

BENTHAM NEWS



COMMUNITY SPIRIT

Is it thriving or dying in
Bentham?

You may remember that this was the rather dismal headline of last month's BN. Since then we've had several pieces of good news which suggest that perhaps community spirit is alive and well.

After months of speculation and fears that Bentham had seen its last Gala it now looks as if enough people want it to continue and are willing to make it happen.

Full story on page 2.....

And also on page 2.....

Those people who were saddened by the demise of the High Bentham Women's Institute will be heartened to know that efforts are being made to revive it.

On the other hand turn to page 6 if you want to know about an exciting new music venture and the phenomenal amount of money that can be made by serving coffee on Saturday mornings!

And on a wider fund raising front, locals are encouraged to support a tremendous aid effort for the former Yugoslavia.

Details on page 12.....

Beauty and the Beast in Bentham

If it's February it must be Panto time and this year is no exception! New pub landlord makes his Bentham acting debut alongside old timers Lynda, Miffy, Harty, Smitty and Smalley who return to delight us all. Read all about it, page 8....



FEBRUARY 1993

ISSUE 76

HIGH BENTHAM GALA WILL GO AHEAD!

After an enthusiastic meeting on the 13th January, it now seems as if the Gala is all set to go ahead on Bank Holiday Monday, 31st May, as usual. There were representatives from the Traders Association, Youth Club, Homing Society, Craven Wanderers, Cricket Club and Bentham News, who all pledged an interest in helping organise the event. The Brownie Group and Playgroup have also offered assistance. It was decided that the proceeds from the Gala would be equally divided between those groups assisting.

The first formal meeting of the newly created Gala Committee will be on Wednesday, 10th February, at 8pm at the Sports Club. Any other organisations who are interested in helping MUST come to this meeting, or contact Ken Robertson or Colin Woof BEFORE this date.

REFORMATION OF HIGH BENTHAM WOMEN'S INSTITUTE

There has been sufficient interest shown to encourage a public meeting to be held at the Lower Town Hall on Thursday, 18th March, at 7pm. All women in the Bentham area who might be interested will be very welcome to come along and find out what the W.I. has to offer. Further details will be published next month, or contact Audrey Shallcross, 61411, or Joy Morgan, 61406.

ST. MARGARET'S MOTHERS' UNION

There were sixteen members present at the AGM held recently. Mrs Newhouse agreed to continue as enrolling member and the present officers and committee were re-elected.

When business was completed Mrs G. Sanderson showed a tape of her visit to Canada and the spectacular scenery in the Rocky Mountains. After the vote of thanks tea and biscuits were enjoyed.

LABOUR PARTY NEWS

The AGM of the Bentham and District Labour Party took place at the Black Bull, High Bentham on Wednesday 13th January. It was reported that income for 1992 had been disappointing but that the branch membership was at an all time high.

The following appointments were made:-

Chair:- Kevin McSherry

Vice-Chair:- David Alder

Secretary:- Alison Hawkey

Treasurer:- Terry Whitaker

Membership Secretary:- Sefton Bloxham

Social Secretary:- Kathy Paice

Press Officer:- Chris Paice

The next meeting will be held on Wednesday 10th February, and will be concerned mainly with the planning of meetings and other activities for the coming year.

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TOWN COUNCIL

Councillors are rather thin on the ground these days, what with resignations and illness, and are usually easily outnumbered by members of the public. Anyone out there with a desire to overthrow government (albeit local) would do well to get in quick. Those present at this meeting were Councillors Bateson, Cowling, Dawber, Hewitt, Hurtley, Joel, Marshall and Preston, together with Councillor Pilkington and no less than 17 members of the public.

If Councillor Marshall is seen as Bentham's elder statesman, then Councillor Cowling is the 'enfant terrible' - a cross between David Mellor and Derek Hatton. How he thought he could get away with slipping into the Chair for the night, beats me. And the fact that 'Deputy Mayor Telford asked me to cut no ice with some long-established Councillors. Still, after a good ticking off, he was allowed to stay in the hot seat, and made a passable job of it too.

POLICE MATTERS

Christine Longmore is back as Acting Inspector at Settle and she was at this meeting to let everyone know that she runs a tight ship. The Ingleton police station telephone will be reinstated (still accessed via Skipton, but on local call rate) and she is negotiating with BT to use one of their masts to improve radio communications over the hills and dales. Councillor Marshall wants something done about the speed of cars in Goodenber Road at night - this will be reported to local officers.

HOUSING COMMITTEE

Do we have one? No-one seemed quite sure. If we do, it may have to be renamed the Rapid Response Housing Task Force. Councillor Pilkington warned that snap housing allocation decisions might have to be taken. And everyone on the committee would have to be informed of meetings. Someone suggested that it should consist of Councillors who have a good knowledge of local matters and local people. Aren't they all supposed to? Isn't that how they were elected?

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LEARNING THE HARD WAY?

It's always been difficult to get anyone to put on Adult Education classes in Bentham - and when they do, no-one goes. Partly it's because they're too expensive. Or perhaps they are just unpopular subjects. Councillor Cowling said that dealing with Craven was 'like wading through porridge'. What's the answer? Ask the people what they want? Will they tell?

GRAVE DECISION?

If you're concerned about dying cheaply, Bentham's still your best bet. But charges were raised as follows: Grave purchase, £100; Re-opening, £55; Headstone, £35; Placement of ashes, £15; Reservation plate, £15. But why do all the headstones face away from Bentham? Is it a case of 'I to the hills...?'

HOW MUCH?

Craven want to raise the rent on Cleveland Square from £800 to £1050 a year (31.5% increase). But times is 'ard and anyway Keith's dad says they have no business asking for more. They will be offered £850. Prepare for battle!

The next Council meeting is on Monday 1st February.

Kate Steele



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AGE Concern

BENTHAM

highlighting in this edition of Bentham News.

Points on keeping warm :-

- Have hot food and drinks each day.
- Take some exercise each day.
- Wrap up warmly before going out, no matter how short the trip.
- Always wear a hat, or cap, out of doors.
- Keep warm in bed.
- Keep at least one room well heated.
- Make sure your home is well insulated.

What to do in an emergency:-

As people get older, their bodies often become less able to maintain a constant temperature, and, at the same time grow less sensitive to changes in external temperature. As a result older people can often be cold without actually feeling that they are cold.

If the body temperature is allowed to fall below 35c (95f), hypothermia sets in. Unless treated at once, this condition may be fatal. If you find an elderly person living in a cold room, where the temperature is below 16c (61f), you should quickly take steps to improve the situation. Gently turn

The extremely wet and windy weather we have been experiencing of late serves as a reminder to all elderly people to keep warm in order to keep well this winter. Extracts from a publication prepared by the Department of Health are worth

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up the heating, ensure they are wrapped up well in light blankets or warmer clothing, give them warm drinks, and then seek help from a doctor or nurse.

INSURANCE ADVICE

Age Concern Insurance Services have long specialised in providing affordable insurance for people aged 60 and over. It is important to have your home and / or contents insured, and equally important that you choose the right cover to suit your needs. In this connection, there are several types of cover available, and there is also cover available for Motor Cars (Private), Holidays and Pets.

Help can be given at the 'Drop In' Centre in offering advice, and it is suggested that for any person who qualifies (through age), they contact Laurie Blundell, at the Centre, for further information. The premiums payable are very competitive, and all queries are treated with complete confidentiality.

ST JOHN'S WOMENS FELLOWSHIP

At their January meeting a video "Treasure in Heaven" showed aspects of the work of the South American Missionary Society. The members of the Fellowship have undertaken to help support our link-missionaries, Paul and Sue Banbury working in Paraguay.

The Fellowship meets on the first Monday of the month and all ladies are warmly invited.

CASUALS

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Ladies and Gents wear

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BENTHAM NEWS COFFEE MORNING

Despite blustery weather and high winds on Saturday 16th January, many people supported our coffee morning. The atmosphere in the Town Hall was warm and friendly - the smell of hot coffee and croissants filled the air - and gentle music set the scene for a pleasant fund-raising event.

The BN committee were heartened by the number of readers who sent along their good wishes, their contributions of saleable gifts, cakes, produce and even cash. A BIG THANK YOU TO YOU ALL.

Almost everything that was donated was sold, and Mrs. Smith's cakes hardly touched the table before they were snapped up! In the splendid bumper raffle 16 prizes were won by: Edna Hewitt, Angela Shaw, Caroline Woof, Peggy Dawber, Clifford Bentham, Alison Hanson, Mrs. Bowker, Mrs. Bentham, Jean West, Dave Mulligan, Mary Bargh, Peter Benson, Mrs. Shaw, Carol Armstrong, Mrs. Duthoit and Mary Knowles.

The generosity of this community is wonderful. Sid Hogg donated the milk, Phyllis Tomlinson made superb coffee, Lorna Johnson was a perfect waitress, Bamfords supplied flowers for the tables and Margaret Kay was an efficient door-person. The committee worked hard too, and the event was made enjoyable as well as hard work by the amount of support from others. A magnificent £246 has been added to our funds. Thank you all.

SETTLE HIGH SCHOOL LAUNCH 200 CLUB

Settle High School PTA would like to offer friends of the school, membership of Settle High School 200 Club. The subscription will be £1 per month per allotted number, payable annually or termly, and there will be good prize money. The profits will benefit local children by helping to provide extra equipment and educational opportunities at the school. If you would like further information and an application form, please contact Liz Neale Tel: 41155.

AN APOLOGY! CHRISTMAS TREE BOOB!

BN apologises to Bentham Traders who, contrary to the report carried in last month's BN, in fact supplied all their own Christmas trees to decorate their premises, making Bentham look colourful and festive. Anguses provided the larger trees for School Hill and the Youth Club.

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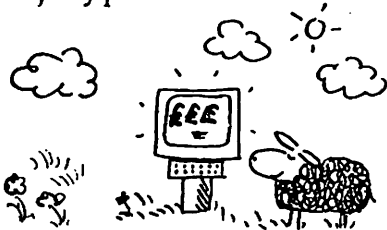
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FUND RAISING IN BENTHAM by Mrs S. Adams.

I recently conducted a survey, from information gathered from the Lancaster Guardian, Craven Herald and Bentham News. This revealed that a phenomenal amount of money was raised in Bentham last year.

From the beginning of January, 1992, to the end of December, 85 fund raising events were reported; 45 of these were coffee mornings. The smallest total raised was £20, the largest £2,000. Of these 85 events, 14 failed to report their total; from the 71 who did, a total of £19,280 was raised. Averaged out, the amount raised per event is £271. If we presume that the 14 unreported events raised, on average, this amount, then the total raised for Bentham rises to £23,074. Well done Bentham, almost £2,000 per month!

If we add to this the undisclosed amounts that are donated by individuals directly to organisations and charities, and the amount of time donated by the individuals who undertake to organise these events, a picture of a very caring community emerges, one which we should all be justly proud.



Unplugged

from Sean Sanderson

"UNPLUGGED" is an exciting new venture due to hit Bentham soon, and will become a regular monthly event at the Black Bull Hotel. Not just a folk club, but an outlet for all forms of acoustic (un-amplified) music, jazz, blues etc. featuring local as well as national talent, and encouraging newcomers to try their hand at performing in the intimate, friendly, relaxed atmosphere of the upstairs room of the Black Bull.

One of the main organisers is Mary Lea from Clapham, who has an impressive list of contacts from the days when she was a professional singer herself. She hopes to call in a few favours, and twist a few arms to make "UNPLUGGED" a showcase for the best acoustic music in the north. Mary and her husband Phil also perform in their own band "Border Crossing" and whilst playing around the local clubs in the county, she has encountered many fine musicians, who she will be recruiting to play at "UNPLUGGED" at the Black Bull, the first Friday of every month.

So if you want a great night of music and still want to hear yourself think, perhaps make, and meet, new friends, or maybe you have a secret talent that the public should know about, come along on

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DISTRICT AFFAIRS

Ralph Atkinson, one of our two Liberal Democrat District Councillors, reviews some of the month's issues at Craven District Council.



COUNCIL TAX

The annual escalation of estimates of local taxes has started - the Chief Financial Officer's latest is £520 for Band D (up from £494) this is equivalent to a Poll Tax of £260. You should have been informed of your band by the time you read this. If in difficulty contact me (61834) or John Pilkington (61757).

THE HOUSING RENOVATION GRANT SCANDAL

Craven Herald readers will have noticed I've been making some loud objections to the current system of Housing Renovation Grants. The facts are these - up to July 1990 these were not only subject to a means test but were also capped at a maximum of £8,000 per house. Then the Govt. removed the upper limit and applications and amounts started to escalate. We raised the problem with the DoE in early 1991 and again last year but nothing was done. As a result some individual grants shot up to over £50,000 per house with ever larger numbers of applications. Now, Govt. have reduced their contribution from 75% to 60% and the replaced the capping - at £50,000! - which simply doesn't address the problem. What it has cost and the equivalent damage to our pockets is roughly as follows:

	(Thousand Pounds)			(£)
	Total	Govt. Grant	C.D.C.	Poll Tax
89/90	272	204	68	-
90/91	346	259	87	2.3
91/92	1,230	923	307	8.1
92/93	1,680	1,200	480	12.5
93/94(Est)	1,958	1,175	782	20.1

We can't refuse to pay, the grants are mandatory. We can't even delay or stall. So the money has to be found from

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somewhere. In fact it will come out of our Housing Investment Programme, that is we are being forced to divert money from social housing to subsidise private individuals. Not that I blame them - what is at fault is Govt.policy, not the individuals who benefit by it.

SKIPTON MARKET

"The best laid schemes of mice and men gang aft agley". In my innocence (!) I thought (my November report) that this problem was now sorted. But no! Despite strong support of our position from local shop keepers and residents of Skipton, the market traders are doing their damdest to stop us closing the market for a day or two a week (Who ever heard of a 6 day market?) Threats of High Court action and injunctions hang over our heads. Let's just hope that right will prevail.

ECONOMIC HAT TRICK?

After my set-back on Highways Committee (my County Report) I was very bucked by an exceptionally successful evening on Economic Development. The score was threefold - Wenning Avenue, Bentham Trust and TIC. All have to be endorsed by Council of course, but nevertheless! For Wenning Avenue I managed to get the Committee to up the ante on both budget (up to £70,000) and priority (First equal). This means that with any luck we should see work start this year. Despite opposition on the Bentham Trust - the Committee don't like feasibility studies - helped by Keith Cowling's excellent study of commercial property - I managed to get them £2,500, which, with the RDC grant should see them on their way. So let's see what they can do. Lastly those hard working stalwarts at the Tourist Information Centre should benefit by £200 to ease their funding problems.

On a personal note, I'm not sure what Kate Steele was getting at in her remarks on the Town Council meeting last month. For the record, of the 100 and more Town and Parish Councils I've attended since I was elected in November, 1987. I've only left 2 meetings early. With one Town Council, 3 Parish Councils and 2 Parish Meetings, some meeting on the same night, I obviously can't attend all of them.

BENTHAM PANTOMIME IS HERE!

It's Beauty and the Beast

After months of enjoyable hard work Anne Corrigan and Sue Watson have produced another scintillating script. This year we will be taking you in to the realms of the Beast's house and garden, the poor merchant's house and the witch's gloomy castle!

There will be wonderful costumes, music and dances. Stunning scenery and fantastic effects.

We are pleased to welcome this year. Jane Reas, as the delightful Strawberry Mousse and the new landlord of the Black Bull, Julian Badgery as Doom. Newcomers last year, Voirrey Wild and Ron Heatley, star as Beauty and one of her sisters!

Come and marvel again at our young company of stars, Luscious Lynda Burns, Cool Paul Morphet, Hilarious Harty, Romantic Stephen Smith and Ghoulis Shalley. Our young teenage stars have all graduated to acting parts and our veterans of many previous pantomimes, will be there to entertain you as usual. Our previous director, Kevin McSherry, will be treading the boards again, and Margaret Cowling will be stepping off-stage to have a go at directing.

It's Live! It's going to be great! If you miss it you'll regret it!



First tickets will be on sale at our coffee morning on January 30th, after that at Tim Churchill's.

Adults £3. Children /concessions £1.50.

All tickets £1.50 on the first night, Wednesday February 24th.

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POSTAL MATTERS

From January 1st 1993 customs regulations on items to E.E.C. countries have been removed, customs declarations are not required on any letters or parcels going to an E.E.C. country, however items travelling by Parcel Post will still need a declaration and the Parcel Force Documentation pack must still be completed. This relaxation on regulations only applies to E.E.C. member countries, any item posted to a destination outside of the E.E.C. must still bear a customs declaration, failure to declare the contents of an item will lead to delays and possible damage due to the package as it will be inspected by customs officials.

CRISIS IN AFRICA APPEAL

Late in Autumn 1992 I thanked the people who had so far contributed tot his appeal. It was run by Christian Aid/Oxfam in conjunction with the P.O. and Girobank and raised over £10 million before the appeal closed on December 24th. The customers of Bentham Post Office contributed £95 to aid famine relief in Africa, I'd like to thank everyone who helped to raise this sum of money.

DALES ENTERPRISE AGENCY

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of February**

FROM COUNTY HALL



BY COUNTY COUNCILLOR
RALPH ATKINSON

HIGHWAYS REORGANISATION

One of the political phenomena I've found most difficult to understand is when councillors express one opinion and then vote against themselves. This happened at the last Highways Committee when widespread disapprobation was expressed about the proposed reorganisation yet mine was the only dissident vote. The consultant's report said the aim was "to enhance the current high standards of service (see next para.) by maintaining a local presence"! To achieve which they propose to weaken the Area 'presence' by removing the Area Surveyor and having a headless team at Areas, eg. Skipton, and by reducing Divisional Offices by removing our office at Ingletton! Marvellous isn't it! The field staff of the Dept. are overwhelmingly against this and I strongly support them, but to no avail. To me it just doesn't make sense.

WASTE DISPOSAL 'PRIVATISATION'.

You will remember I reported (last month) on the £2.5 million shortfall in the estimates for the establishment of the new waste disposal company (wholly owned by County). Well apparently this is largely to be found by cutting down on the resurfacing programme from a 4/5 year cycle to a 7/8 year cycle. I know most people don't like resurfacing, especially in the villages because of the gravel scattered on verges and pavements. The truth is it saves us millions by keeping water (and frost) out. Hence I maintain this is false saving and will cost us more (much more) in the future. What is also hard to bear is that, though most of the extra for

9 YORWASTE is for better environmental precautions at tips, some of it at least will go in paying for the new board of directors, at £30-£40,000 each, and their new BMWs. So much for private sector efficiency!



POLICE COMMUNICATIONS

Acting Inspector Christine Longmoor's appearance at the last Town Council endorses what I said last month about the Police taking our complaints (and those of the local officers) seriously. Most of you will now know that we'll soon be able to ring Ingletton and be patched straight through to the 24 hour service at Skipton at the cost of a local call. Thank you for all your support in this matter - especially to those who wrote in. As soon as I know of the new number I will see that it's widely advertised.

As well as replacing as many uniformed officers as possible by civilians, the Chief Constable continues to press for more officers. This year we asked for 25 but were allowed only 4. Next year (93/94) he'll be putting in a bid for another 25 - 4 for the Central Traffic Unit and 21 for Uniform Patrol - so keep your fingers crossed. It'd help too if we got more local volunteers for the Specials.

NURSERY PROVISION

Despite the mess caused by the early start for the travelling Nursery last autumn, I am now even more glad that my pressure (and that of colleagues) was successful. Why? Well amongst the cuts proposed in this year's education budget (Education having to bear the brunt of finding the £7.5 million County is short on the Govt's. estimates for 93/94), is any further expansion of Nursery provision. Meaning that if we hadn't got it last year we'd probably never get it at all. I know Low Bentham, and others would like to share in this and I'll be pressing for that as soon as possible but the auguries are not good.

LOCAL EVENTS IN FEBRUARY

Mon 1st Town Council meeting 7.30pm in the Town Hall.

Junior Youth Club 6.30 - 8.30 - Baking.

Tues 2nd Bentham Baby Clinic at the Health Centre.

Wed 3rd Senior Youth Club 7.30 - 9.30 - making Valentine Cards.

Thurs 4th Guided circular walk to the Great Stone of Fourstones. Leader Len Moody (tel 61128). Please meet at Bentham Bridge at 1pm.

Fri 5th Emergency meeting at the Scout Hut 7.30.

Sat 6th St. Margaret's coffee morning in the Ballroom at the Town Hall.

Organ Marathon and History Display at the Church of St. John the Baptist, Low Bentham, 8am - 8pm. Come and listen to sixteen organists from surrounding churches playing throughout the day, and learn a little about the history of the church. Refreshments available.

Sun 7th BLOOD DONORS ALL DAY in the Town Hall.

Mon 8th Junior Youth Club 6.30 - 8.30. Making Valentine Cards.

Tues 9th AGM of Bentham Branch of the Skipton & Ripon Conservative Association, in the Wenningdale Room, Bentham Town Hall at 7.30pm for 8pm meeting. All members welcome, especially Young Conservatives.

N.S.P.C.C., AGM at The Punch Bowl, Low Bentham at 7.30pm. All interested welcome.

Tatham Fells W.I. at 7.30pm. Members recipes and demonstration.

Tues 9th Bentham and District Camera Club - Competition: The Humphries Cup for Slides.

Wed 10th Springfield Bowling Club Annual General Meeting in the Lower Town Hall, at 7.30pm.

Bentham Playing Fields Gala committee meeting in the pavilion at 8pm.

Senior Youth Club CLOSED.

Thurs 11th "An Evening in Cumbria", presented by Bob Swallow, in aid of the Arthritis and Rheumatism Council, at 7.30pm in the Methodist Schoolroom. Tickets £1.50 from the committee, Barwise or Churchill's, or pay at the door.

Sat 13th Guided circular walk to Wennington, via Blands (8 miles). Leader Charlie Procter (tel 61654). Please meet at Low Bentham C.P. at 10am.

Toddlers Group coffee morning in the Town Hall, 10am - 12 noon.

Senior Youth Club Disco.

Mon 15th Junior Youth Club 6.30 - 8.30. Team Games.

Tues 16th Bentham Baby Clinic at the Health Centre

Tues 16th Angus Pensioners - Mr. D. Towers "Trip to the Canadian Rockies" at 2pm.

Low Bentham Institute AGM at 7.30pm. All welcome.

Wed 17th Senior Youth Club's trip to the cinema.

Fri 19th WASTE PAPER COLLECTION at the Legion Hall 8.30am - 11am. Proceeds to N.S.P.C.C..

The Countryside Society in Hornby Institute - Andrew Kirkham and Ken Blaire - "Wildlife Photography".

- Sat 20th Age Concern coffee morning in the Lower Town Hall 9.45 - 11.45am. Stalls and raffle.
- Mon 22nd Ewecross Historical Society in the Lower Town Hall at 7.30pm. "Shopping in and around Lancaster 200 years ago". Mrs Janet Nelson.
Junior Youth Club CLOSED.
- Tues 23rd Bentham and District Camera Club - Competition: The Humphries Trophy, Clapham Trophy and Illston Cup for Prints.
- Wed 24th Bentham Panto Group presents "Beauty and the Beast" in the Town Hall at 7.15pm. All tickets £1.50 at Churchills.
Senior Youth Club CLOSED.
- Thurs 25th Bentham Panto 7.15pm. Adults £3, children/concessions £1.50
ICE SKATING! 2pm - 9pm
Bentham School (BGS) £1.50 per hour. SKATES FOR ALL AGES!
All welcome. Booking available ring 61998 or 61275.
- Fri 26th Bentham Panto 7.15pm. Adults £3, children / concessions £1.50
BENTHAM NEWS PUBLISHED
- Sat 27th Bentham Panto 6.15pm. Adults £3, children / concessions £1.50
- Sun 28th Guided circular walk in the Wennington area (8 miles).
Leader Bernard Ellershaw (tel 62078). Please meet at Wennington Station at 10.30am.

LOCAL EVENTS IN MARCH

- Mon 1st Town Council meeting in the Town Hall 7.30pm.
- Sat 6th Samaritans Friendship Association coffee morning 10am - noon in the Town Hall.

ADVERTISING RATES

Payment must accompany advertisements to ensure publication.

STANDARD COMMERCIAL ADVERTISEMENTS

Local advertisers (Bentham, Burton in Lonsdale, Ingleton):

Boxed advert (one-eighth of a page) £10.00 each insertion
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BENTHAM PEOPLE PAGE

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To place an advert in *Bentham News*, contact the Coordinator, Lesley Barker or any Editorial Committee member.

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LOCAL EFFORT TO AID BOSNIA

A local couple are spearheading a Lune Valley aid effort for the people of the former Yugoslavia. The Rotary Club of Lunesdale, who are supporting this venture, have sent us the following report.

The largest single aid shipment to leave the UK for Bosnia, left Manchester on 7 December. It was the culmination of a quite extraordinary effort by people in the Lune Valley whose generosity had been channelled by a couple with little or no previous interest in practical charity work.

Rosalind and Tony Wilson of Melling have just returned from a visit to Croatia. "You go through life giving money to flag days, but here we felt there was something we might have a real crack at", said Tony. Rosalind was inspired to pick up the phone after seeing a television programme featuring Dr Zia Alvi of Manchester Royal Infirmary, whose fact-finding visit to Bosnia revealed conditions far worse than those portrayed in the British media.

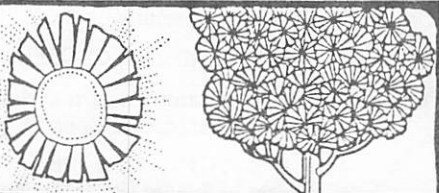
Within days of contacting Dr Alvi, the Wilsons locally publicised the appeal on behalf of the doctor's overseas charity. Soon the donations began to roll in. Some £11,000 in donations and physical aid, bedding, food and warm clothing were given by local people, including Casterton School, Queen Elizabeth School, Sedbergh School, Wray Playgroup, the W.I., Lunesdale Rotary Club and the Crowtrees nursing home in Melling. Lancaster Moor Hospital provided laundry

services for blankets and Pennine Laundry cleaned and boxed eiderdowns. £3,500 worth of medical supplies were donated by pharmaceutical companies.

The Wilsons returned to Croatia in December with Christmas presents for children in refugee camps.

The people of the former Yugoslavia are still in urgent need of help. They are desperately short clothing, particularly women's and children's, and of basic domestic items such as bedding, towels, utensils, and crockery - in fact many items which people could contribute from surplus stock at home.

If you can help in any way at all, please contact Rosalind and Tony Wilson, Grey Gables, Melling Tel. Hornby 21944.



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BENTHAM PEOPLE



PERSONAL THANKS

COATES

Alan and Audrey, Eric and Jennifer and their families thank everyone who sent comforting letters and cards following Edwin's sudden death on Boxing Day. Many thanks also to Rev. Kinsella, Doctor Walker and Brown and Whittaker for their courteous and considerate services.

Stephen Taylor (Mallot) would like to thank everyone who attended his "Sandblasters Ball". £236.50 was raised for the Renal Unit at Preston. Thanks to everyone who bought raffle tickets and donated prizes. Special thanks to Tricia and Colin at the Punch Bowl for their hospitality and generosity.

Sincere thanks to all my friends and relations for sending cards and gifts during my stay in hospital. Rowena Brayshaw.

Mick and Linda McCann would like to thank all the people from Bentham and Ingleton for their cards and gifts on the arrival of Hannah Liegh and Laura Jayne.

Denis Taylor wishes to thank all relatives and friends for the cards, gifts and good wishes received during his stay in hospital. Thank you all.

Hornby Drama Group would like to thank everyone, back stage, front of house, and refreshment people, who helped with our production of 'A Christmas Carol'. Our next production will be the thriller 'Murder for the Asking' on the 11th, 12th and 13th March.

NOTICE

Anyone who bought a 'Wet, Wet, Wet, cassette at BN's coffee morning, and found it to be 'War of the Worlds' can exchange it by contacting 62132 or call at 7, Lairgill, High Bentham.

Many thanks to everyone for helping to raise £1,100, to date, towards a NIMBUS BED, in memory of TOM MAIR, for AIREDALE HOSPITAL, our target is £2,300 this is the current price. If anyone feels able to hold a fund raising event or make a contribution to help reach our total, we would be most grateful. For further information please contact Mrs Mair or Mrs Pat Towler, Kirksteads, Ingleton. tel 41594. The Nimbus bed is an electrically operated bed which blows air into the mattress moving pressure points, therefore helping very ill patients who are unable to move freely themselves. It is a great help to anyone suffering with bed sores.

EVENTS

An extraordinary general meeting of the Bentham and District Scout Group is called to discuss the impending closure of the group. All parents and others concerned are invited on Friday February 5th at 7.30pm in the Scout Hut.

WANTED

Second hand electric bar fire or fan heater in reasonable condition. Phone 62043.

SERVICES

DANCING LESSONS - Classes given in Ballet, Tap and Spanish Dance. From age 3 to adult - in the Institute, Low Bentham. Enquiries Gillian Hurst 42286.

CORNMILL LATEST

Rumours that the Cornmill shopping arcade in High Bentham was in trouble were confirmed in December when the Skipton Building Society decided to foreclose on the owners. Since then commercial tenants have been anxious about what effects the change of ownership might bring, but Bentham Sportswear, the only shop in the development, were relieved last week to receive a formal assurance that their lease was safe. This is good news for one of our most successful local shops and offers hope that better management of the building might bring improvements to the arcade as a whole.

OUR SEWAGE, OUR ENVIRONMENT

by Shirley Brown

The subject of sewage, and for the purposes of BN, "Bentham Sewage", is one which will not go away. It may not be a pleasant topic to contemplate, so if you're reading this while munching your tea perhaps you might like to consider finishing one activity before continuing with the other!

In October 1992 BN carried a letter from Jim West complaining about the "foul smell" caused by sewage sludge sprayed near Butts Lane. This was followed in November 1992 by a letter from Brian Kennedy in which he asked if there was a "real difference between human and animal waste when used as fertiliser". He also raised the issue of how we dispose of sewage in the future, since putting it in the sea can no longer be the only long-term answer. We also had "off the record" contributions from farmers saying that they were positively encouraged to use sewage sludge, so how were they meant to proceed without upsetting whole communities?

BN INVESTIGATES

BN has been doing some research and now has replies from both North West Water Ltd, and the Principal Environmental Health Officer at Craven District Council.

USE OF SEWAGE SLUDGE ENCOURAGED

It is indeed true that the use of sewage sludge in agriculture is both permissible and encouraged, and there is a 1986 EC directive "to regulate the use of sewage sludge in agriculture in such a way as to prevent harmful effects on soil/vegetation, animals and man, while encouraging its use." NWW has a written Code of Practice to ensure that ALL applications of sewage sludge comply with this EC directive. Its 8 points include analysis of soil samples, a hydrogeologist checking that no groundwater pollution can occur, computer recording of all sludge applications and an Operations Controller inspecting the land

14 prior, during and after each sludge application.

Anyone wanting to enquire further about these procedures should contact B J Sutton, Area Sludge Disposal Manager(North), NWW Ltd, Tel:(0772) 877331.

BUT THERE ARE PROBLEMS.....

Craven District Council told us that there are "a number of public health and environmental problems associated with the spreading of sewage sludge on land". These fall roughly into 4 categories: 1) Pollution of watercourses, 2) Elevating the heavy metal content of land, 3) Smell and 4) Physical contact with the sewage sludge. People who feel they have a public health or environmental grievance can contact CDC Environmental Health Officer, Tel: (0756) 700600 and the Council can take action under the Environmental Protection Act of 1990. It is not necessary for the complainant to prove that the defendant MEANT to commit the offence.

The person or business served with a notice requiring them to stop or moderate the nuisance, can appeal to a magistrate, but if they fail to comply with the notice they can be fined up to £5,000, or £20,000 if the offence was committed through the course of a business.

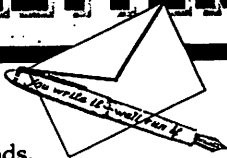
Don't forget, human sewage includes ANYTHING we flush down our toilets, and the degree to which these solids are filtered out before the sewage sludge is spread on the fields around Bentham is a matter which causes concern to some Bentham residents.

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LETTERS



Dear Friends,

My family and I have spent this Christmas with Pete Nightingale and his family. This has been a special visit to Bentham for us as we return to Australia having spent four years at St. Francis Hospital, Katete, Zambia.

I was Accounts secretary to the hospital and as such am aware that the people of Bentham and Ingleton have contributed generously to the work of the hospital. The monies donated have been used partly for the general running of the hospital and partly for the purchase of drugs. On behalf of the hospital I extend our sincere thanks to all those who have contributed.

Yours sincerely

David McAvenna,

c/o Dr. P. Nightingale, Bentham.

Dear BN

I would like to thank all the Chapel folk, neighbours and friends for all the 'little extras' they provided for us over the Christmas period whilst Chris was out of work. It made Christmas really special and a great success.

A Happy New Year to you all.

From the Ratcliffe family.

Lakeber Drive, High Bentham.

Dear Bentham News,

We would like to thank everyone who took part in the late night Christmas shopping in Bentham. There was a real feeling of community spirit and it was really enjoyable.

Sincerely

Mr & Mrs G.S. Parkinson,

Thornber Lodge,

Robin Lane, Bentham.

15 Dear BN,

I should like to thank all who contributed to the magnificent sum of £1,450 which was raised in Bentham and Burton in Lonsdale through the sale of Christmas goods for the Save the Children Fund.

Further thanks are due to the members of the Golf Club who contributed another £190.

With many thanks

Liz Taylor

Save the Children Fund - Settle Branch.

Dear Bentham News

I attended the Youth Club coffee morning on Saturday 23rd January which was well attended by the regular coffee-goers, to whom I say a warm thank you.

Sadly during my 45 minute stay there was a lack of parents of the 40 young people who enjoy the facilities of the club.

I know from my own experience that there are the few willing parents who support fund raising efforts, and I realise some parents have other responsibilities on a Saturday morning, but a small raffle prize or some baking would be much appreciated. A cake stall makes the money!

Come on parents support your youngsters! The funds are needed for the continuation of the club.

Wendy Dowbiggin,

Ex Youth leader



Dear Editor,

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I'm told several shop-keepers have criticised the Bentham News for agreeing to circulate the BR Christmas shopping offer. However, the fault, if any, is mine. I'm sorry if I've offended anyone but apart from my wider duties I am also committed (by election by a representative cross-section of yourselves) to defend the railway services. Secondly, I'm pretty sure that the idea that short-term, supplemental shopping elsewhere reduces demand in Bentham is wrong. Several points:

(i) There was not one objection to a similar offer last year;

(ii) We're fighting hard against long odds to retain the present services on the rail. Although I think we've managed to stop the BR-engendered rot, passenger numbers have fallen by over 50% since last year.

(iii) The number of Day Return tickets to and from Bentham during the concessionary period fell from 394 in 1990 (no concession) to 279 in 1991. What the number would've been without the concession I shudder to think;

(iv) The most recent shop closures in Bentham have been due to personal reasons rather than the recession.

(v) Notwithstanding acute competition there has been at least one outstanding shop success: Bentham Sportswear.

Rather than get at what, at the worst, could be marginal competition I suggest the critics look at the far greater competition presented by mail order. According to my information over 50% of households in Bentham get regular mail order supplies and something like two dozen such parcels are delivered every day. This is without the direct deliveries made by some catalogue companies. Worth investigating? I should say so.

Yours sincerely,

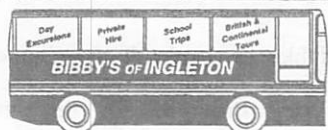
Ralph Atkinson Chairman: Lancaster/
Skipton Railway Joint Action Group.

Candis

Wish all their members
'A Happy New Year'

Candis is a monthly magazine which is delivered personally. By purchasing Candis you can help raise money for Cancer Research, BLISS (Baby Life Support Systems), Cancer and Polio Research Fund and a few other charities. Candis is in its 30th year - during that time Candis have donated over £31,000,000 to medical charities. Candis costs only £2.00 to become a member and £1.25 a month for the magazine.

If you would like to purchase Candis or would like any more information, please contact Michelle on 61562 after 6 pm.



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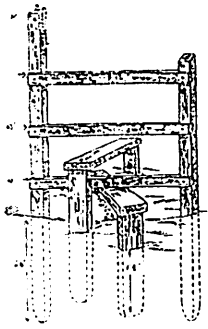
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FOOTPATH MATTERS

by Len Moody

In recent months local walkers have been pleased to see the resurfacing of about 1/2 mile of Streakber Lane (Bentham Bridleway No 13), for which road scrapings from Robin Lane were utilized: appreciation to Bentham Golf Club, and others, who put their heads together to carry out this very sensible operation. Another improvement has been the re-opening of the southern part of Bentham Footpath No 40, between Mewith Lane and Slaidburn Road, near Lane House: some good craftsmanship has been put into this. It was good to note also the clearance of dead wood and overgrowth at the exit of the south Wenning footpath on to Mill Lane, near Eskewbeck, Low Bentham. We are glad to report also that a good new stile has recently been built near Boiling Well, on the path east of the stone (slab) footbridge, on the path through Ghyll Head Farm to Bank Head.

Perhaps most notable of all, as a practical response to some hasty and ill-informed comment in an autumn issue of Bentham News, has been the progress made in building up the river bank upstream from the Wenning Oak, using waste materials from the former Bentham High Mill. Although not yet completed, the operation looks promising, and the skill

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used in transporting so much heavy material to the site with so little disturbance of the surrounding pasture has been impressive. Of course, there is still quite a lot to be done along this central portion of the Wenning, before Benthamers can rest satisfied.

Bentham Footpath Group is now preparing its 1993 programme of voluntary conservation work, and still has some funds available to contribute to suitable tasks. Suggestions or requests should be made to Mr. David Stubbs, The Grange, Low Bentham Road (tel 61430)

Readers of Bentham News with an interest in footpaths, walking and the environment generally will have noted the changes of responsibility for the coming year. A vacancy remains for a secretarial assistant to take over public information. Anyone reasonably familiar with the history and aims of the group and interested in this side of things, is welcome to apply.

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BENTHAM SCHOOL NEWS

Pupils of Bentham School have been excelling recently at sporting events round the country.

ST. JOHN the BAPTIST CHURCH, LOW BENTHAM. KEEPING YOU IN TOUCH

Christmas already seems a long time ago, but this is the first chance we have had to report on all that happened in our church life from Christingle to Epiphany.

The first of those occasions saw the church so full we had to put extra chairs at the back. A lovely service was led by Canon John Hunter and the children's gifts raised £120. for the Children's Society.

The following Saturday saw a very successful coffee morning - many thanks to all who helped in any way.

On the Sunday there was a full house again for "Carols by Candlelight" and those present for the midnight service on Christmas Eve will long remember that "illuminating experience" when we pray for the church to be "Set on fire" for God, we don't mean it quite so literally! Fortunately Canon Hunter was unharmed and able to lead our worship on Christmas morning.

Into this New Year, and our Epiphany Service, in which all our Sunday School children took part in a dance written by Mrs K. Piper.

The whole season was rounded off by a party for all our Baptism and Sunday School families, with over 80 mums, dads and children enjoying an afternoon "at the circus".

AND SO ON TO 1993

The first event of 1993 is 'The Organ Marathon' on Saturday February 6th when 15 organists will play throughout the day. It is a fund raising effort to help pay for our new organ. Please help if you can.

Sarah Kirkman, aged 14, presently in the third form, recently represented Lancashire in the cross country. She also won a silver medal in the Welsh Open U16 judo competition, ranking her amongst the top judo players in her age group in the country.

Paul Grainger, a pupil at the school from 1984 - 1991, now in the second year of a History Course at Edinburgh University, won the British Universities' Sports Federation Middleweight title, in the University of Staffordshire Sports Centre, on 28th November, 1992. In the U 75 Kilo final, Paul displayed outstanding fitness and sportmanship as he defeated the older and heavier opponent.

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FIDGET PIE

sliced

1 lb potatoes, peeled and sliced
8 ozs cooked bacon or ham diced
1 lb apples, peeled, cored and

sugar (optional)
stock
salt and pepper
4 ozs short crust pastry

Put a layer of potatoes in a pie dish, then cover with some of the bacon or ham.

If the apples are very sour, dip the slices in sugar and put a layer on top of the bacon or ham.

Repeat the layers until all the ingredients are used and the dish is full.

Pour in a little stock and add salt and pepper.

Roll out the pastry and use to cover the dish.

Bake in a pre-heated oven 375f gas mark 5 for 1 hour or until the pastry is golden brown.

note:

If you prefer the ham or bacon can be cut into 1/4" thick slices, or instead of bacon or ham you can use chops cut from the scrag end of the neck of mutton.

TAYLORS

Ophthalmic Opticians

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HUBBLE BUBBLE

1 lb potatoes, peeled, cooked and sliced

4 streaky bacon rashers, rinded and chopped

1 onion finely chopped

8 ozs pork sausages, skinned and quartered

2 eggs

1/4 pint milk

salt and pepper

Line the bottom of a greased baking dish with half the potato slices.

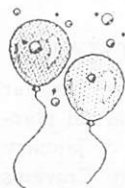
Mix together the bacon, onion, sausage pieces and place on top of the potato layer.

CAUSE HEARTS TO FLUTTER!! VALENTINE'S DAY - 14th FEB

*Show them you care
with "love in the air",
Your love will bloom
with a message on a balloon!*

*Floating balloons now available
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*arrangements
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EndpieCe

Bentham's after Christmas lull was cut short by controversy. Keith Cowling reports.

TROUBLE AT HILLSIDE

Progress on Low Bentham's affordable housing scheme has not been all sweetness and light for people living near the site. Relations between them and the builders have become so bad that complaints have been made to local councillors and the press.

Road access to the site is from Hillside and residents there have been concerned about the amount of mud and litter left on the road by building operations. But concern turned to anger as nuisances increased, with builders' vehicles regularly blocking car access and site workers relieving themselves behind their garages. Attempts to complain were met with rudeness and older residents began to feel intimidated by the builder's activities. Worry grew about safety on the site after serious accidents occurred.

The situation has improved since police were asked to see that the builders cleared the road and the site was visited by council Health and Safety officers. Hillsiders also sent a petition to the planning authority.

The job is one of several in Low Bentham being carried out by Eglin Construction Ltd, whose managing director Mr. Eglin told the Westmoreland Gazette that the company was doing its utmost to keep everyone happy and certainly didn't want to upset local people.

PLANNERS VISIT BENTHAM

Regular readers will already be familiar with some of the recent controversial planning applications. In the middle of January Bentham received a visit from Craven's Planning Committee, to look at some of the application sites. After a walk around the town, they decided to permit a new front extension of Spar, but decided against the proposed new access to Riverside Caravan

Park via Moulterbeck Lane on the grounds of loss of amenity and visual impact.

This is the latest of a number of recent applications that have failed because of the quality of access from the street, and the current proposal for residential development behind the NatWest bank seems sure to raise the same issues all over again.

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, Christine Hodson, Ken Robertson, Kate Steele, Jean West, Pam Woof and our co-ordinator Lesley Barker.

BENTHAM NEWS can be sent anywhere in the UK for an annual subscription of £7, or anywhere in the world for £12.

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