** Hornby Drama Group's **PACK OF LIES** in Hornby Institute at 7.30pm.
Bentham Footpath Group clearing litter from Dumb Tom's Lane. Meet at ay-by near the Ingleton road at 2pm, for further information ring 61128.
- Sun 3rd** Bentham Footpath Group's guided walk to Mewith Head, via Memorial Seat (8 miles), led by Verena Smith (61110). Meet at Bentham Bridge at 11am.

SHOPS AND SMALL BUSINESS COLUMN

By Keith Cowling

As mentioned last issue, Bentham Town Council's annual competition for Christmas lights in Bentham's shops was judged by David Winterburn, the United Kingdom Personnel Manager of Angus Fire. The results were:-

Offices and Commercial Premises

1st Ogilthorpe Sturton and Gillibrand
2nd Wood and Co.

Licensed Houses

1st The Stonegate Restaurant
2nd The Punchbowl

Low Bentham Retail

1st The Stores

High Bentham Retail

1st McManus
2nd Toobys

Best Overall

Ogilthorpe Sturton and Gillibrand

Most Original

The Stores, Low Bentham

On Main Street there are a number of new and forthcoming attractions for the new year. A grocers and wholefood delicatessen opens shortly in the Corn Mill Arcade, which is now filling up fast, and several shops are planning or carrying out improvements for spring. A few honourable mentions in this month's 'Brighten the Old Place Up' spot for shops that we feel contributed to the improvement of the shopping centre. Alan Bruns exchanged his annual winter break for a spell with the paint brush in the shop. Speculation that he and Louise were opening a casino was dispelled when the flower displays went back. Looks great Alan!

Following the splendid refurbishment at Fishers and the new Bentham Sportswear shops last year, a very high standard has been set for Bentham's 'new look' shopping. Last month the BN committee particularly admired the new lay-out and window display at Brown and Whittaker which did much to brighten the Christmas scene. Also, although it isn't a shop, we all loved the red paint job on the timber house at the top of Goodenber Road. Well done to all those concerned!

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BREASTFEEDINGBESTFEEDING

How parents decide to feed their baby is a very individual and personal choice. The most important factor is that the chosen method is right for them. However, baby milks have the power of manufacturers behind them, while there are few such powerful advocates for breastfeeding. The benefits of breastfeeding for baby and mother are many, and recent research shows that today's adults who were breastfed as babies may enjoy better health as an adult.

BESTFEEDING FOR BABY

Breastmilk will protect a baby from infections and against allergies. It is an ideal food containing all the nutrients a baby needs, and at the correct temperature. It is easily digested. Breastfeeding promotes the correct development of the jaw and facial structure. It is a satisfying, loving and comforting experience for a baby and will provide a secure relationship.

BESTFEEDING FOR MUM

Breastfeeding provides a chance to relax and will help in regaining mum's figure. It is enjoyable and satisfying. Breastfeeding is convenient at home or out and about. Returning to work and breastfeeding takes planning, but you can continue to feed when back at work if you wish.

BESTFEEDING WITH DAD, GRANDPARENTS, AUNTS AND UNCLES.

Feeding the mum who is feeding the baby is a very important job. New babies are time consuming and demanding, night and day. While only mum can feed the baby, the family could offer to help with the food, washing, shopping and cleaning and

changing nappies, bathing, cuddling and taking baby for a walk, giving mum a chance to put her feet up. Breastfeeding needs support and encouragement from everyone.

FACTS.

Nationally 64% of babies are breastfed from birth, but this drops to 40% by six weeks and 28% by four months (1985 figures). There are fewer women breastfeeding today than in 1980, BUT in Bentham 68% of babies were breastfed in 1990.

Although breastfeeding is natural, it is not instinctive and, like other skills, it has to be learnt. That is where the help and support of others is vital. It is well recognised that many people give advice and perhaps on some occasions in the past this has led to conflict and confusion. Airedale Health Authority launched its breastfeeding policy in January 1991. The policy aims to be a resource for everyone who gives information, help and support to breastfeeding women whether in hospital or at home. If anyone would like to see this policy, talk about breastfeeding or receive more information, please contact the Midwives or Health Visitors at the Health Centre.

Christine Hodson
Health Visitor



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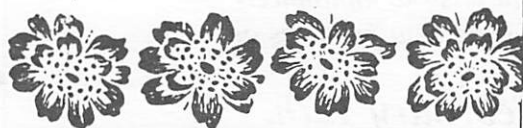
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"WIN A VIDEO" ANAGRAM COMPETITION

A fascinating competition has been devised by one of our readers, who has also offered to give the winner a star prize of a video (selected by our sponsor as being "suitable"! All entry fees (20p each entry) will contribute towards BN production costs. All you have to do is to work out the 12 anagrams listed below (each of which makes either one or two words). Then submit your answers with the 20p sellotaped securely to them, together with your name and address, and hand them in at Tim Churchill's shop in Station Road by midday on **WEDNESDAY 20 FEBRUARY**. You can enter as many times as you like, as long as each entry is accompanied by 20p! The first correct entry drawn wins the video, and the winner's name together with the correct answers will be published in BN. (In the event of there not being a winner by 20 February, then the competition will run for another month). 1. ALCHEMIST 2. COMIC ONES 3. PEACE MARK 4. REGISTERS 5. SEVER A POD 6. FLASHBACK 7. FORENAMES 8. ON A CHARGE 9. SENTENCES 10. ACCIDENTS 11. THEIR BRAT 12. GRACE'S HAT

Good luck!



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COMPETITION TIME!

Many thanks to the 10 readers who entered our **JANUARY** competition. We have been able to add £5 to our funds as the £5 prize was donated anonymously. Anyone wishing to sponsor the monthly competition can do so by donating the £5 cash prize - any contributions are gratefully received.

The correct answers were

1. Miller's Court,
2. TOOBY's
3. 100.

Congratulations to the winner, who was **MRS. F. CLARKE** of Goodenber Crescent - she has received her £5.

The 3 questions for our **FEBRUARY** competition are below, and the answers can be found by careful reading of the **JANUARY BN**.

1. How many homeless families were there in Craven last year?
2. What date last month was the Panto Coffee Morning?
3. What is the name of Barbara and Peter Nightingale's new born son?

Put your answers on a piece of paper together with your name and address, sellotape your 50p to it and hand it in at Churchill's, Station Road. The first correct answer drawn at midday on **SATURDAY 16 FEBRUARY** will receive the £5 prize, and the winner's name and the correct answers will be published in the next BN.

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OPENING WEEK SPECIAL OFFERS



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'Mrs Mop Services' Thinking of Spring Cleaning? - need any help? May be we can help..... Tel Mrs Ratcliffe Benthams 62608.

BENTHAM PEOPLE PERSONAL THANKS

To all relations, neighbours and friends. our most sincere thanks and appreciation for your valuable help and kindness whilst we were in hospital. We are so grateful to you ALL for the lovely gifts and many many greetings cards received. Our warmest regards to you all. Kathleen & Jimmy Townson. 5 Wenning Avenue, Benthams.

Michael and Janet Collins from POP and SEE regret that they are now closed until further notice. They would like to say how pleased they are to have made so many friends in the two and a half years they have been here. Many thanks for your kind support and custom during that period. They shall still be seeing some of you as they are continuing to live above the shop.

The Community Nurses at Benthams Health Centre wish to gratefully thank Benthams Women's Social Services for the generous donation towards equipment.

I would like to thank those concerned in organising the party at the Methodist Chapel on 12th January. My daughter and her friends had a lovely evening and we hope to attend other such evenings in the future. D. Garman.

HORNBY DRAMA GROUP would like to thank all who joined us for our performance of 'UNDER MILK WOOD', also all who helped behind the scenes and those who kindly displayed our posters.



STOP PRESS.

from Councillor Ralph Atkinson

The latest estimate of Poll Tax from Craven (before the Hesletine billion!) is £328, not including the parish precept. This includes £140 for our new road cleaning responsibilities; increases in the Poll Tax rebates and loss of subsidy on these and losses of interest on housing capital receipts.

Also, under extreme pressure, the Housing Committee is recommending an average increase of £4.50 in council house rents.

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SPORTS PAGE



As 1991 is the **YEAR OF SPORT** we would like to encourage all local sporting clubs, or people interested in sport, to make a particular effort to contribute to this page during the year. Also to let us have up-to-date information for our **DIARY** and **REGULAR EVENTS** columns, as this will also encourage new members to participate in a range of sporting activities in the locality.

HOMING SOCIETY

Bentham Homing Society held a successful show in the Town Hall in December. Pigeons were entered from throughout the north-west region, but local fanciers scooped the prizes for Best Young Bird (Chris Weedon) and Best Old Bird (Doug Ralph). Particular thanks must go to the generous sponsors without whom the event could not have happened: A.R.C., Pine Lake, Bernard Armstrong, John Bowker, Maurice Metcalfe and Jack Pickup.

Four members of staff John Battersby, John Corrigan, Phil Haigh and Stan Jura from Wennington Boys School have applied and been accepted to run in the **LONDON MARATHON**. The chances of four people from the same place being accepted must have been immense.

One member from Bentham, John Corrigan, is running in aid of the **Arthritis & Rheumatism Council**, you may have seen him training on the roads around Bentham. You may also have spotted another couple in training on the roads, Alan Potts and Edna Jennings have been running marathons for a few years. This is the second year running that they have been accepted for the London Marathon, but last year both were unable to run because of injuries, lets hope they make it this year.

Bentham News would like to wish them every success on April 21st. Sit by your T.V's you might spot someone you know!!

Year of Sport

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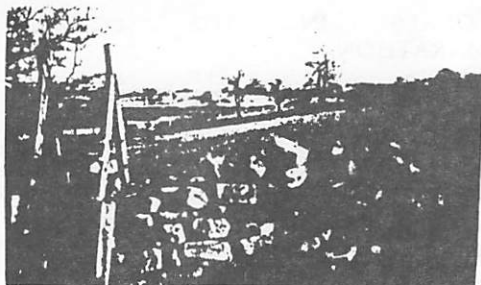
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BENTHAM FOOTPATH GROUP

by Len Moody.

The wintry weather has disturbed some of our programmed walks, but there have been plenty of folks, including visitors from other parts, who have expressed appreciation of walks in this area.

Among recent improvements to the local footpath network, we are glad to report two new stiles at Blands, as well as a series of stiles opening up the ancient route from Craven's Farm to Gill Garm, Wennington: appreciation is due to Lancs C C Highways Dept. for these.

A specially recommended walk in February will be over Farleton Knott, beyond Kirkby Lonsdale, with "spectacular views across Morecambe Bay", while early in March we shall be walking to Mewith Head, passing amongst other things the recently installed memorial seat. For further details see Local Events.

ENVIRONMENT WEEK this year will be 11th-18th May. One of the Footpath Group's contributions to this will be the clearing of litter from Dumb Tom's Lane, but to do the job before spring growth covers everything, we shall do it on the afternoon of **SATURDAY 2nd MARCH**: members, and anyone else willing to assist, should meet at the lay-by on D T's Lane near the Ingleton road at 2pm. Collecting bags, plastic gloves etc will be provided by Craven District Council. Other contributions to Environment Week will be announced in due course.



ODE TO TOM GUY

Tom Guy's our barber and Oh What a Man!
He plays lots of golf, just as oft as he can,
When he comes to the ninth green, he views
it with pride,
That's after he's given it a 'short back and
sides',

Now black and white rabbits are his latest
rage,
So Mr Guy put two in a cage.
We don't know whether they're bucks or
does,
But Thomas's tricks keep us on our toes,

But he's put up his prices to pay for his
whim,
So it's costing more now for a 'cut and a
trim'.

Next year lets hope he's still feeling fine,
And he might give away some beer or some
wine.

To the customers who he keeps well
amused,
By writing rhymes for the "BENTHAM
NEWS".

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YOUR LETTERS



YOUR LETTERS

Dear Sir,

May I through your letters page, thank the proprietors of Pop and see, Mr & Mrs Collins and Brenda, for their reliable and efficient service when booking our day excursions. Also may I wish them all the best for the future.

Yours sincerely
Peter Bibby,
Bibby's Coaches.



Dear Bentham News,

I would like to thank Mr Garlick for giving me the prize money for the essay competition. I was very pleased.

Yours sincerely

Jayne Lawson, Pennwood, 10, Lakeber Drive, H.Bentham.

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A & M FROST

CONCERNED ABOUT THE CRISIS IN AFRICA?

There is now a link between Bentham and one of the poorer parts of Africa. Dr. Nightingale worked in St Francis Hospital for two years before coming o Bentham Health Centre The hospital is in Zambia 30 miles from the Mozambique border. It is efficiently managed by the combined Anglican/Catholic Churches and provides comprehensive health care for a large population including refugees. They are very short of funding. Please help if you can. Cheques can be sent to:-St Francis Hospital, c/o Mr P. A. Hardy, 15 Forsells End, Houghton on the Hill, Leicestershire.

If anybody or any group wish to covenant some money, then please phone 62652 for forms.

I can guarantee that any monies will save lives and not be wasted.

Thank you Peter Nightingale.

Dear Editor

I was very interested to read the new Shops and Small Business column. It gave us a big moral booster to know our efforts are appreciated.

I would like to think Bentham people enjoy shopping in our village shops, we do try to give a helpful, friendly service that cannot always be found in larger town shops.

Thank you to the person who wrote the article, let's keep the interest and the comments flowing for this new column.

Best Wishes to Bentham News for 1991. Keep up the good work.

Yours sincerely
Linda Tooby.

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LIFE ON AN OCEAN WAVE!

22

an interesting and amusing contribution from Diane Wells of Crow Trees, Mewith.

Life on board a twentynine foot yacht "Imoths" with a seven month old baby is, in a word, cluttered. Every inch of the boat is littered with a profusion of baby paraphernalia. Undeniably the Captain of our craft, she commands the best locker for her clothes, the majority of shelf space for her toys and keeps the spare berth crammed with an ocean going supply of nappies. Even the floor of the cabin is ankle deep in cushions to prevent too much head bashing as junior falls over, a regular occurrence. If there is a spare inch of floor unpadded her head will find it within seconds of being let loose. Such is life!

Lack of adequate storage space means that our fruit and vegetables also live on the floor in a cardboard box and junior is often making the acquaintance of the contents. After these vegetable raids we often found half chewed tomatoes hidden slyly under a cushion or other harmless object, waiting to be trodden on by an unsuspecting crew member. Once caught stealthily consuming the last nectarine, junior simply gave me the gummy grin of one who knows that the task in hand, and mouth, is accomplished, and parent is foiled again.

While we are actually sailing along junior, Mary to most of her friends, spends most of her time in the cockpit along with her obligatory companions, the cushions. Father and I amuse her with our complete repertoire of silly faces, noises, sea shantys and other nautical dittys such as "Row Row Your Boat". All of these can be performed with utmost abandon as neighbours at sea are few and far between.

As our voyage at sea progresses the cockpit gradually fills up with an assortment of charts, books, pencils, waterproofs, jumpers, food and toys which often threaten to engulf baby and her cushions altogether. None of this seems to concern her and only when her baby sixth sense tells her that her parents are going through the harrowing process of entering a marina berth does she kick up a fuss. Parking a thirty foot boat in a space barely a foot wider on each side is not something to be taken lightly, and with the added distraction of a howling baby it gets worse. On these occasions junior invariably manages to look and sound as far though she's been neglected since the far side of the Atlantic rather than just a few metres down the river.

Breast feeding while tacking into the wind when the boat leans at an angle of up to 45 degrees or more is a fine art. The general idea is to lean with the boat; one false move leaving you with a 17lb limpet swinging from your bosom, who rarely has any intention of letting go.

Rowing ashore for provisions is a family outing of vast proportion, involving all the usual extras: nappies, toys, bottles etc plus: life jackets, dinghy pump and oars. Once accustomed to it, hopping aboard an inflatable dinghy is quite easy, even for a clumsy person such as myself. With a wriggling frustrated baby to contend with who has just doubled in size due to her life jacket this is no longer such a doddle. Recently we have taken to immobilising her completely by tying her up inside a waterproof jacket, with only a little fat face peering out to prove that she isn't just

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another bundle of belongings. This has improved matters considerably as she seems quite happy to be a baby parcel, passed hand to hand with the rest of our shopping. Owing to a leaky floor in the dinghy, on the way home junior and I often formed the base of a mountain of goodies perched on the bow trying to stay as dry as possible. When the wind gets up this is a vain hope and it's wet bums all round.

Back on board Mary is fascinated by the erratic gurgling of our sea lav and whenever it is pumped out drops everything to head in the direction of this strange beast which enters my nightmares in various stages of blockage and regurgitation. Apparently this happens to every single sea lav in production at least once in its lifetime. Going by our previous relationship with the law of averages it is probably due to happen to us several times in quick succession during the not too distant future.

Another secret horror is that all of my carefully hoarded disposable nappies will somehow become soaked in seawater, either causing us to sink due to their sheer soggy volume, or (a fate worse than sinking?) leave us stranded on board in a gale with no nappies.

Back safe on dry land at the end of this adventure, we have often asked ourselves, was it worth it? The answer has to be a resounding YES!



TOURIST INFORMATION CENTRE

We are currently compiling our 1991 Accommodation list which we hope to have available in time for the seasonal opening of the Centre at Easter. This list covers Guest Houses, B & B accommodation, Hotel/Inns, Self Catering establishments, Caravans etc within the area. If you wish to be included but have not yet received an application form to complete, please write for one immediately to the TIC, 8 Station Road, Bentham or Phone 62171.

For information, we receive requests for copies of our accommodation list from private individuals as well as public bodies around the country.

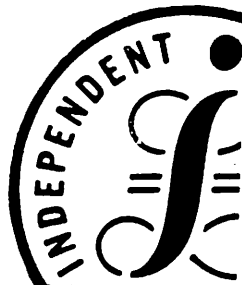
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EDITORIAL INFORMATION

BENTHAM NEWS is published at 7, Jubilee Buildings, Main Street, High Bentham by an editorial committee consisting of Tony Bennett, Shirley Brown, Tom Cahill, Keith Cowling, Wendy Dowbiggin, Debbie Garman, Jill Matthews, Ken Robertson, Pam Woolf and our co-ordinator Lesley Barker.

BENTHAM NEWS can be sent anywhere in the UK for an annual subscription of £5, or anywhere in the world for £10.

Small ads and announcements: £1 for every 20 words, payment **MUST** accompany each item to ensure publication.

For all information, including advertising rates, listings and subscriptions please contact Lesley Barker on Bentham (05242) 62040. Items for publication can be left at the house or at Churchill's shop during opening hours.

THE FINAL COPY DATE FOR PUBLICATION IS THE 15TH OF EACH MONTH.

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, including letters. Please note that although we are willing to withhold names on request, names and addresses must accompany all items for publication.

BENTHAM NEWS is printed at LOGO LABELS, Main Street, High Bentham.

CHURCH SERVICES.

St Margaret's C of E, High Bentham.

SUNDAY 8am Eucharist. 10am Parish Eucharist & Junior Church. **WEDNESDAY.** 9am Eucharist. Mothers Union 2nd Tuesday each month in the Legion Hall at 2pm. Enquiries Mrs Field 61084

St John the Baptist, Low Bentham.

1st Sunday 8am, Holy Communion, 10.30am Family Service. 2nd Sunday 10.30am, Holy Communion, 3pm Village Hall. 3rd Sunday 9.15am Holy Communion, 10.30am Praise Service. 4th Sunday 10.30am Holy Communion, 2pm Village Hall. 5th Sunday 10.30am Worship & Holy Communion.

St Boniface Catholic Church.

Saturday 6.30pm. Sunday 9.30am & 11.15am, Easter to September 30th. Holy Days 10am & 7.30pm. Week day services, see times in the porch.

Methodist Church. High Bentham.

Sunday Worship 10.30am & 6.30pm. Junior Church 10.30am. Fellowship Meeting Tuesday 7.30pm. Bright Hour 2.15pm. alternate Tuesdays commencing the 2nd October. Breakout 11-13 years Wednesday 7.00pm. JAM 14 plus Friday 7.30pm.

Methodist Church, Low Bentham.

Sunday Services & Sunday School, 10.30am. Afternoon Service 2pm.

Religious Society of Friends, Quakers.

Meeting for Worship, Sunday 10.30am.

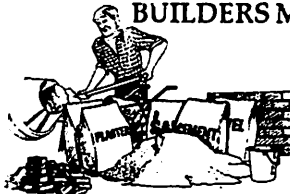
BIBBY'S COACHES INGLETON

Our new booking agent for 1991 Coach Excursions is

Kim Capstick
Village Pet Supplies
Station Road
High Bentham

Tel 62546

JACKSONS BUILDERS MERCHANTS.



TEL: BENTHAM 61389