

BENTHAM NEWS



SHOPPING TROLLEY: BENTHAM vs. THE BIGGIES

by Jill Matthews and Kate Steele

The recession has brought hard times to many businesses and Bentham has seen its share of shops closing down. But do rural shops have to keep their prices high just to survive, in the face of competition from the mega-stores? Are we paying through the nose for the convenience of shopping locally?

Bentham News got out its shopping trolley to probe the facts behind the myths.

In the week of the 8th to the 13th July we trundled round four shops: Spar and the Co-op in Bentham, Sainsburys in Lancaster and Asda in Morecambe. With our prepared list of everyday items, we compared prices in each shop.

Results on page 5



BN's annual OPEN MEETING will be held in the Town Hall on Wednesday 11th September.

Love it or hate it?

Come and hear how the BN arrives through your letterbox each month, and how much it costs too!

Further details in next month's edition of BN.

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AUGUST 1991

ISSUE 58

TREE WARDENS REPORT

We have been collecting information and exhibition material from various sources such as the Forestry Commission, The Woodland Trust, The Tree Council and Men of the Trees. Much of this was available for public perusal at the Green Fair at Ingleton, where we had a stall. We were able to give advice to several local landowners about grant possibilities, suitable trees to plant etc. We intend to arrange a similar opportunity in Bentham in the near future.

We have also been busy surveying roadside trees for damage and disease with a view to replacing them this winter, and looking for sites for further planting. One suggestion is a row of trees and / or flowering shrubs along the back fence of the Lairgill Graveyard. An avenue of trees either side of the approach would also be nice if the landowner was agreeable. Please let us know your ideas about planting sites.

It seems to us to be very important to help young people understand the value of trees in the community. We would particularly welcome hearing from any teachers or other youth worker who would like to liase with us. This could take the form of planting schemes involving children, nature walks and activities to increase knowledge and appreciation of trees, or posters and information about the importance of trees in the environment.

All enquiries and suggestions to Jude Pereles Tel 61750 or Terry Whitaker Tel 62269.



Operation Raleigh

I would like to thank all those who have supported me at my local fund-raising events, and to tell you of my progress.

I made £350 at the Auction at Settle High School and £250 and £150 at two coffee mornings in Bentham Town Hall. Sponsorship came first from Settle High School Parents' Association and School Governors then from Bentham Town Council, Craven District Council and Angus Fire. The rest has come from donations large and small from private individuals who know me or who have read about my appeal for funds in articles in the *BENTHAM NEWS*, Lancaster Guardian and Craven Herald.

I am hoping for more sponsorship and have applied to the Princes Trust and other organisations.

The Ladies section of Bentham Golf Club are kindly offering to raise money for me on Ladies Day on 10th August. I am also working during the summer holidays and hope to reach the target of £2,600 by the dead-line of August 22nd. If I am successful, I will set off on my 3 months expedition to Guyana on September 26th.

Robert Cowling,

Sandwood, Low Bentham Road, Bentham.

Richard Bradshaw

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TOWN COUNCIL

Another full house at this meeting with all Town Councillors present together with Councillor Pilkington. Outnumbered by members of the public, however, with 18 present including Sgt. Wallis.

The Town Council often wrestle problems of what to do with, or what to do for, young people in the town and this meeting was dominated by two such items.

LICENSED EVENTS If you like a bit of a dance on a Saturday night then you will have been sorely disappointed these last few months. Bentham Town Hall doors have remained firmly closed to discos because of a 'misunderstanding' about regulations for such events. Because of trouble in the past, the Town Council asked the police for guidance. The police made suggestions: number of stewards required, time limits, and the controversial taking of names of ticket buyers. Unfortunately, these 'suggestions' were somehow interpreted as regulations, which made the running of events like discos totally impractical.

Misunderstandings have now been ironed out at a meeting of Councillors with Skipton Police Inspector Marrison. Sgt. Wallis was at pains to point out that the police have no wish to stop discos in Bentham - but they don't want any trouble either. What is required is a "reasonable level of order". Fine - all we need now is someone to define the word 'reasonable'.

Councillor Cowling suggested that a sub-committee, including Sgt. Wallis, should write a set of recommendations for prospective organisers. Councillor Marshall pointed out that it is up to the Licensing Authority to approve applications and say when events have to finish. Councillor Telford felt that the way was now clear for functions at the Town Hall. So get your dancing shoes out of the cupboard.

SUMMER PLAYScheme It's too late, too woolly and too expensive - this was the general feeling of the Council about a request for funds to run a summer playscheme. There were Councillors who felt that it was a worthy attempt to do

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something for the young people of the town, and those who felt that the Council already supported provision for young people, like the Playing Fields.

But the main bone of contention was undoubtedly the cost. Councillor Marshall thought that the £800 budgeted for organisers' wages was "ridiculous" and suggested that the application should have gone to the County. Councillor Pilkington thought that it might very well have achieved success there. Councillor Joel thought that the scheme should be run by volunteers, like most other schemes in Bentham. Councillor Cowling's proposal of a loss guarantee offer was shot down in flames. So what happens now? The scheme may well have been axed for now, but the organisers will try again next year. Councillor Telford proposed that a grant of £75 be made to get them started and despite a degree of haggling, this was finally agreed.

OTHER MATTERS - No, the Council will not fork out £20 for books for the tree wardens. They can get free advice from several Councillors. - Yes, they will fork out £300 to install a light at the bottom of Tweed Street - if they can find somewhere to put it. - County are to be asked (again) to put Bentham firmly on the map, by more appropriate siting of the sign on the A65.

The next meeting is on Monday 5th August.

Kate Steele



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BENTHAM HORSE FAIR

by Shirley Brown

WHAT IS IT?

WHEN DID IT START?

WHY DO WE HAVE IT?

A letter to the Town Council this month has asked a few simple, searching questions about the Horse Fair, and the Town Council decided to ask BN to find out what they could about its past, its present and its probable future.

With this in mind we have asked a number of people for information, but we are well aware that there are many others, especially some of our older population, who will have other memories. We would love to hear these, so please either write to us, or contact us and we'll make sure we visit to record what you have to say.

It seems likely that the Horse Fair has been with us since medieval times. The Charter for Gisburn Market was granted by Henry III in 1260, and it is probable that Bentham's Charter would have been granted around the same time, although at present we've not been able to trace the document. Thus the permission to hold a Hiring Fair in Bentham goes back into history, and such a right could only be revoked by Act of Parliament! The wide main street exists to allow a market, as much of the trading would have taken place in the street. Some still have memories of the street being full of galloping horses ("exciting but dangerous"), and 30-40 horses being tied together to move on to the next market, perhaps in Skipton. On "Bentham Hiring Day" ("it just happened, it never seemed to be advertised"), it wasn't just horses that were traded, but also farm labourers and women servants to help with hay time. In fact there was "no hay time before Hiring Day", which is why the day always occurs on a Saturday in mid-June, before hay harvesting. The main influx of people and horses was from Ireland; one memory is of 2,000 Irish coming, wonderful Irish horses and gaggles of geese being driven through the Main Street.

4 "Bentham Hiring Day" was an essential part of the farming calendar, and provided an excellent day out for farmers and countryfolk alike. Apart from the dangers of being trampled by galloping horses, the worst that was likely to happen was a sore head next day as it was possible to "get drunk on a shilling"!

THAT WAS THEN, BUT WHAT ABOUT NOW?

During World War 2 the Fair began to fizzle out, and by the 1950's there was no Fair at all. The revival began in 1982 when a few horse-drawn caravans camped in Bentham on their way back from Appleby Fair. A group of travellers met Richard Turner with a request for a fair at Bentham soon after Appleby using his Auction Mart and Yard. He was happy to agree realising that such an event could again provide a "nice day" and put Bentham on the map.

During the 1980's this seems to have been what happened, with priority being given to horse-drawn travellers who were given a separate area which was quiet and pleasant. The horses were let loose in the field and were an added attraction. The travelling group were self-policing, and any damage caused was put right there and then.

What has happened in the last few years has disappointed the genuine travellers as much as it has upset the community of Bentham.

The number of motorised caravans has increased, as have the number of people who have latched onto the event regarding it as a cheap holiday. Some of these seem intent on having "a good time" at the community's expense, and there is drunkenness and groups of unsupervised children roaming about causing damage, thieving and generally making locals feel uneasy. The hassle and unpleasantness has resulted in the character of the event changing, and there are now questions being asked about its future.



SHOPPING TROLLEY RESULTS

by Jill Matthews and Kate Steele

	Spar	Co-op	Sainsbury	Asda
Bread (1ge white sliced)	74p	74p	54p	60p
PG Tips tea (80 bags)	£1.58	£1.59	£1.58	£1.58
Nescafe coffee (100g)	£1.37	£1.39	£1.37	£1.37
Sugar (white) 1kg	66p	69p	66p	66p
Kellogs Cornflakes (500g)	99p	99p	90p	90p
White SR flour (1.5kg)	68p	71p	68p	67p
Heinz baked beans (450g)	28p	29p	29p	29p
Heinz tomato soup (300g)	36p	34p	32p	32p
Lyles golden syrup (454g)	65p	51p	61p	63p
Heinz salad cream (285g)	52p	45p	45p	45p
Coca-Cola (2L)	£1.04	96p	89p	89p
Fairy liquid (500ml)	59p	66p	58p	58p
Ariel powder (E3 size)	£1.62	£1.55	£1.55	£1.45
Andrex toilet roll (2)	84p	87p	84p	84p
Whiskas cat food (400g)	39p	40p	39p	39p
TOTAL TROLLEY BILL	£12.31	£12.14	£11.65	£11.62

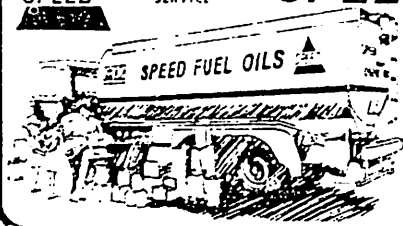
OK, so it's between 50p-70p cheaper to shop for this lot at the big stores - no surprise there. But is it a big enough incentive to do your shopping in Lancaster or Morecambe rather than Benthams? And there's the cost of transport to consider (petrol and running a car, taxi, or public transport). The bigger stores have a much wider range of items - but this inevitably leads to buying more than you had planned. Put all this against the convenience of shopping locally, and the Benthams shops seem to be pretty good value!



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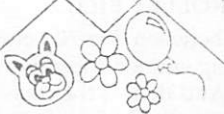
This month has taught me quite alot about conservation and just how quickly you have to act if you want to be at all effective. At the edge of my village lies a small field, used by locals as a recreation area for generations, it has been designated as a low cost housing area for some time but suddenly it has become a hive of activity as men and machines move in to start excavating service roads and foundations. The field contains many lovely meadow plants such as primroses, violets, ladies fingers and many more it has become a matter of urgency to rescue as many as possible before they dissappear for ever beneath the tarmacadam and concrete.

6 By a stroke of good fortune I had cleared a large stretch of overgrown land earlier this year intending to plant it up with ground covering plants. The whole area is overhung by poplars and runs adjacent to my boundary fence, each year it produces a wonderful crop of tall stinging nettles. now it is home to a variety of wild flowers hastily transplanted at quite the wrong time of the year, so far they all seem to be surviving quite happily and I look forward to a good show from them next year.

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DISTRICT AFFAIRS MAIN STREET



After all the argey-bargy last year about digging up Main Street for a sewer I learn it's been delayed again. Because of various financial considerations North West Water want to link it with the new developments at the sewage works. Although approval of the scheme is likely by the time you read this, the scheme itself is unlikely to start before next financial year, ie. April, 1992. I'm not sure yet when the holidays are then but I'll try and ensure the minimum disruption to trading.

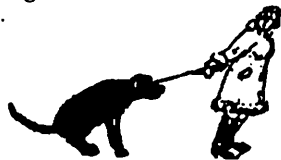
HOMELESSNESS

Horrifying reports of the national problem of homelessness are being matched here in Craven. This particularly strikes young people as they mostly don't qualify for Council assistance and, I quote, "For many, sleeping rough eventually becomes a reality because there is no other option available". A recent report gives three reasons: Not enough housing - Young people unable to afford a proper home - and discrimination against them. You all know my views on the drastic fall in house building. These have recently been endorsed by none other than the Rowntree Foundation. Council house building has fallen to less than 20,000 a year with Housing Association houses a little more, against a demand of more than 100,000 a year, not including second homes. As for affording homes - the mortgage on the cheapest houses we have is at least £300 a month and commercial rents aren't much less. How many farm workers, waiters or shop assistants can afford that? Then discrimination, most adverts for lets now demand a bond on the first month's rent, professional persons only, no children and no DSS cases! Our mobile unit in North Craven has now gone because the site proprietor wouldn't allow children! So we can only put people, including families, in B & B. The answers are there but they all demand a radical change in Government policy.

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DOGS AGAIN

Following on from the Environmental Protection Act the Council are consulting Town and Parish councils about bye-laws for the control of dogs and the possible appointment of a full-time dog-warden. Last time this was done, in July, 1988, Benthams TC was not one which felt action was necessary. The model byelaws recommended by Govt. define dog free areas, eg. childrens' play areas; areas where dogs must be kept on the lead and areas where faecal matter must be removed (by poop scoops). Perhaps instead of complaining to me you should complain to your Town Cllr. Let's get some support for Craven DC and get this nuisance banned from our streets.



Please keep our footpaths
clean!

SUNDAY TRADING

Because of the confused laws about Sunday trading it's been council policy for a long time only to take action when complaints are brought. One such action was threatened against Great Mills in Skipton. But, following similar actions in the South, the firm threatened counter action involving the possible payment of heavy damages. So, Councillors, believing this was not a justifiable risk of public funds, ruled against it. At the same time we've called upon Govt. to clarify the law and sort out the whole mess.

GYPSIES

I was sorry to hear of the trouble over the Horse Fair week-end. I very much doubt whether the extra trade is worth what it costs us, both in Poll Tax (police and clearing up) and in the hassle and loss to shop keepers. The Council can do very little in these circumstances except try and contain it. The only solution is pressure on those who invite the gypsies in. Hopefully we will be better prepared for the August bank holiday!

BENTHAM CARES DAY

The second BENTHAM CARES DAY, organised by Jean Gerrard and held in the Town Hall on the 15th June 1991, was a great success, the whole day raised a **GRAND TOTAL of £ 654 43p** for Bentham News' funds. Our thanks must go to the many sponsors who helped us raise this vast amount by donating money or goods, thus enabling us to buy prizes for our Raffle, Kids Tombola and the Russian Raffle.

Sponsors for the Kids Tombola

H.A. Wood, Oglethorpe, Sturton and Gillibrand, Bentham Sports Shop, Grove Hill Garage, Barclays Bank, D.M. Jordan, Jacksons, Builders Suppliers, Bradley, Kendry & Co., Mrs W. Gill, B & F Taylors, Chip Shop, Tim Churchill, Mr & Mrs Tooby, Angus Fire Armour, Midland Bank, Nationwide Anglia, Mary Thornborough, Margaret Hayton, Pigtails, J. McManus, Brown & Whitakers, R T & S M Ward, Co-op, B & K O'Hagen, Black Bull Hotel, Coach House Inn, Mrs M. Robinson, Ken, Spar, Post Office.

Sponsors of the £30 Raffle

Robert Taylor & Sons, Angus Fire Armour, Hairlines, Armstrongs, Ron Fleming, Allan Bradshaw.

Sponsors for the Russian Raffle

Sean Sanderson, Jill Matthews, A & E L Bruns, Jean Gerrard.

Apart from the money raised for Bentham News the following organisations had stalls in the Town Hall raising money for their own charity or cause. The following list includes amounts raised by the organisations who had stalls in the Town Hall, High Bentham Playgroup raised £60 and donated it to the childrens Ward at RLI. Shelter £35, High Bentham Youth Club £25, NSPCC £53, High Bentham PTA £10, High Bentham Toddlers £85, Scouts £31, Froame Amateur Dramatic Society £100, The Labour Party £15, Shelter £35, CND £20, Greenpeace £24.

Some of the organisations represented at the

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Cares Day were happy just to be able to pass on information and literature to the public.

All together a grand total of £1,112.43p was raised on BENTHAM CARES DAY. Let's hope that next year the total raised at least matches that!

POLICE FILE



NEW POLICEMAN FOR BENTHAM

As many readers will know, there are two policemen 'stationed' at Bentham. PC David Ferguson has now moved to the Settle station and has been replaced by PC David Carr, who joins PC 'Danny' Kay as Bentham's own bobbies. Any romantic notion of our rural policemen patrolling on bicycles can be quickly dismissed - apparently the hills round here are prohibitive. Both PCs Kay and Carr can be contacted at Ingleton by ringing the Skipton number (0756 793377).

DO YOU USE BOTTLED WATER?

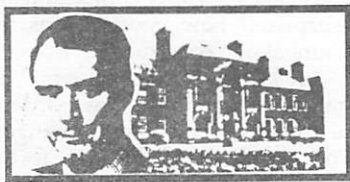
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FROM COUNTY HALL



CHILDRENS' ACT 1991

The extra duties under the Childrens' Act meant an estimate of £270,000 for the Social Services Department for the remainder of this year. This was just a guesstimate 'cos at the time our exact responsibilities were not known. Now this is clearer the Committee has been asked to authorise an extra 24 senior staff costing another £180,000. Thus do costs escalate!

STREET LIGHTING

Bentham Town Council had me called over the coals not long ago when on their behalf I criticised the working of the new street lighting maintenance contract in Council. However, they were partly right. Lights were not being maintained up to standard. The contract states that defective lights must be repaired within 5 working days, except (and this is important!) where the fault involves an defect to the electricity supply. So, first make sure they are County lights. If they are, post-paid report cards are available at Post Offices or you could(?) phone Northallerton (0609-770202: Mr. Walker). In either case let me know if they aren't OK within the time limits.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT REVIEW

Although the subject seems to've been dropped by the media, review of Local Government is still very much on the agenda and we still go on wasting a lot of time and effort on reports and debates. The latest report by the Association of County Councils points out the massive cost of such an operation - amounting to millions - and suggests a more careful look at the justifications for a wholesale review. In general the County Councils are not in favour of unitary authorities but if it happens they want the job. The District Councils are less doubtful and want the job anyway. Me? I'm not in favour of spending

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your money on will-o-the-wisp enterprises, nor on revolutionary changes (as they inevitably cause problems). So, for me it's the status quo with progressive improvements as we discover our weaknesses.

LOCAL MANAGEMENT OF SCHOOLS

School governors in the 450 or so schools which are now on local management in the County underspent more than £5 million last year. Perhaps rightly they were being cautious in their first year. Fortunately the money won't be lost but will roll forward to succeeding years. Our local schools in North Craven are not threatened with LMS yet, being too small. Let's hope most of the problems will have been ironed out by the time we get it.

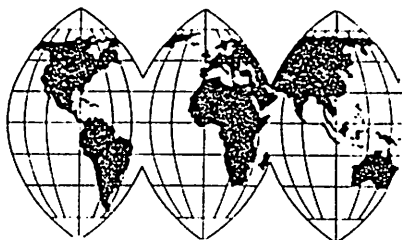
ROAD ACCIDENT REPORT: 1990

Despite every effort on the part of the police and the Highways Department road accidents continued to rise in 1990. In fact there was a 15% rise over the average of the base years of 1981/85 in total accidents, or nearly 700 more. The rise in fatal accidents was less (6.5%) but a long way from the 4% reduction we need to meet our targets of 33% reduction by 2,000. The tragedy and loss this represents can't be measured but to use a brutally materialistic parameter - the total cost was estimated as £112 million. Most losses occur on the heavily used roads and in the urban areas of the east, though both York and Scarborough show minor reductions. The heaviest rate was on the A63 (71 accidents per vehicle km), the A59 (59 a/vkm) and the A19(62 a/vkm), whereas our own A65 showed a comparatively low 30 accidents per vehicle km. By comparison the motorways showed a very low rate (M62 -4.6 and A1(M) 12.3). The number of buses and HGVs involved remained low but the number of cars involved was high. Unfortunately car drivers are not yet being targetted in Govt. campaigns. The most vulnerable groups of people were the young, the aged, pedestrians and passengers.



FROM ZAMBIA to BENTHAM

by Peter and Barbara Nightingale.



We first heard of St. Francis Hospital Katete in Zambia from Barbara's midwifery tutor at the RLI and subsequently worked there for two years before coming to Bentham in 1989.

Our first impression of Zambia was of a vast area of greenery and noisy swarming insects, we had arrived in the middle of the rainy season! There were few Europeans in Eastern Zambia and we will always recall images of cheerful groups of local women elegantly carrying a variety of goods from water and wood to bars of soap, on their heads. They often had a baby strapped to their backs leaving hands free to cope with toddlers. There was an all prevailing smell of hot vegetation blended with woodsmoke and where a few people gathered there would usually be singing.

We were based in a rural mission hospital jointly managed by the Anglican and Catholic Churches. We cared for people who were mostly subsistence farmers, living in villages of 1000-2000 people. There were usually four to five doctors in the hospital dealing with referrals from the 11 rural health centres looking after the 250,000 people in our district. In comparison to the 8,000 people registered in Bentham this seems a vast number, but most patients were seen by non-doctor health workers and doctors saw patients in batches of 5 in the consulting room at one time!

The Hospital had been given a large area of land which formed a community consisting of all the hospital workers and their families. The staff were allocated a plot of land to grow food on because salaries needed to be subsidised with the produce

10 from small scale farming.

Our house was on this compound and we were surprised how good it was, a brick built bungalow constructed from locally made bricks, concrete floors and a corrugated iron roof. In the garden grew banana trees, lemon, orange, mango, paw-paw and cashew nuts. Enough to keep us supplied with fruit salad for two years! We ate meat rarley, usually when we knew an elderly cow was due to be killed that day - then it was first come first served.

We adopted two cats and became very fond of them, they caught rats and snakes which had DARED to venture near our house, making us feel much more secure.

Personal security was a much more serious problem for the local population, being adjacent to the Mozambique border some 30 minutes away. We often had to help people with horrific injuries inflicted by Renamo Terrorists.

Barbara was a Midwifery and Nurse tutor and I was a General Duties Medical Officer in the hospital and the District Medical Officer supporting the work done in the 11 surrounding rural health centres.

Our work was often demanding and presented many new challenges, some of the first patients I saw had been mauled by a lion!

Barbara's most vivid memory was of her first breech delivery. She was trying to appear cool and confident with eight pupil



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midwives scrutinising her every move. All ended well to be followed by many more successful deliveries.

A major part of our work was with children, we still have haunting memories of a ward built to house 30 children holding over 100. There were 3 in a cot and their mothers sleeping underneath.

Considerable effort was put into trying to prevent the diseases causing childhood illness. However one of the major factors causing disease, poverty, was influenced more by the social economic climate than any local initiative.

We both have treasured memories of some of our holidays away from the hospital. We were only 90 miles from a large game reserve in the Luangwa Valley and will never forget tracking a pride of lions on foot. Lake Malawi was beautiful and we had a heart stopping white water raft trip down the Zambesi below Victoria Falls.

We both felt we gained greatly from our experience in Africa, we learned lessons regarding the value of respect for the elderly and abhorance of waste, nothing was ever 'thrown away'!

Adjusting to life back in Britain was initially hard because we arrived home just after Christmas, a time of great abundance here, a stark contrast to the material poverty we had left behind. This transition would have been much harder had it not been for the warm welcome and kindness we experienced from the people in and around Benthams.

We saw some obvious and severe problems developing in Africa of which aids, poverty and the expanding population were the most disturbing. However, the ability of the African to cope with adversity was most humbling.

P.S. We would like to thank BN for inviting us to write this article. If any group would like to see or hear more about our experience, we would be pleased to talk to them. St. Francis is always short of funding.

BENTHAM'S 121ST AGRICULTURAL SHOW.

Bentham Show will be held this year on Saturday 24th August. The main attractions this year will be a **Handling Display by the Royal Military Police Dog Team**. There will be a **Vintage Machinery Competition and Parade**, a **YFC Its-a-Knockout Competition**, **Punch and Judy Show**, **Minature Bus Rides** and the famous **Bouncing Castle!** Weather permitting **Helicopter rides** will be available, for those wishing to check that they have no slates missing off their roof.

Marquees holding the entries for the various classes in Photography, Handicrafts, Art, the Domestic Section, Children's Classes, Flower Arranging, Vegetables, Pot Plants etc. will be open to the public after the judging. Out side the entries in the Animal Sections will be on show, together with displays from local firms, all in all a good day out.

The closing dates for entries:-
Horticultural Section 21st August.
Horse entries taken on the field.
All others Tuesday 13th August.

Schedules are available from:-
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The Post Office at Burton and Low Bentham.



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LOCAL EVENTS IN AUGUST

- Thurs 1st** Guided Evening walk on the Bentham Four Square Mile alternative No 2. (Northwest via Boiling Well and Clifford Hall-5 miles) Leader Deborah Pickett (61288) meet at the Horse and Farrier at 6.30pm.
- Sat 3rd** N.S.P.C.C. Craft Fair and coffee morning **UPSTAIRS** in the Town Hall 10am - 12.30pm.
JOHN VERITY at The Horse and Farrier
- Wed 7th** N.S.P.C.C. Monthly meeting at "Lingfield", Robin Lane, Bentham 7.30pm.
The return of the popular vocalist J.D. James at the Black Bull.
- Fri 9th** Family Barbecue at Punch Bowl, Low Bentham. Tickets Children £1 Adults £2.50. Please ring 61048.
- Sat 10th** Springfield Bowling Club coffee morning at the Town Hall 9.45 -11.30am. Usual stalls and raffle.
Not to be missed Bradford Band "AFTER HOURS" at The Horse and Farrier.
- Sun 11th** Open Day at Bank House, National Trust Organic Farm, Silverdale at 2pm.

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- 12** **Thurs 15th** Low Bentham Women's Institute. Mr Watson's talk on Numerology. Competition "An old family photograph".
- Fri 16th** **WASTE PAPER COLLECTION.** at Bentham Leisure Centre, Grasmere Drive. (Legion Hall) 8.30 - 11am. Proceeds to N.S.P.C.C..
- Sat 17th** **Burton Horticultural Show** at Burton Endowed School at 2pm. All welcome.
St. Margaret's Mothers' Union coffee morning in the Town Hall 10 -11.30am Street Market in Low Bentham. Please ring 61048 if you require a stall.
Rock Band "IVORY WEBB" at The Horse and Farrier.
- Sun 18th** Guided circular walk (in conjunction with Forest of Bowland AONB) from Giggleswick Station via Wham to Whelpstone Crag (9 miles). Leader Len Moody (61128). Meet at Giggleswick Station 10.30am.
- Wed 21st** "Just Brian" at the Coach House.
- Fri 23rd** An **AFTERNOON CREAM TEA** event in the Lower Town Hall between 2 -4.30pm. Various stalls. All proceeds in aid of Bentham Age Concern. Local residents and visitors welcome.
- Sat 24th** **The 121st BENTHAM AGRICULTURAL SHOW**
"Jack Flash North" Keyboard - Vocalist at the Black Bull.
- Sun 25th** **BENTHAM HORTICUTLURAL SHOW** in the Town Hall 1 - 5pm. Classes for flowers, vegetables and flower arranging. Schedules from Mrs A. Shallcross, Withens, Low Bentham Road, High Bentham.

Mon 26th The return of the popular Guitar Vocalist "Danny Wilson" at the Black Bull.

Fri 30th Coffee Evening in the Town Hall 7.30pm for ARTHRITIS & RHEUMATISM COUNCIL - drawing of the GRAND RAFFLE.

Always popular Front Room Blues Band at The Horse and Farrier.

Sat 31st St. John's coffee morning in the Town Hall 10 - 11.30am.

Guided circular walk around Giggleswick Scar and Smearsett (8 miles). Leader Verena Smith (61100). Meet at Lairgaill Car Park 10am.

Bentham Traders Association Barbecue & Social Evening at Bentham Golf Club. Tickets £6.50 from Casuals, Main Street, H. Bentham. All members & guests welcome.

LOCAL EVENTS IN SEPTEMBER

Mon 2nd Guided Walk - Bentham Four Square Mile Alternative No 3, (northeast via Dumb Tom Lane and Enter Farm - 4 miles) Leader Jude Pereles (61750) Meet at Lairgill Car Park 1.30pm.

Wed 4th Coffee morning in aid of the Lancaster Scanner 10am - 3pm. Anyone with saleable items or nearly new clothes to donate. Please ring Mary Frankland on 61813.

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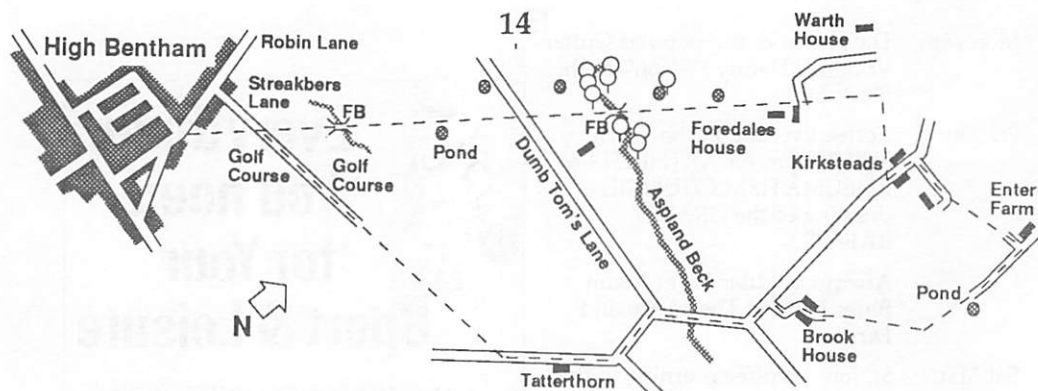


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BENTHAM'S FOUR FOUR SQUARE MILE WALKS (alternatives)

No 3 NORTH EAST: Via Dumb Tom's Lane, Foredales House, Enter Farm, Brook House and Streakbers Lane.

MAP The whole of this route is on O.S. Outdoor Leisure Map No 2 (Yorkshire Dales - Western Area)

1. To Dumb Tom's Lane.

From the centre of Bentham go up Robin Lane as far as the turning to Lakeber Drive. Turn to your right at the footpath sign to Ingleton, continue through the gate bearing left to a stone stile which brings you on to the golf course. Cross the course (beware flying balls) to the stone stile (painted white) clearly visible across the course into Streakbers Lane. Opposite is a stile into the next field. Across this field along the fairly obvious track making for a rotten tree stump ahead. The path then drops towards a stream with a stone bridge and a wooden stile. Climb steeply for about 50 yards to a stone stile midway along the wall. Continue along the same line to the brow of the hill past the end of a delapidated wall. Here it is well worth a pause to study the magnificent view. Continue down the field past the pond and aim for the NE corner of the field where the stile is indicated by a white post. Over this stile you are in Dumb Tom's Lane.

1. To Kirksteads.

Cross the lane and climb a stone stile into the next field. Strike out bearing right aiming for the field hedge corner and on towards a line of venerable gorse bushes which indicate the way down to the concrete footbridge crossing the wooded Aspland Beck. A few yards up the opposite bank you will see a wooden stile. Over this stile strike out at 45 degrees to the right of the line of the fence. A few yards ahead you will see the willow trees around a small pond in the middle of the field. Keep the pond on your left and continue towards a gate and stile in a wire fence, then straight ahead to the stone stile in a short length of stone wall clearly visible on the skyline. Over the stile, follow the hedge downhill to an open gateway and straight ahead along the garden wall of Foredales Farm. Cross a wire fence and stile into the farm lane. Continue over a stone stile on the far side of the lane and then straight across the next field to a crumbling stone stile. Continue on the same line with the hedge on your left for about 100 yards until you reach the stone stile on the path from Warth House. Turn sharp right to follow this path down towards a stone squeeze stile in the hedge ahead. Walk across the following field to pass the large black slurry tank on your left. Pass through a gate into a small square paddock and from there through a gate on to the road at Kirkstead Farm.

15

PARTNERS: M. A. BRADLEY, FIA, FISA, FIC; IAN P. BOOTH, FISA

It is always a pleasure to open a report on a note of appreciation for a successful venture, and the Sunday Tea at Seat Hall was undoubtedly that.

Our hostess/treasurer, Ruth Garretson, masterminded the whole event with the degree of efficiency that we now come to expect of her, and at the same time managed to produce most of the vast array of delicacies available. Ruth has asked me to convey her personal thanks to everyone who helped out. On behalf of A.C.B. our thanks to Ruth for a mammoth effort. Over 50 people had an enjoyable afternoon and raised about £170. Another enjoyable afternoon was had by the coach party visiting the house and grounds of Holker Hall, the weather, like the company, was warm and pleasant!

Unfortunately my attempts at verbal cartoons of recent events have offended some anonymous readers. To them my apologies. To the majority, particularly to those in the Town Hall on Fridays, my gratitude for your appreciation and encouragement. Your zest for life and fun leave any expressions of mine in the shade in the terms of saucy satire. I had you in mind along with cartoonist Giles' Granny, when writing.

I am criticised for not reflecting the image of Age Concern. I can only repeat my comments in the previous paragraph. The image that I have tried to reflect is that of our members who, in spite of their individual adversities, have that irrepressible sense of saucy fun. That is my image of Age Concern Bentham! Does there have to be a stereotype?

Incidentally, after my article last month, the police "wheel-clamped" my cardboard box in Robin Lane, and have now towed me away to an approved site (or is it school?) British Rail, in gratitude for the free publicity I gave them, offered a site between the rails on the up-line at the station, they said another sleeper wouldn't bother them.

16 The site I accepted was offered by the kind lads at the Fire Station. They said that after my remarks they wanted to look after me properly, and asked the police to leave my box just in front of the wheels of the fire engine close to the driver. They've even given me a job handing out leaflets entitled "Most accidents happen near home". They don't want me to work too hard though and say the job will be short-lived. They even said they won't disturb me when the alarm goes off.

DSS have issued me with a "self sealing once you're in" plastic lining for my box to give me a longer nights sleep. They say I won't feel the cold when I've been in it a while.

Must go, the box needs Hoovering, and I get morose if I don't get my regular fix of Sanatogen. Ouch- this needle's getting a bit blunt, must sharpen it soon!

The DSS, police, BR and the Fire Brigade are all treating me proper now. It's this 'ere Citizens Charter thing. Frightened I'll sue 'em!

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BENTHAM PEOPLE

Congratulations to Linda Rucastle and Mick McCann on their Wedding Day 31st August 1991. All the best, be happy, All our love Kate, Stephen and Marcell.

GOOD LUCK JUSTIN at Sandwell College, Birmingham. From Mum, Jodie and many friends. We will miss you.

Debbie Burns of Hanover House, Robin Lane has recently gained a B.A. (Hons) degree in Glass and Ceramics from Sunderland Polytechnic. Debbie was educated locally at High Bentham Primary School, Ingleton Middle School, Settle High School and York College of Art and Technology.

THANKS

My grateful thanks to the kind person who found my purse under the icecream van opposite Goodenber Road and handed it in to the police. It had cheque card and Family Railcard in it and I was most relieved to get it back. Many Thanks Bonnie Mitchell.

The Staff, parents and pupils of Wray Endowed School were most grateful for all the help and support at the Open Garden at Parkinson's Farm on July 6th. A total of £880 was raised towards the cost of the extension to the school.

The Open Day at Parkinson's Farm on Wednesday 3rd July, in aid of Christian Aid, raised £415.37. Very many thanks to Mr & Mrs Atkinson, all who attended, gave donations and helped in any way.

WANTED:

Metal framed back carrier for baby, in good condition. Tel Bentham 61434.

WANTED URGENTLY - PLAYPEN to buy or loan. Preferably the old fashioned type. Anything considered. K. Piper. 61977.

LASRUG

Calling all B.R. Passengers. Please do not hesitate to contact us if you have any problems when travelling by rail - or are unable to travel at all under the new Timetable!

Chairman - Jack Warbrick, Lakeber House, Robin Lane tel Bentham 62031.

Secretary - LASRUG, 56 Goodenber Road, Bentham.

FREE! Dismantled concrete coal bunker. Needs slight repair. Free to take away. Ring Bentham 62086.

CORNWALL - Newquay. Flat to rent, sleeps 6, near town, shops and the beach. Public transport near. Full details ring Newquay (0637) 874096.

DON BRIDGEWOOD has a lot of "purpose built" collecting boxes which are now surplus to requirements. Any organisations who are interested can contact him on Ingleton 41908.

ADMIRAL FLIGHTS - LOW COST - WORLD WIDE FLIGHTS, all major airlines. Helen will quote for you on Fax/Telephone (0756) 701546.

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YOUR LETTERS ¹⁹



Dear Bentham News,

POSTAGE STAMP APPEAL

Whilst in India I saw at first hand the suffering caused by Leprosy to the poor and under privileged. I say caused to the poor, because it is a disease which is fully curable these days, for those who have money. It costs only £5 for a full course of medicine, and yet, sadly, this amount is well outside the average poor man's wage. (10 rupees a month, the equivalent of 60p.)

With the recession in the West, donations to the work of the Leprosy Mission have dwindled alarmingly. I know that Benthamers are famously generous with their giving and will not want to be burdened with yet another appeal for money. I am not appealing for money but for USED POSTAGE STAMPS, to send to the Mission.

Please could you leave a clear 1/4" of envelope around the stamps to avoid damage. If you could make this small contribution, then together with those of many others throughout the country, the Mission will manage to raise several thousand pounds this year.

If you would like to help, please bring your stamps round to my house, which is now No 28, Lakeber Drive, High Bentham.

Your contributions will be gratefully received at any time of the year.

Yours sincerely

Mrs Gillian Ratcliffe.

Dear Bentham News,

I am a regular visitor to your village and find it a really friendly place to stay, but my enjoyment is ruined by that awful smell which comes down Station Road and particularly down the lane where Ashbank Villas are. Why on earth can't something be done about it, because it is driving holiday makers away and I think a lot more shops would close if you lost their custom.

I don't think for a second that you will print this letter, as you never print any thing but good about your village and it is a shame because you would benefit from the negative response and do something about it.

Yours sincerely

Mr. Dodd. A Bentham Visitor.

Editor's Note :- As you see we have printed this letter! We are not averse to negative comments about Bentham and would remind readers that this is an open access paper. Further views on this matter or any other relevant to our community are welcome.

Dear Sirs,

I wonder whether I could ask the hospitality of your columns to express the thanks of the people at St. John's for the generous help which individuals and organisations, in the community, offered to us during the recent Festival of Flowers in aid of the Bishop of Bradford's "Committed to Caring" Appeal. People may like to know that the weekend raised £438 for the Appeal Fund. Thank you very much.

Yours sincerely

Brian Underwood.

Dear Editor,

Who is covering up what, for whom and why down at Low Bentham Primary School?

Yours Faithfully,

John Corrigan,

11 Hillcroft,

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SPORTS PAGE

TENNIS



Kendal and District League Men's Division 1

BENTHAM v NORTH LONSDALE (CARTMEL) 3-1

A gratifying victory against the team most likely to be this season's first division champions and who had been previously undefeated. Bentham's first couple had comfortable straight set wins in both rubbers, whilst the home team's second couple lost narrowly in the third set to North Lonsdale's first pair.

BENTHAM v MILNTHORPE 3-1

Bentham completed the double over Milnthorpe with the second couple losing to the visitors first couple in a closely fought rubber.

BENTHAM v KENDAL 3-1

A third successive victory for Bentham; the home team's second couple going down to Kendal's first couple (one of whom was a very talented fourteen year old) after losing a tie-break.

TEAM FOR THE ABOVE MATCHES:
John Bell, Alan Warde, Colin Brown and Ken Robertson.

KENDAL A v BENTHAM 2-2

A weakened Bentham Team could only manage a draw against Kendal's undistinguished second team. Both Bentham pairs lost to the home team's first couple.

TEAM: Colin Brown, Ken Robertson, Nick Higham and Paul Rea.

20

WANDERERS (Barrow) v BENTHAM 3-1

With only three fixtures remaining, Bentham's undefeated run came to an end at Barrow. Wanderers were back to full strength with the team that has won the first division for the last two years, whereas Bentham lacked their most experienced player.

TEAM: John Bell, Nick Higham, Colin Brown and Ken Robertson.

NETBALL



WENNING WANDERERS v INGLETON 1

This was a hard fought match with both teams passing and shooting well. Ingleton took the lead with Wenning battling on, the final score 42-30 to Ingleton. This match was played in the true spirit of the game.

FOOTBALL



Training very Monday and Wednesday, on the field, at 7pm.

Old and new players welcome. For details please ring Ian Guy on 61153.

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PROPRIETORS -

J. R. and N. H. EASTWOOD

Continued from page 4

IS THERE A FUTURE FOR BENTHAM HORSE FAIR?

There seems little doubt that the event could still be pleasant, and that it would be sad if part of our history were again allowed to fade away. BUT it is clear that some changes are necessary if the majority of both the travelling people and the local community are to enjoy rather than dread the event. Richard Turner is interested to hear any ideas about the future organisation of the Horse Fair which could improve it. He would welcome any constructive suggestions.

We would like to thank Richard Turner, Stephen Dennis and Gill Barron for their cooperation in compiling this article.

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21

BENTHAM PANTOMIME GROUP

4th INGLEBOROUGH POETRY FESTIVAL.

This year the guiding genius of the festival for its first three years, Patrick Colton, is, we hear, heading West, and leaving his baby in the hands of a newly formed committee (if you can call it that) of four. We doubt sometimes whether we can achieve with four brains and four pairs of hands what he did so well with only one. However, we shall try, and we would like to take this opportunity to thank Patrick for his hard work and wish him and his family all the best if they do move. Watch out for the Plut mate!

As ever, this year the Festival will be running an extensive schools programme (17 schools have so far "signed up") with Writers in Residence leading workshops and poetry sessions in the schools. We are also keen to celebrate the many talented adults in our midst and encourage those who feel they have something to say but perhaps don't quite know where to start. With this in mind, we are expanding the adult competition and also arranging workshops which we hope will help writers to open up, get over the "block", and, as the title of one of our workshops has it, "Free the Writer Within!!".

The Festival runs from 1st September to 12th October. Full details of events, competitions etc in next month's BN. Any questions in the meantime, ring 62532.

POOL & DARTS - AIR PORTS

BR
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DAY 7 NIGHT TRIPS

WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

We can run this occasional feature in BN whenever information comes our way about the whereabouts of ex-Benthamers.

Many people will remember **MR. and MRS. JOHN le P. WEBB** who were headmaster and headmistress at Bentham (Grammar) School from 1947-1968, and who lived happily here with their children for many years. One of their children has become a famous London solicitor. Her name is **GARETH PEIRCE** and she has recently been in the news because she has had clients among the Guildford Four, the Birmingham Six, the Maguire Seven and other victims of injustice.

She argues strongly for adequate resources so the defence can afford to test forensic evidence, and is convinced of the need for an independent, centrally-funded body to investigate alleged miscarriages of justice. "At the moment the chance of a prisoner claiming injustice and persuading someone outside to take the case on are about as good as successfully sending a message across the sea in a bottle." (Gareth Peirce quoted in "The Guardian" Wed. 19/6/91).

LOW BENTHAM PLAYING FIELD PLAQUE

The Plaque is now in place at the Playing Field in Low Bentham. It reads: **LOW BENTHAM PLAYING FIELD GIVEN IN MEMORY OF PHILIP HARVEY 1887-1966.**

Also at the Playing Field is a Can Bank - please remember to use this for your aluminium cans, which can then be recycled.

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ARTHRITIS and RHEUMATISM COUNCIL for REASEARCH

The local ARC committee would like to thank everyone who took part in the Sponsored Knit, organised by Marion Robinson, and those who sponsored the knitters. The amount raised was £318.50.

We are currently running a **GRAND RAFFLE** as our major fund raising event this year. Tickets are now on sale and available from committee members, 20p each or £1 per book. The raffle will be drawn at a Coffee Evening held in the Town Hall on Friday 30th August at 7.30pm.

Mr. Barwise has organised an **ANAGRAM COMPETITION** entry fee 30p. The closing date for this is 30th September and forms are available from the Beehive Bakery.



OBITUARY - DEREK WOOD.

Many friends and colleagues will be saddened to learn of the sudden death of Derek Wood of Cary, N. Carolina, USA, (formerly Robin Lane, Bentham) on the 5th July 1991.

Derek commenced his working life with Ferodo Ltd. Chapel-en-le-frith in the technical division where he was affectionately known as "Chippy", prior to joining Angus Fire Armour Ltd, Bentham. Derek spent approximately 15 happy years in Bentham, he was a founder member of the Playing Fields Association and also served as an electrician for the Phoenix Players. His two children, Anne and Andrew attended High Bentham Primary School, before moving to Chinnor in Oxfordshire. After several years at Thame, Derek and his wife Betty moved out to USA where they have lived for the past 15 years.

Derek was liked by everyone; he will always be remembered by his friends and colleagues for his integrity and warm personality.

A memorial service was held in Tideswell, Derbys, (his birthplace) on 26th July 1991.

P.S. Derek was a regular reader of BN, a copy being posted to him monthly.



RECIPES

from
DOREEN PARK



As the school holidays are here,
it's time for the young'ens to have
a go!

EASY BANOFFEE PIE.

- 8 ginger biscuits
- 1 1/2 oz butter
- 1 large banana
- 1 packet butterscotch angel delight
- 2 tblsp whipped cream
- chocolate flake to decorate

Place the ginger biscuits in a plastic bag and crush them with a rolling pin.

Melt the butter in a saucepan and then remove from the heat and mix with the biscuit crumbs.

Line a flan dish with the biscuit mixture and place in the fridge to set.

Slice the banana, saving a few slices to decorate, arrange the remaining slices on top of the biscuit base.

Whisk up the Angel Delight carefully as per the instructions on the packet and pour over the bananas.

Allow to set.

Decorate the pie with the bananas, cream and chocolate flake.

23

CORNERED BEEF BURGERS

- 1 small can corned beef
- 1 slice bread, crusts removed
- 1 egg
- 2 burger buns

Put the corned beef into a bowl and flake with a fork.

Crumble in the bread, break the eggs into the mixture and mix thoroughly with a fork. Split the burger buns in half and toast cut sides.

Shape corned beef mixture into 2 patties and grill for 4 minutes on each side.

Place in buns and serve with a salad.

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EDITORIAL INFORMATION BENTHAM²⁴

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, Kate Steele, Pam Woof 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.

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from 8th July 1991

LEEDS TO MORECAMBE

MONDAY TO SATURDAY

LEEDS	0825	1233	1633
SKIPTON	0535	0915	1319 1721
BENTHAM	0613	1357	1357 1800
LANCASTER	0644	1030	1432 1831

SX SO

LANCASTER	0715	1050	1146	1525	1845
BENTHAM	0744	1119	1219	1554	1915
SKIPTON	0827	1205	1302	1636	1957
LEEDS	0925	1253	1353	1728	2045

NOTES:

SX: NOT SATURDAY

SO: SATURDAY ONLY

LEEDS to LANCASTER SERVICE

SUNDAY

LEEDS	0919	1405	1705
SKIPTON	1004	1451	1751
BENTHAM	1042	1530	1830
LANCASTER	1118	1601	1901

LANCASTER to LEEDS SERVICE

SUNDAY

LANCASTER	1356	1854	1956
BENTHAM	1427	1927	2027
SKIPTON	1510	2010	2110



A & M FROST

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