

BENTHAM NEWS



POST OFFICE CRISIS UPDATE

The public meeting, held at Ingleton on the 18th March, was organised and chaired by County Councillor Ralph Atkinson. It was extremely well supported. Some 185 residents from the area attended and participated in a constructive dialogue with Royal Mail's Area Delivery Manager, Mr. David Higham. The following main points emerged:-

- * The Post Office is aware of the concern felt by local people at the outline proposals and their possible implications.
- * No decision will be taken for a further 12 months.
- * Concentration of mailwork will only occur if demonstrable improvements in levels of service can be achieved.
- * Royal Mail will take into account all the points made by customers, now and in the future, before taking the final decision.

The local MP, David Curry, who could not attend the meeting, has issued a press release which appears on page 6.

APRIL 1993

JOB VACANCY

*BENTHAM NEWS
REQUIRES
ADVERTISING
MANAGER*
see page 11 for details

Bentham News has always been fortunate in having a number of regular, popular contributors and this month is delighted to welcome two new columnists.

David Greenep from Low Bentham, one of our younger readers, will be presenting his own personal views on live and recorded music. See page 22.

And "The Ranter", a local person writing under a pseudonym, will present wry observations of life in Bentham. See page 5.

Also on page 5 there is an important report on the building work being undertaken at the Health Centre.

ISSUE 78

WASTE PAPER COLLECTION

During the last year the amount of waste paper collected for recycling was 61 tonnes 16 cwt. Proceeds of £309 have gone to N.S.P.C.C. headquarters.

The committee would like to thank all the people who have contributed their waste paper by taking it or sending it to the Legion Hall for collection.

We hope everyone will continue to save their waste paper to support our worthwhile cause.

HIGH BENTHAM W.I.

High Bentham W.I. seems to be back in business! A further meeting to form a NEW WOMENS' INSTITUTE will be held at 7.30pm on Thursday April 15th in the Methodist Schoolroom, Station Road. Women who wish to join in the fun and friendship, to widen their interests and to develop their skills are most welcome to come along and bring a friend.

WELCOME FOR NEW HEADTEACHER

Low Bentham C.P. School held an informal gathering recently to welcome the new headteacher, Mrs V. Millward. Governors, staff, parents and children all attended.

UNPLUGGED

by Sean Sanderson

"Unplugged" Bentham's new acoustic music club opens its doors at the Black Bull on Friday 2nd April at 8pm, the cost just £2.50. As a special opening act we have booked Janet Russell, the latest in a long line of women singers to emerge from Scotland. Janet has recently been featured on BBC Radio 2's Folk on 2 and drops in on Bentham before going on tour to America.

The club is open to anyone and will feature local singers and instrumentalists. If you would like to 'do a turn' or find out more about "Unplugged" please ring Mary on 05242 51537.

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HOW TO MAKE £1,900 IN LESS THAN 9 HOURS

No, sorry this isn't a way to make an easy buck. In fact a tremendous amount of effort went into the 6 hours and 50 minutes that it took for Michael



Armstrong and Roy Monk to conquer the Three Peaks by bike, on Sunday 7th March. The hardest part was the ascent of Whernside, where bikes had been half dragged and half carried up the merciless incline. After that Ingleborough was apparently no threat at all! They estimated that they walked approximately 15 out of the 24 miles as much of the terrain was too difficult to ride. All this was in aid of Comic Relief. After several weeks of gathering sponsors for the event and a lot of physical effort they managed to raise a mammoth £1,900. Congratulations on such a tremendous achievement!

ST. MARGARET'S MOTHERS' UNION

The enrolling member welcomed Mrs Flora Coulston who gave an interesting talk entitled "Reflections". Mrs Andrews extended the vote of thanks after which tea and biscuits were enjoyed.

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TOWN COUNCIL

Councillors Cowling, Dawber, Dowbiggin, Hewitt, Hurtley, Jackson, Joel, Marshall, Preston and Telford were all present at this meeting together with District Councillor Pilkington and 10 members of the public.

RURAL POLICING

The Town Clerk had received a copy of a letter from someone in Glusburn expressing concern about the level of policing in rural areas. As this is a topic which has had considerable airing at Council meetings over the past year, the Clerk will write to David Curry (our M.P.) in support of the concern expressed.

MAYORAL BOARD

Councillor Marshall would like to have some sort of plaque commemorating the past Mayors of Bentham installed in the Town Hall. This is a proposal which failed to win support the last time it was made to Council. This time the Clerk was asked to investigate how much it would cost.

THREAT TO POST OFFICE SERVICES

Councillors were very worried about the closure of the sorting office at Bentham and their concern will also be mentioned in the letter to David Curry. Councillor Cowling felt that local parish councils should unite to fight any move which might result in the closure of rural post offices. Councillor Joel recommended that everyone use the Post Office as much as possible.

TOWN HALL MAINTENANCE

The floors in the Town Hall will again be polished. Markings for the badminton court should be redone; apparently some female players find the special mat too heavy to put away.

BUILDING MANAGEMENT SYSTEM

Councillor Cowling suggested a demonstration of a system that would enable the Clerk to provide Councillors with relevant figures on the running of the

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Town Hall. Some Councillors thought that the Town Hall was being perfectly well run without any system, but Council voted to have the demonstration.

MISCELLANEOUS MATTERS

★ The Council have recently employed the services of a ratcatcher.

★ The Town Hall piano, which keeps being moved and is therefore always in need of tuning, will be given away.

★ Councillors were pleased to hear of the appointment of a new Headteacher at Low Bentham Primary School. The new classroom at High Bentham Primary will be officially opened by a local celebrity at the end of March.

★ Councillors offered the Town Clerk their very best wishes on his recent special birthday. "Age is a matter of mind", he said, "If you don't mind, it don't matter".

The next Council meeting will be on Monday 5th April.

Kate Steele

SUMMER TERM 1993

HIGH & LOW BENTHAM

Classes commence week beginning Monday April 19 and will run for six weeks unless stated otherwise.

CONTINUING CLASSES

Low Bentham Primary School

French for Beginners Tuesday 7.30-9.30 pm

High Bentham Primary School

Creative Embroidery Thursday 7.30-9.30 pm

Tai-Chi for Beginners Thursday 7.30-9.30 pm

NEW CLASS

High Bentham Primary School

Herbal Medicine Thursday 7.30-9.30 pm
(Four meetings in the classroom plus 1 Saturday Field Study).

Please enrol at the first class meeting.

Enquiries to : Craven College,
High Street,
Skipton.

BD23 1JY

Tel : 0756 791411

Fax : 0756 794872

**Craven
College**

PANTO REVIEW

by Shirley Brown

The 13th pantomime (who said "they won't last"?) presented by Bentham Panto Group lived up to the high expectations which previous performances over the years have led us to expect.

There's something quite special about Bentham's pantomimes, and in this review I've decided not just to list names with appropriate accolades, because those who were there do not need reminding that all who danced, acted, played music or helped in so many ways did their best and gave their all.

What makes it special to me is the general spirit of the occasion. Everyone seems to be enjoying themselves so much, and newcomers to Bentham are involved and happily absorbed alongside old hands. It's lovely to be in the Town Hall Ballroom when it's packed, warm and vibrant, and that's how it was during the four evening run of "Beauty and the Beast".

SOME OF MY SPECIAL

MOMENTS:

★ "Beauty" was beautiful, and so fragile, yet courageous, as she braced herself to sing her solo (don't let anyone underestimate how hard that moment is!)

★ The pathos of the "Beast" when he first raged then crumbled as the awful effects of his beastly appearance on his life became clear. His devastation was only overcome when love finally won through.

★ John Hicks magically appearing in an unscheduled second part, this time in drag with a Birmingham accent. He made such a pretty lady!

★ "Ken Cool", with stunning sideburns, growing in confidence as he inter-acted with the audience. How well he handled some tricky situations when children were called up on stage! I'll never forget how well he responded when he got the answer "It looks like my mum and dad's electricity bill" instead of "It's the deeds of Beauty's house".

★ And when Dr Ralph Sullivan was called up to help the Witch and "Beauty" he entered into the part so generously and made the scene quite special.

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★ The cauldron caught fire on the first night. This unintended excitement, though alarming, was handled safely with both humour and ingenuity by William. For subsequent performances he came on as a fireman to keep it under control.

★ The energetic, Witch swung on stage one evening and knocked some scenery flying. Quite a dramatic entrance!

★ Another evening "Beauty" and "Verruca" arrived on stage a scene early, which caused some confusion and rapid ad libbing!

★ The smallest children's appearances were magical! I could have watched them for twice as long. They were so serious yet so funny, so controlled yet so unpredictable. The "Aaah!" count was high when they were on stage. The parents downstairs in the dressing room managed to keep the children happy, in costume and awake for their entrances and did a brilliant job with generosity and good humour.

★ The stage trapdoor was left open by mistake on two occasions and nearly swallowed up one of the smallest "stars" and the athletic "worm".

★ A magic moment was created by an over-zealous stagehand who walked on to a scene one evening and then disappeared into the fireplace to loud applause!

★ "Strawberry Mousse"'s small son sitting in the audience through each dress rehearsal and each performance, completely enthralled.

THE THINGS THAT WENT RIGHT, THE THINGS THAT WENT WRONG, ALL CONTRIBUTED TO A THOROUGHLY ENJOYABLE EXPERIENCE.

Over one thousand people were involved in Bentham's Panto, either by their direct involvement or by their audience participation. It's a remarkable community event, it's great fun, and long may it continue.

PANTO COSTUMES

Please return your costumes to Janette or Pam at Bentham Sportswear, as soon as possible. Costumes from previous years are also wanted so that they are available for hire. Anyone who would like to borrow a costume may do so for a small charge which goes into Panto Group funds. We have a wide range of costumes for parties, special occasions etc!

SHOPPING AND THE QUALITY OF LIFE

from "The Ranter"

Shopping, for some people, has been and remains a sociable and rewarding form of trade between the CUSTOMER and a known and respected SHOPKEEPER. For others, it has become a cynical treadmill of "personal retail opportunities" ruthlessly marketed by retail giants to a powerless CONSUMER.

The buzz word of the 80's was CHOICE. The supermarkets continue to peddle this myth because they have people trapped as "consumers". A consumer as an individual has no relationship with the provider of goods. He or she is unknown and is only represented by the cash spent. A superstore is not going to stock what you as an individual would like to buy. You have to buy goods that have mass appeal.

In this sense, choice simply means more of the same.

The relationship of a customer with Bentham's shopkeepers is entirely different. It is personal and a two way exchange of goods and information. Your custom is valued and your requests are acted on. You as an individual are "empowered" and can make real "choices". These are the buzz words of the 90's which the government uses in the same cynical way as the retail giants. When (they) offered "choice" it really means conformity.

There are few areas left in Modern Britain where you, as an individual, can exert "real choice".

Enjoy shopping in Bentham's stores and strike a blow for FREEDOM and the INDIVIDUAL.

I am not a number; I am a free man!
Now where's my purse?

Next month "The Ranter" discusses how Bentham Traders could compete with the giants.



BUILDING WORK AT BENTHAM HEALTH CENTRE

from Drs. Story, Walker, Sullivan and Nightingale.

Major building work is due to begin at Bentham Health Centre in April. We are going to enlarge the ground floor and add another floor on top. This will give us more consulting rooms, a new, larger treatment room, and a new health education suite. We will have a larger waiting room, a new dispensary and more office space. While this is happening we will have to carry on working in this building. This is bound to cause some inconvenience to everyone using the Health Centre and we would like to apologise for this now.

We have gone to great lengths to try to ensure that our services will be affected as little as possible. A doctor will always be available in an emergency. Surgery and clinic times and our telephone number will not change. If we have to cancel a surgery or clinic because of the building work, notice will be given in advance. We hope that this will rarely be necessary.

The alterations should be completed by the end of the year and by then we will have a much better Health Centre. If you want to know more about the alterations, architect's drawings will soon be on display at the Health Centre and any member of the Health Centre team will be happy to answer your questions.



'SPRINGTIME AMNESTY'

If you have any equipment at home NOT in use please return it to the Health Centre. We would be very grateful. Equipment includes COMMODES, BED FRAMES, CRUTCHES, WALKING FRAMES, NEBULISERS and a missing grey lead to a nebuliser.



BENTHAM SCHOOL NEWS Prep Schools Cross-Country Race.

Bentham School provided an excellent team for cross country with

teams from all over the North of England in its tenth Annual Cross-Country races

The girl's race provided an exciting finish in which the early leader, Alex Armstrong, from St. Annes, Windermere, was overtaken by Elizabeth Smith from Catteral Hall with last year's runner up, Dominique Parker of Casterton in third place. Catteral Hall managed to get all five of their team finishing in the first eight to ensure a clear victory in the team event.

The junior boys' race proved to be a very hard fought affair with Malsis School (Crosshills, Keighley) just holding off Catteral Hall by a single point. Malsis provided the clear winner of the race in Mark Cooper, who finished well ahead of team mate George Pepper.

The Under 13 boys' race also proved to be a very close contest. Malsis School again just held off Catteral Hall in the team competition but Gavin Kellet of Catteral Hall finished well to win the individual race by a mere three seconds from Charles Lamb of Malsis.

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POST OFFICE UPDATE

from Skipton and Ripon Conservative Assoc

Our MP, David Curry, met Mike Heron, the Post Office Chief Executive, on 11th March to discuss the proposals for North Craven. He received a cast iron guarantee that no decisions have so far been taken on the future of the various Sub-Post Offices. Mr Curry will be pressing for the retention of existing facilities to ensure that this most rural part of the County is not disadvantaged.

PRESS RELEASE

From Wednesday April 7th the Bentham office of the Skipton Citizens Advice Bureau will be open from 1.30pm to 3.30pm.

The office is in the Wenningdale Room at the rear of the Town Hall.

The Bentham office telephone number is 62358

At other times you can contact the Skipton office on 0756 700210.

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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

Everybody will know their own Council Tax by now. Those that disagree with the band in which they've been put have until 30th November to appeal. Meanwhile they'll have to pay as assessed and will recover the overpayment later if the appeal is successful. There are various methods of payment, so choose the one that suits you best. I use the banker's order system which is still allowable though it is never mentioned in the literature they send you.

As the change-over from Poll Tax to Council is still not complete we have to run the two systems in parallel until everyone has paid up. The cost of this is phenomenal. The cost of setting up the Council Tax and the Poll Tax last year was £527,000 and in 1993/94 it's expected to cost a bit more than this - about £569,000 - which is £29.85 per Council Tax payer or nearly half of the total. What the total cost of the Poll Tax has been goodness only knows!

THE BUDGET

Our total budget this year is estimated at just over £13 million or 6.2% up on last year. The income from charges for Council services amounts to about £8.5 million, again slightly up on last year. So we have had £4.5 million to find, £3.0 million comes from central Govt. and £1.2 million from the Council Tax, leaving the rest to come from balances, etc. So you see, the Council Tax provides a relatively small proportion of the cost of local services. Why all the fuss I can never understand! Why they don't just collect it, either through the VAT system (demonstrated last year) or (better!) through the income tax system, I simply don't know!

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GRASS CUTTING ON COUNCIL ESTATES

Now that spring is on it's way the lawn mowers are out and grass cutting is in full swing. The District Council's grass cutting is (by law) let out on contract so we are only indirectly responsible. The main roads by the way are the responsibility of the County Council and subject to another contract. The District Council contract provides for 13 fortnightly cuts in the year, starting on the 1st April - but don't be surprised if they don't get to your patch in the first week. Only the mowings of the first cut are scheduled to be removed, after which it's hoped that they'll be short enough just to leave. If you have any trouble contact me or John Pilkington.

DOG DIRT

John Chamberlain, our well appreciated street cleaner, tells me that the dog loo on Cavendish Square car park is very little used. Though I've kept quiet on the subject for some time I'm still very concerned about the continuing problem of dog mess on our streets. I was down Duke Street the other day and the grass verges are a disgrace. Also, now that the Golf Club has resurfaced the lane past my place, that is also being extensively used. May I remind dog owners that it is not only an offence but also a health hazard, particularly for children, and a filthy nuisance to your neighbours. So please use the dog loo, even if it is only to dump messes.

JUNK MAIL

May I again remind folks that there's no need to go on being overwhelmed with junk mail you don't want. A brief note to the Mailing Preference Service, Freeport 22, London W1E 7EZ, will get rid of most of it, at no cost to yourselves.



THE INTERVIEW

by Tom Cahill

Every month or so we hope to publish an interview with someone in Bentham, old and young, Bentham-born and immigrant. This month we interview the sub-postmistress, ALISON WILKEN.

AW: I came to Bentham in January 1992, since we were looking for a Post Office with a wide range of services, situated in a pleasant spot. Bentham filled the bill.

BN: Does our Post Office?

AW: I would wish so, but Post Offices in rural communities are facing difficulties. The future of our Post Office depends on people using it as much as possible. If business levels fall and people choose to use other service outlets, some Post Offices will continue to decline and eventually close.

BN: What do you like best about Bentham?

AW: Basically, the situation. Countryside on your doorstep, very close to the Lakes, Dales, down to Lancaster and the coast. And also it still is a small community, with a community spirit, which is the big difference coming from the anonymity of the city.

BN: If you could live anywhere on earth other than where you live, money no object, where would you live?

AW: Teesdale. That's where I first got interested in walking, on a holiday there.

BN: What music do you listen to?

AW: My three favourite types are Motown, reggae and northern soul.

BN: If you could spend a million quid to improve Bentham, what would you spend it on?

AW: I would probably establish a local development trust/corporation, managed by local people, with the aim to develop existing business opportunities but more importantly to attract new ones. I think Bentham needs to try selling itself. On a more mundane level, improvements could be made to stop dangerous car congestion in Main Street. Funds could also be used to subsidise local transport to improve facilities.

8 BN: What comments do your friends and visitors make about Bentham?

AW: They like the countryside and the position of the town. They notice the rowdiness that goes on on Friday and Saturday nights. People are surprised that the retail sector closes down for two half days every week. And traffic! People are amazed that the traffic is so terrible. It's dangerous, the speed of it and poor parking causing congestion and cars forced to mount the pavement to pass each other.

BN: What is your favourite pudding, vegetable and fruit?

AW: Fruit salad, broccoli and grapes. I don't have a sweet tooth, I detest chocolate or anything sticky or gooey.

BN: Which two books would you take on a desert island?

AW: A hard question, as I read a lot. I decided on "Wuthering Heights" (my all-time favourite) and then "Madame Bovary".

BN: What is your favourite walk in the Bentham parish?

AW: As a short walk, the trip over Bentham Moor to Burton. The very first time we came up, at one point we were just walking across the field and I looked up; it was a very clear day, and Ingleborough was almost on top of us. I'd never seen it before! That was one of the memories that will always stick with me.



Bamfords

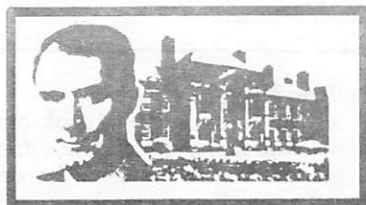
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FROM COUNTY HALL



BY COUNTY COUNCILLOR
RALPH ATKINSON

COUNTY ELECTIONS

The present four-year term of elected members to the County Council, including myself, comes to an end on 4th May and new elections will be held on Thursday, 6th May. What term these will be for nobody knows. If the Local Government Commission which is arranging the reorganisation of local government decides on any changes these may well create entirely new councils, which will require new councillors and therefore new elections. Only if there are no changes is the next term likely to run the full four years.

If you are going to be away on holiday on the 6th May, or are likely to be too sick or too frail to get to the polling station, you should consider applying for a postal or a proxy vote. You may do this up to noon on the thirteenth working day before polling day - Friday, 16th April - though if there is an emergency, late postal and proxy applications can be accepted up to noon on Tuesday, 27th April. Of course, if you do appoint somebody to proxy for you it's important to ensure they'll vote as you wish.

POLICE COMMUNICATIONS

At last the Police have got their phone system up-dated. If you want to get hold of them for some reason other than an emergency (for which still ring 999) you can ring the old Ingleton number - 41217, and you'll be patched through to the Skipton office, at the same cost as for a local call. Skipton is manned (or womanned?) 24 hours a day so you'll always get attention. The trouble is it takes a little time. I tried it

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the other day and it took 12 rings to raise the operator, about 2 minutes, so have patience.

MORE ON POLICE

Councillors, including those of all political complexions are worried about many of the Govt's ideas for organising the police. Amalgamating authorities into larger units would distance their management from the ordinary public. But what is even more worrying are the ideas for the appointment of authority members. Even if a third of them are appointed from local government and a third from the magistracy, the proposal that the remaining third are representatives of business is unacceptable. And the mere fact of appointing the majority rather than electing them would result in a significant loss of accountability.

SPEED LIMITS

New, more flexible, rules for setting speed limits should enable the authorities to fit them more closely to local needs. As a result of representations (from ourselves as well as other County Councils) the local Highway Authority will be allowed to set speed limits on all A, B and C roads without recourse to the Secretary of State. The SoS will still be responsible for trunk road, like the A65. We can also vary the old minimum length of half a mile where this is appropriate. This means that some of our villages which couldn't have speed limits under the old rules, may be able to have them.

GOOD NEWS ON RECYCLING CREDITS

Last year the County Council paid local District Councils £4.50 a tonne for space saved on county land fill sites by recycling programmes. This year, the Highway's Committee have agreed to a recommendation to raise this to £6.10 per tonne. Also, it's proposed to extend this payment to charities, schools and volunteer groups, etc. provided that they are registered with the Council. So come on you keen, green recyclers get yourselves registered!



YOUR LETTERS



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Offices, Granville Street, Skipton, BD23 1PS.
Dave and Vicki Mulligan
Retford House,
Robin Lane, Benthams.

Dear BN,

Our class was very concerned about the accident in the Shetlands which led to the Braer spilling oil into the sea. We had the idea of a toy fair and people brought lots of boxes of toys to school. On January 22nd we had the sale in the school hall and raised £31.65.

We will divide the money between RSPB and GREENPEACE to help clean the birds.

Yours sincerely,
Stewart Ralph (age 10)
High Benthams C P School

Dear BN,

Readers may have noticed that there is another planning application (5/8/362/D) for the Butts Lane/Robin Lane Development. It only appears to be for outline planning permission to extend the existing permission which expires in June this year. There are no details other than the boundary of the plot.

There is one aspect that is worth considering. When the previous approval was given (5/8/362/C) the planning committee attached 19 extra conditions, all of which were, in our opinion, in the best interests of Benthams. We have written to Craven District Council saying that we do not object to the application, but that, if it is approved, the previous conditions (except number 11 which needs bringing up to date) should apply to the new approval. Condition 11 limited the number of houses that could be occupied before July 1992, since that was the expected completion date for upgrading the Benthams sewage works. As far as we are aware the work hasn't started yet.

If anyone else would like to express their opinions (for or against) they should write to: Mr. S. Briggs, Chief Planning Officer, Craven District Council, Council

Dear Benthams News,

Before I left Benthams I lent a book out. It was like a scrap book with all the different cuttings out of the local papers, Lancaster Guardian etc., of things that happened in and around Benthams from, I think, the late 1800's to 1950. I and my family have never read it and I would like it back.

I left Benthams when I remarried. I was then Mrs Cissie Fleming.

Yours faithfully
Mrs C. Pritchard.
Park View,
Hornby Road,
Wray, Nr. Lancaster.

Dear Editor

We should like to thank the people of Benthams for the marvellous support they gave to the Friends of Samaritans coffee morning on 6th March. We were most impressed with everyone's friendliness and generosity. £184 was raised towards the cost of running the Lancaster Samaritans, who serve a wide area including Benthams. They are available 24 hours a day on Lancaster (0524) 61666.

We hope to hold another coffee morning in Benthams, perhaps next year, and would welcome any local person who would like to help. Please leave your name and number on Lancaster 61666.

With many thanks
Penelope Andrews,
Hon. Sec. Friends of Samaritans,
Lancaster & District.

L E T T E R S



JOB VACANCY DETAILS

Dear Bentham News

I come every year to Bentham for my holiday. I live in a place called Kirkby in Liverpool. It's a tough place to live in, derelict, full of concrete, hardly any greenery at all. The first thing that hits you here in Bentham is the quietness and gentleness of the town, beautiful gardens and trees.

It really saddens me to see trees that are mutilated almost past repair. You should cherish these things by planting more, not destroying them. You may wonder, why the fuss? Well I've seen it happen; only a few trees now, but others copy and attention must be brought to it before it is too late.

People who live in the countryside do not realise how lucky they are. You all should prevent things like this happening, especially the trees that are on the Main Road into Bentham. First impressions count after all pull together and preserve your village and countryside, so the likes of me can take home memories of swaying trees, green fields, birdsong and friendly people.

Mrs V. Patterman,
Kirkby, Liverpool.

BN recently received a letter and a copy of the Burton News a new community paper on the style of our very own BN, published for Burton in Holme.

Dear BN

Herewith our first stab at the Burton News which as you will see has taken the Bentham News as its role model.

We are thin on advertising but that was a decision deliberately taken. The hard sell starts now. We have no financial worries for the first year fortunately due to direct sponsorship by our Parish Council and by 2 or 3 local firms.

This letter which I am happy you should publish is to thank you for pointing us in the right direction when we asked and for so readily agreeing to see us to explain just how the bentham News was put together.

Continues success and thanks

D.M. Brownsword,
Burton.

Bentham News is looking for an "Advertising Manager" to generate and organise our advertising.

Advertising is a vital component of the continuing success of Bentham News. Ideally we are looking for an enthusiastic person with local knowledge. Payment will be by commission and advice, support and training will be available. Initially the job will be for up to six months, and if it is successful it could become a permanent post.

Applications, stating personal details and any relevant information about suitability for the job, should be made in writing by **16th April** to the Bentham News Editorial Committee, 7, Jubilee Buildings, Main Street, High Bentham, Lancaster, LA2 7HR.

All applicants will be contacted by mid May.

CASUALS

44, Main Street, High Bentham.

Tel 61707.

Ladies and Gents wear

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LOCAL EVENTS IN APRIL

- Thurs 1st** NSPCC Monthly meeting at 3, Springfield Terrace at 1.30pm.
- Fri 2nd** Guided circular walk round Giggleswick Scar, (5 miles). Leader Verena Smith. (tel: 61100). Please meet at Scar Top at 1.30pm.
- "Unplugged" Acoustic Music Club at the Black Bull Hotel, Bentham - Janet Russell, Guitar and voice at 8pm.
- Sat 3rd** Low Bentham Playgroup Jumble Sale at Low Bentham Institute at 2pm. Refreshments, cake stall and raffle etc.
- Burton in Lonsdale Bowling Club Annual Jumble Sale and coffee morning at Burton in Lonsdale Village Hall 10am - 12 noon. Admission 10p coffee and biscuits 30p.
- Jumble Sale - Town Hall - 2 - 4pm. Proceeds for Craven Wanderers Junior Football. Collecting Friday 2nd April.
- St. Boniface coffee morning in the Town Hall.
- Mon 5th** Town Council meeting in the Lower Town Hall at 7.30pm
- Senior Youth Club - Easter Cards and eggs.
- Tues 6th** Bentham Methodist Church Holy Week Service 7.30pm Mr Bryan Fawcett.
- Bentham Organic Gardening Group meets at the Punch Bowl, Low Bentham. 7.30pm. All interested welcome.
- BINGO at the Black Bull, upstairs, doors open 7.30pm. Proceeds for Craven Wanderers Junior Football.
- Wed 7th** Junior Youth Club - Ice Skating.

12

- Thurs 8th** Bentham Methodist Church Holy Week Service 7.30pm Meditation led by Rev. A. Odell.
- Young Farmers' Social in the Town Hall Ballroom.
- Netball practice on the tennis courts at 6.30pm.
- Fri 9th** Bentham Methodist Church Good Friday Service 10.30am. Mrs Jane Mansergh.
- Tourist Information Centre open 10am - 3pm.
- Sat 10th** Guided circular walk around Cold Cotes, (8 miles). Leader David Stubbs (tel: 61430) Please meet at Lairgill at 10am.
- Tourist Information Centre open 9.30am - 3pm.
- Springfield Bowling Club coffee morning in the Town Hall.
- Mammoth Sale in Community Centre, Ingleton. Craft, cakes, jumble stalls, cream teas on sale. Proceeds towards Tom Mair Nimbus Bed Fund.
- Sun 11th** Bentham Methodist Church Easter Sunday Service 10.30am taken by Rev A. Odell followed by communion. 6.30pm Easter Praise - Service led by members and friends.
- Mon 12th** Tourist Information Centre open 10am - 2pm.
- Tues 13th** Tatham Fells W.I. monthly meeting at 7.30pm. Mr David Padley - "The Forest of Bowland"
- Bentham Baby Clinic at the Health Centre.
- BINGO at the Black Bull - upstairs - doors open 7.30pm. Proceeds for Craven Wanderers Junior Football.
- Thurs 15th** Low Bentham W.I. in the Victoria Institute. Speaker Mr. Albert Tague. "Confessions of a Home Decorator".

- Thurs 15th Netball practice on the tennis courts at 6.30pm.
- Fri 16th WASTE PAPER COLLECTION at the Legion Hall 8.30am - 11am. Proceeds to the NSPCC.
- COME DANCING in the Town Hall Ballroom. 7.45 to 10.45pm. Modern Sequence and Old Time. £1.20 inc tea and biscuits.
- The Countryside Society - Upstairs Room at Hornby Institute at 7.45pm - Mr A.A. Gillett "Railway Flowers"
- Sat 17th Arthritis & Rheumatism Council coffee morning in the Town Hall at 10am.
- Mon 19th House to House Collection for the NSPCC continues all week.
- Monthly meeting of Burton Horticultural Society at Burton Village Hall at 7.30pm. National Trust and other Scottish Gardens. Mr Hutchinson (Sizergh Castle). Guests 30p inc. tea and biscuits
- Tues 20th BINGO at the Black Bull - upstairs - doors open 7.30pm. Proceeds to Craven Wanderers Junior Football.
- Thurs 22nd Netball practice on the tennis courts at 6.30pm.
- Sat 24th Low Bentham W. I. coffee morning 10am - 12 noon in the Town Hall. Cake stalls etc.
- "Off The Wall" 8pm for dinner and 10pm for dancing. Tickets £7 from "Hairlines"
- Old Tyme Dance with the "Mark Kitto Band" presented by Settle High School P.T.A. in the main hall 8pm - midnight. Tickets £4 inc refreshments and bar. Tel Ingleton 41155. Please support your local school.
- Sun 25th Guided walk around Farleton Knott (8 miles). Leader Geoff Huddart (tel: 61700) Please meet at Lairgill at 10am.

- Mon 26th Senior Youth Club - Team games.
- Tues 27th Bentham Baby Clinic at the Health Centre.
- Bentham & District Camera Club "Photography at Work" by Mr. G. Stone.
- BINGO at the Black Bull - upstairs - doors open at 7.30pm. Proceeds for Craven Wanderers Junior Football.
- Wed 28th Junior Youth Club - Parachute practice.
- Thurs 29th Melling with Wrayton C of E School Association together with Pigtails and Mary Thornborough present a Fashion Show at Melling School at 7pm. Adults £1.50 children free. Homemade refreshments and raffle.
- Netball practice on the tennis courts at 6.30pm.
- Fri 30th COME DANCING in the Town Hall Ballroom 7.45 to 10.45pm. Modern Sequence and Old Time. £1.20 inc. tea and biscuits.
- Bentham News published.

LOCAL EVENTS IN MAY

- Sat 1st Tourist Information Centre opens daily (except Sundays) for the Summer Season.
- Tourist Information Centre coffee morning in the Town Hall 9.45 - 11.45am. Usual stalls & raffle.
- Tues 4th Visit of Bolton Male Voice Choir Praise to Bentham Methodist Church at 7.30pm.
- Thurs 6th Arthritis & Rheumatism Council sponsored knit in the Methodist Schoolroom at 7pm.
- Mon 10th Town Council meeting.



By Keith Cowling

The recent news that BT is converting Bentham's telephone exchange to digital equipment encouraged those who, like me, think Bentham should have a telecottages. What are telecottages? Well, they are a kind of local new technology centre, where people can use computers and other equipment on a drop-in basis, learn new skills, and connect to other computer users all over the world by fax and electronic mail via the phone lines.

Originally a Scandinavian idea, telecottages are increasingly seen as a way of creating new forms of employment in the British countryside. Even the Archers are getting one for Ambridge! The opportunities they offer are particularly relevant to women returners (returning to the job market after children reach school age), young and unemployed people seeking improved opportunities, and anyone engaged in home-based study. Most small businesses can also use them to improve productivity with appropriate computer use. Because drop-in centres are also very useful to those who work at home (predicted to be over 4 million of us in Britain by 1995) and miss social contact, telecottages often have coffee shops and sometimes crèches.

The real importance of telecottages however, is their potential for bringing better paid jobs to rural areas like ours by receiving or sending work via the phone system to larger population centres. A team of Devon Telecottage workers for example, mostly housewives working part time, receive daily text extracts from world newspapers, mark them up for use by

14 Reuters in their commercial databases and
squit their finished work back to London
by e-mail each evening. They are paid at
London rates. This kind of success story
should become more common as our rural
phone services improve.

April 23rd is National Telecottage Open Day when telecottages all over Britain will be opening their doors to visitors and demonstrating their facilities. Our nearest ones are in Garstang and Whalley. A local group is also forming under the aegis of the Bentham Trust to promote the idea of a telecottage for Bentham. If you are interested, please contact me on 62043.



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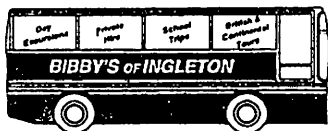
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 23--29 Sept Killarney & Kingdom of Kerry £289

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VACANCY

Wray Parish Council have a vacancy for the position of Environmental Maintenance Officer for the 6 month period from April to September 1993. Hours of work will be 8 hours per week within the area of Wray Village.

Rate of remuneration £3.37 per hour.

For further details of duties etc. please apply to Clerk of the Council, Holme View, Main Street, Wray. Tel 21441.

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COME DANCING

by Cliff Machin

The increasing popularity of the fortnightly dances in the Town Hall Ballroom would seem to justify the early confidence of the promoters (Joe and Megan Gornall and myself), so much so that we have booked the Ballroom throughout 1994 for the second Friday in each month and the last Saturday! To date we are just about recovering early losses and moving into credit. The raffle proceeds go to Age Concern, Bentham, and at the time of writing are just in excess of £100. We now regularly attract more than 40 dancers, and we would always like to welcome more.

Please come along and enjoy a pleasantly gracious social evening where all concerned say that we offer warmth and friendliness in a ballroom difficult to match for many miles around.

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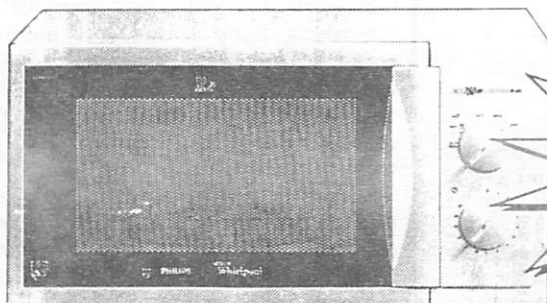
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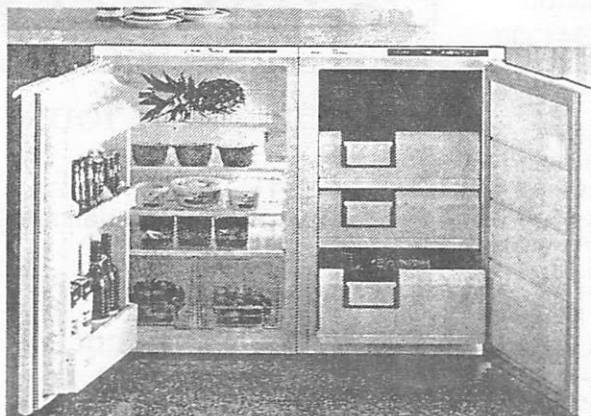
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BENTHAM PEOPLE

PERSONAL THANKS

Dorothy Greenbank sends her love and many thanks to relatives and friends for the lovely cards, flowers and gifts received on her 80th birthday. Also Margaret and Eric for the wonderful surprise party.

The Lent Lunch held on Wednesday 3rd March in the Methodist Schoolroom raised £298.20p. for Christian Aid. Many thanks to all who helped in any way.

The family of the late Edwin Knapp, would like to thank relatives and friends for their kind messages of sympathy and cards of condolence. Special thanks to rev. Dalby and Brown and Whittakers for their thoughtful and dignified funeral arrangements.

Many thanks to everyone who helped make the hen party on Saturday 20th March a success. Andrea.

CONGRATULATIONS

Kate - Dave. Be Happy, Love Linda, Mick, Hannah, Laura.

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Low Bentham Playgroup would like some small tables and chairs. If you can help please phone 61034

SERVICES

Time Served builder - just starting out on his own requires work - no job too small. Reasonable rates. Tel Bentham 61918.

EVENTS

MAMMOTH SALE in the Community Centre at Ingleton on the 10th April. raffle cake and jumble stalls. If you have items to be collected please phone 41594. All money raised will go to the Tom Mair Nimbus Bed Fund. DON'T MISS IT.

EMPLOYMENT

Part-time sales assistant with occasional full time weeks. Flexibility essential. Some heavy lifting involved. Contact Bamfords Fruiterer and Florist. 05242 61904.

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AGE CONCERN BENTHAM

by Cliff Machin

THIRD ANNIVERSARY - In early May we record the third anniversary of the opening of the Day Centre in the Town Hall and plan to commemorate this with a day of celebrations on Friday, May 14th. Our progress from those tentative beginnings to the present day organisation in such a short time is ample testimony to the enthusiasm of our dedicated volunteers.

The **DAY CENTRE** has flourished and is now established as an essential part of life for many of our older people - for some it offers the only break from lonely isolation. The numbers attending our Drop-In / Day Centre is from 50 to 70 plus.

This third anniversary is probably a good time to increase awareness of some of our other ventures:-

HOME SECURITY - A small team of volunteers are installing various items of security equipment in homes. We are grateful to North Yorkshire Police for their invaluable advice and initiative; to Bentham tradespeople and commercial stores in North Craven and Lancashire for donating the equipment; and to our approved team of volunteer craftsmen for installation. We hope to continue to make this service freely available.

HOME DECORATING - After some requests for help with home decorating we have completed one such project; a further project is well in hand; and the third is due to begin shortly. Again a small team of volunteers, "Decorators Anonymous" with guidance and assistance from local tradesmen, are doing the donkey work. Age Concern - North Craven have provided the materials.

FUND RAISING - Thanks to the generosity of the people of Bentham and District we have raised about £3,700 in three years. Our own fund raising efforts are likely to be of even greater importance this year. NYCC Social Services Dept. have recommended a cut of 40% in our grant application. I note

18 that the recommended cuts for charities designated as Harrogate/ Ripon based are about 14%!

TRANSPORT - We have had a considerable increase in the need for transport suitable for people with severe mobility problems, and as a result we have purchased from the Cumbria Ambulance Service a twelve seater vehicle specially equipped and complete with a rear lift capable of 250kg loading. The vehicle is registered in the Disabled Passenger Class (exempt from Road Fund Tax); it has a small -bus permit (issued by Age Concern - England); and has been granted the Dept. of Transport's concessions under the "Orange Badge Scheme". We have purchased the vehicle through our own fund raising efforts locally. So again, thank you Benthamites! The minibus is used to transport people to attend the Day Centre from Burton, Low and High Bentham and the surrounding district. We had our 'maiden voyage' on the outing through the Ribble Valley in convoy with Bibby's coach carrying "the other lot"! We stopped off for tea and other essentials at Scorton - and judging by the level of chat coming from the rear of the minibus throughout the journey (almost 100 miles) - a good time was had by all!



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*example: a building soc. charge - £266 + int
our charge - £236 no int.*

FOOTPATH MATTERS

from Len Moody

Occasional - Seasonal - Perennial Problems

It was good to read recently (Lanc Guardian 19/02/93) that "free signs requesting dog owners to keep dogs under control during the lambing season are being offered to farmers and landowners in the Forest of Bowland." Mr. Padley of the A O N B commented that "the problem of dog control is not a particularly big one, but often difficulties arise through thoughtlessness."

FARMERS AND WALKERS MUST CO-EXIST

The relations between farmers/ landowners and walkers (including dog owners) illustrate the basic principles of ethics. Most human beings feel strongly that they have a right "to do what they want with their own." In the nature of things, however, often the individual cannot satisfy his/her own needs to the limit without impinging on the corresponding rights of other members of the community. Walkers, often people from very restricted environments, need and appreciate the possibility of refreshment and recreation by peacefully walking on recognised public rights of way in the countryside. Farmers, whose hard-won livelihood is gained from the demanding processes of stock rearing, need their land and their fields to be stock proof, and their stock to be protected from molestation. Ultimately these needs are regulated by law, but for their smooth operation in any community they need to be governed by mutual appreciation of each others' needs.

THE LAW AND DOGS

The law of our land recognises that walkers are permitted to take dogs, but the animals must be "under control" and in some places "on leads." At field boundaries it is expected that dogs are capable of getting over stiles like other users, or if necessary helped over without damage to fence, hedge, wall or stile. In some areas of heavy use specially designed dog gates are being tried out, but there is no obligation to provide them, and their disadvantage is to

concentrate dog walking to a few routes.

DON'T BREAK THE LAW!

Unilateral action is almost always to be deplored. At times dog owners have been known to cut wire fences to let their dogs through (which is an obvious trespass): at others, landowners have been known to put wire (plain, barbed or electrified) across public rights of way in regular use. Each of these causes inconvenience and anger and is wrong. The procedure our society has evolved in such matters is that any wish to change a public right of way must be approved by the Highway Authority (in our case North Yorkshire County Council), to which an application should be made in advance, and which will give appropriate advice, and in some cases practical help. Nowadays, a Highway Authority will respond more quickly than many would suppose.

To eliminate friction, all who use the countryside for recreational purposes, with or without dogs, should take a patient and co-operative interest in what goes on in the countryside. Similarly, all those who take part in the management of the countryside, should see the desirability of ensuring that public rights of way can be followed without danger: stiles should be easily negotiated and gates should be easy to open and close.

The Countryside Commission's free booklet "Out in the country: where you can go and what you can do" gives much more information and advice, and should be obtainable from all Information Centres.

The current programme of community footpath improvements being carried out by members of Bentham Footpath Group - a voluntary not a statutory group - in consultation with local farmers and landowners, is seen to be in the interests of both sides.

The main aim is to help achieve the nationally adopted target that "by the year 2000 the whole footpath network will be legally defined, properly maintained, kept free from obstruction, and well publicised."



999 POLICE FILE

from Acting Inspector Longmore

There were nine crimes in Benthams last month:-

- 2 burglaries
- 3 theft from motor vehicles
- 1 assault (offender known)
- 2 criminal damage to motor vehicles
- 1 theft of motor vehicle

Burglaries are a worry to the police because of the trauma experienced when your home is burgled. Most burglaries are committed by opportunists; here are a few tips to help prevent burglaries:-

★FORCE A CRIMINAL TO TAKE MORE TIME

Fit good locks on doors and windows and remove keys! Ask your local police for leaflets about the best locks. Why risk losing that expensive jewellery or sentimental possession you've treasured for years?

★FORCE A CRIMINAL TO MAKE MORE NOISE

A burglar alarm is an excellent deterrent. The alarm company will alert police if it activates.

Good window and door locks and bolts mean the burglar has to make more noise. Most won't bother!

★MAKE A CRIMINAL MORE CONSPICUOUS

Security lights are another excellent deterrent as burglars hate light. Lights can be fitted inside that illuminate at a set time even if you are out.

A lot of burglaries occur during daytime so please don't make it easy for crooks.

- 1, Close and lock ALL doors and windows even in hot weather.
- 2, Insist your paperboy pushes newspapers right through.
- 3, Don't leave milk on the doorstep.
- 4, Lock garages and sheds.
- 5, Don't leave a spare key in a hiding place.

Help the police find your stolen possessions and prosecute that burglar.

- 1, Postcode your electrical goods.
- 2, Photograph your jewellery and electrical goods.
- 3, Keep a list of makes, models and serial numbers of your electrical goods.

DO YOU WANT TO A GOOD NEIGHBOURHOOD SCHEME?

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Next month:- ALCOHOL and DRUGS and an update on the crime in Benthams.

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SUIT YOURSELF



**A DROP-IN
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On TUESDAY 20 APRIL from 1pm-3pm a new venture is holding its first session in the Youth Club. It's called "Suit Yourself", it's for young women, it's informal, it's friendly and it could be just what you've been looking for.

Young women are invited to come along for a cuppa and a chat and to share ideas about what they would like from "Suit Yourself". Sessions only cost 50p and a FREE CRECHE will be provided. If you would like more information just call TRACY on 42295 or VI on 62688.



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ALBUM REVIEW

by David Greenep

FISH - SONGS FROM THE MIRROR

Ex-Marillion singer Derek Dick (alias FISH) has just released an excellent cover album of all the favourite songs that he grew up with. This album was originally to be called "The Guderler" (Fish Tickler) but was actually released as "Songs From The Mirror". It includes a great assortment of songs that have stayed faithful to the original versions. (Question, Boston Tea Party, Fearless, Apeman, Hold Your Head Up, Solo, I Know What I Like, Jeepster and Five Years.)

This is FISH's third solo album. His first was "Vigil in a Wilderness of Mirrors" and then the slightly more Scottish feeling "Internal Exile". FISH wrote all Marillion's songs, so I would say that all the songs he has written could be released as singles. MR FISH is on tour abroad at the moment, but he will be back in England in April. I managed to catch him when he was here last at the Town and Country Club in Leeds. He played numerous hits from both his solo and his Marillion albums, and it was the best two hours of live music I've heard in ages. His current tour is called the "Never Mind The Bullocks" tour and is a Harvey Goldsmith Production (this is the man behind the "Queen" and "Rolling Stone" concerts).

FISH's new album, "Songs From The Mirror" is a piece of work to try to get him back in the charts, or even just played on Radio 1 occasionally. His record sales have not been too good, which is probably down to lack of promotion. I rate this album 9 out of 10 (minus one point because it is just a covers album) and think it is an almost perfect piece of music.



Bentham Traders AGM

Members agreed on a more broadly based committee at the association's annual meeting last month. John Batty, one of the solicitors at Oglethorpe Sturton and Gillibrand, was elected as new chairman and began his duties by thanking Russell Jackson for his long and stalwart service in the post. Margaret Hayton as vice chair and Pam Woof as general secretary ensure continuity in the committee, and the creation of several other posts with responsibility for membership, minutes and publicity will help to spread the administrative work.

In support of the association's developing links with other organisations, members agreed to run the Duck Race and provide a float for the High Bentham Gala, contribute to Bentham News funds, and begin plans for enhancements to this year's Christmas late shopping night. A membership drive, targeting self-employed people, out of town and non-retail businesses is planned, and ideas are being sought for additions to Bentham's calendar of annual events now that the Horse Fair is no more.

FIGHTING THE PIT CLOSURES

By Chris Paice

At the meeting organised by North Craven Labour Party at the Black Bull on the 8th March, there were two speakers. One gave a fact filled passionate talk about the plight of the mines, and the other explained the role of Women Against Pit Closures.

Offers of help and support are always welcome (tel 61634.)

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- ★ Confirmation of insurance cover must be received by *BBQ* before dispatch.

The *BBQ* will be dispatched on a first come first served basis.

Recipes can be furnished to any prospective user. An example of what delicious fayre can be created on a barbecue follows in the next column.

Tel Antonia on 62900

to book the *BBQ* for your event!

BARBECUE RECIPE

PITTA BURGERS

- 2 eggs beaten
- 1 tsp turmeric
- 1 tsp cumin
- 1/4 tsp cayenne pepper
- 2 cloves garlic, very finely chopped
- 2 lbs freshly minced lean beef
- 4 ozs fresh breadcrumbs
- 8 stoned green olives, chopped
- 6 pitta breads, halved
- lettuce to garnish

Beat eggs with turmeric, cumin and cayenne pepper, stir in garlic.

Mix meat, breadcrumbs and chopped olives into the egg mixture. Form 12 burgers. Cook on barbecue for 5 - 6 minutes either side.

When burgers are nearly ready, warm the pitta bread halves on the side of the barbecue. Place the cooked burger inside the pitta bread with chopped lettuce to garnish.

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EDITORIAL INFORMATION

BENTHAM NEWS is published at 7, Jubilee Buildings, Main Street, High Bentham by an editorial committee consisting of Tony Bennett, Shirley Brown, Tom Cahill, Keith Cowling, Wendy Dowbiggin, Christine Hodson, Ken Robertson, Kate Steele, Jean West, Pam Woolf 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.

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

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

Every effort is made to ensure that information contained in the paper is correct. However, **BENTHAM NEWS** is an open access paper and views and opinions expressed are not necessarily those of the editorial committee. The committee reserves the right to edit contributions, including letters. Please note that although we are willing to withhold names on request, names and addresses must accompany all items for publication.

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

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

Boxed advert on a standing order £9.00 per month

Non-local advertisers:

Boxed advert (one-eighth of a page) £15.00 each insertion

BENTHAM PEOPLE PAGE

Thanks and Personal Notices:

£1.00 per 10 words

Small ads: £2.00 per 10 words

Additional features:

First line in bold type: 50p extra

Box surround: 50p extra

FLYERS / INSERTS

The *Bentham News* delivery service provides excellent coverage of the area for the distribution of flyers or inserts. Please contact the *Bentham News* Coordinator to discuss your requirements. Rates are as follows:

Business/Commercial: £100.00

Charitable services: £25.00

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

Rachels Cycle Surgery

Rachel C. Murton

- * Qualified Cycle Mechanic (City & Guilds)
- * Full Service and Repairs
- * Reconditioning of Second Hand Cycles
- * Free collection & Delivery

**PARK COTTAGE,
DEER PARK LANE,
HORNBY.**

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