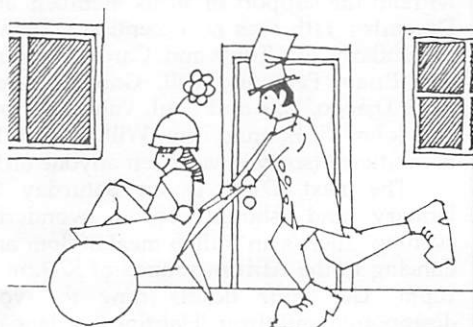


BENTHAM NEWS



OFF TO A GOOD START!

by Keith Dixon

Perhaps the first event of real significance to occur in Bentham in 1994 was a wheelbarrow race. Organised in aid of the Goodenber Play Area, it began at 1.00 pm on January 1st and followed a gruelling course up Goodenber Road and down Robin Lane, starting and finishing at the *Horse and Farrier*.

It attracted 8 teams of racers (each consisting of one "runner", one "rider" and one wheelbarrow) and a crowd of some 200 voluntary or involuntary spectators.

Winners were, first, Paul Morphet with Natasha Goodbrand "up"; second, Andrew Cochrane with Linda Burns "up"; and third, Ian Preston with Ian Harrison "up". Despite coming in well ahead of the rest of the field, Ray Mattinson and Roland Dinsdale were disqualified in that they "did employ unlawful means of propulsion" (to wit, a motorised wheelbarrow)!

This, in the opinion of the judges, fell within the terms of regulation (d) of section 2 of the Wheelbarrow Club Rules defining what shall be deemed "unsportspersonlike behaviour".

Other alleged infringements were duly noted but not investigated in that they did not affect the outcome of the race. It was complained, for example, that one of the "runners" made "excessive use of the whip", and that another was seen to hand over her role to another halfway round the course, and complete the middle part of the race on a bicycle!

No "fallers" were reported and, though some of those pushing did complain of "feeling sick", none of them was in need of medical attention.

cont. on page 4

Come along to the first coffee morning of 1994!

Bentham News committee will be at the Town Hall on **Saturday 15th January** at 10am to serve you coffee and chat. We would appreciate any contributions for our cake stall or unwanted Christmas presents for our Bric A Brac stall. See you there!

JANUARY 1994

ISSUE 87

HIGH BENTHAM W.I.

The Christmas Party went with a bang in more ways than one! An amusing and surprising Christmas Farce was presented by six members, including writer and producer Faith Wilson. This was followed by a buffet prepared by the committee and the evening ended with carols sung to the accompaniment of the keyboard played by Ruth Parkinson. Next meeting 6th January. Visitors welcome.

HIGH BENTHAM PLAYGROUP

A massive £800 was raised at the Christmas Extravaganza held on the 25th November. Raffle winners included Christine Louth, Maxine Halstead, Sharon Telford and Rachel Ashton. Russian Raffle prize winners included Mary Murphy, Jane Marshall and Heather Carter. The winner of the Bride Doll was Ryan Hilton - Christmas Cake was won by Sharon Telford. Thanks to all the local traders who donated raffle prizes and to all the parents

DECEMBER 'OFF THE WALL' PARTY

What a night we had on December 11th! The local talent was out in force and gave us a wonderful cabaret evening, including recitations, juggling, digeree-doing, singing and other live music.

Special thanks must go to Keith Dixon for masterminding the entertainment and to Tash, Sean, Jane and Anne for organising not only this weekend, but all the previous OTW's. OTW would not be possible without the support of all its members and December 11th was no exception. Thanks particularly to:- Tony and Carol, Margaret and Brian, Pete and Gill, Gareth, Derek, Paul, Django, Jane and Paul, Vanessa, Tracy and John, Vi, Bonnie, Tom, Will and all the babysitters!! (sorry if we've left anyone off!)

The next OTW is on Saturday 22 January and should be a wonderful evening. There's an Indian meal at 8pm and dancing to the African sounds of K'Dum at 10pm. Get your tickets now to avoid disappointment! (from 'Hairlines' or Jane on 62277).

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BENTHAM HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

from Mrs A. Shallcross

At the AGM on the 15th November a small profit was reported by the treasurer, and finances remained in a reasonably healthy state. The officers were re-elected for a further year as follows:- Chairperson - Mr J. Robinson, Vice Chairperson - Mrs M. Robinson, Secretary/Show Secretary - Mrs A. Shallcross, Treasurer - Mr P. Marshall. Mr F. Johnson was proposed as President and was duly elected.

The Chairman thanked the committee for their support. He stated that although local exhibitors were dwindling, support from farther afield was strong. He appealed once more for more help to keep the Society going.

TOWN COUNCIL

by Jean West

Deputy Mayor Hurtley chaired the meeting and Councillors present were: Bateson, Telford, Cowling, Hewitt, Jackson, Joel, Marshall, Dowbiggin, and Preston. Also in attendance were District Councillors Pilkington and Atkinson, five members of the public and two police officers.

POLICE MATTERS

Responding to a letter from Mrs. Val Cutter which said that the '*public wants more bobbies on the beat not at meetings in halls*', PC Kay replied that there is a manpower shortage, that PCs ran the surgeries after completing their 8-hour shifts, and that only one member of the public had attended the police surgeries. Cllrs. expressed concern about the recent spate of burglaries and asked if there was any progress on the recruitment of Special Constables.

LAIRGILL FOOTPATH

No progress on this, and our MP, David Curry, had to cancel a recent meeting where this would have been discussed. Cllr. Atkinson recommended that the TC submit a traffic calming application to NYCC Highway Dept. *Let's hope that there won't be a serious accident while these important matters are being considered.*

MARKET: WASTE AND WATER PROBLEMS

It seems that the Market leave too much refuse and that the TC may have to pay extra to have it removed. Councillors are going to inspect the waste disposal arrangements before the next meeting. It also appears that the TC is under no obligation to provide water for the market, and it was agreed that the supply should be turned off.

POOR PARKING

There were complaints about inconsiderate parking leading to traffic congestion near the Spar shop. Concern was expressed that fire engines, ambulances and doctors may not be able to get through in an emergency.

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A site meeting has also taken place at the Coop who are attempting to look at the problems their delivery vehicles encounter. It seems that Cross Lane, Low Bentham also has parking difficulties.

Local people are not only failing to control their use of cars and proper parking spaces, but also their dogs! Cllr. Dowbiggin drew attention to the continuing problem of dog fouling within the village, and Cllr. Atkinson advised that new Dog Bye Laws are soon to come into force. So, come on dog and car owners, be more considerate!

DISTRICT AND COUNTY COUNCILLORS' REPORTS

Cllr Pilkington reported that after the Budget there will be reductions in many areas, particularly in housing, and that Local Govt reorganisation seems to be in a state of confusion at present. Cllr Atkinson reported on police accountability, Sunday Trading proposals and Parish Forum progress.

BITS AND BOBS

Cllr Hewitt drew attention to water seepage from new housing which is affecting Low Bentham Primary School playing field. Thwaites Brewery say they will arrange to cut back the shrubs on their land near the Sundial Inn in the interests of public safety. Footpath repairs look unlikely in the near future as these are considered to have low priority. Pedestrians should continue to walk with great care in the Duke Street and Ashbank areas.

'WHAT DID YOU SAY?'

As a PA system would be far too expensive to install for TC meetings, it was agreed that Councillors should speak up, and members of the public were encouraged to let them know if they could not hear what was being said.

TIME STOOD STILL!

Time seems to be standing still in Bentham, according to the Town Hall clock which keeps stopping! It seems that the solution is simple, it just needs winding up!

A glance at my trusty wristwatch showed that the meeting closed at 9.35pm, precisely!

HIGH BENTHAM TOY LIBRARY

from Lynda Rushton

On Thursday 18th November a meeting was held to arrange where, when and how a toy library could be set up in High Bentham. A small questionnaire has taken place to try to find out if there is a need, what sort of toys are needed and what time and day to open a toy library.

We are pleased report that the Toy Library WILL open at the YOUTH CLUB (opposite the Spar) on Tuesday 1st February at 10am. - 1pm, and fortnightly from then on.

There are a large number of toys including a small slide, Activity Bear, Take apart wooden ambulance, Large road playmat, Brio trian set, Duplo world people and lots lots more. Come along and take a look at the catalogue or ring (05242) 62383.

A coffee morning, with cake stall, Tombola etc will take place on the first morning with an annual fee of £1.50 and 20p per toy per fortnight. BUT SAVE 50p anyone who comes on Tuesday 1st February 1994 will only pay £1 instead of £1.50.

To help organise and run the Toy Library a committee was formed, Chairwoman - Lynda Rushton, Secretary - Sandra Thistlethwaite, Treasurer - Julie Taylor. Shaun Lockwood, Field worker to Craven Under 8's, who was on hand to help with choice of suitable toys etc. Christine Hodson, the Health Visitor, is keeping a close eye on the whole project and feels it will be of great help in and around Bentham.

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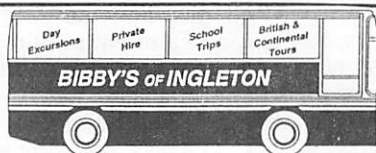
4

Skipton Toy Library is helping out with an agreement to lease a few of their toys until we can raise funds to buy enough toys, so we can start earlier than first hoped. The Youth Club room is being given free of charge. All toys not hired out will be used by the self help groups that meet there. So all the toys will be in use at all times.

Ann Keeble, the Under 8's worker for Craven, has kindly agreed to open the Toy Library. Fund raising (including a "Design a poster" competition) will start early in the New Year.

cont. from page 1

The race raised over £70 for the Play Area. Thanks are due to the organisers (in particular to John and Tracey Midgeley who, at the very last minute, managed to gather together enough wheelbarrows to enable the race to take place, and who took responsibility afterwards for returning them to their rightful owners). Also to Mitchell's brewery for providing one of the prizes - a bottle of whisky.



BIBBY'S OF INGLETON

1994 Coach Holidays

- 11 March London Weekend £86
- 14 April Paris Weekend £107
- 14 May 7 days Dungarvan £269
- 22 July 6 days Isle of Man £229
- 19 June 10 days Austria £339
- 23 July 9 days Switzerland £375
- 30 July 8 days Torquay £269
- 4 August 9 days Rhine Valley £345
- 28 August 7 days Newtonmore £259
- 17 Sept 8 days Isle of Wight £249
- 18 Sept 13 days Italy £449
- 2 Oct 6 days Bundoran, Co. Donegal £209

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SETTLE HIGH NEWS

by Christine White and Shirley Brown

'STUDENTS WANT TO COME TO SCHOOL' was the shock horror claim by headteacher, Trevor Wear, as he commented on the Government's 'League Table' of school truancy rates. In fact the 0.13% truancy rate at SHS compares favourably with those from other schools in N. Yorkshire. The school has an 'automatic pick-up system' by which staff contact parents directly over any unexplained absences from school.

At SHS students are not only involved in the scholarly activities of the National Curriculum, but also have available to them a great range of extra-curricular pursuits. These include:

*The Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme.

*Music: in December the orchestra and Wind Band held a successful concert of music ranging from early Mozart to the world of modern Rock.

*Drama: the Christmas play, 'A Jovial Crew', played to packed houses, and was both innovative and exciting, and involved large numbers of pupils.

*Practical Skills: the recent Craft and Produce Show organised by the BTec Business and Finance Group included classes for art, craft, photography, produce, computers and agriculture, which enabled pupils to use both imagination and skill.

*Foreign Trips: as part of the 3-years-old exchange between Ordup College, Copenhagen and SHS, 24 Danes recently stayed with local families, and next year Settle students will enhance their social and cultural education by visiting Copenhagen.

*Art: a trip to York City Art Gallery to see Phillip Cox's life-sized sculptures was so successful that in January Phillip Cox himself will be coming to Settle for 3 days to do practical sculpture workshops with students.

*Sport: the outstanding success story of Settle's Netball teams continues! The Clitheroe and District Netball League have voted both the U19 team and the B team with the 'sporting team award' for their positive approach to sport and their

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demonstrations of fair play, a great honour. Bentham's own, Laura Widdop, was runner-up for the 'Player of the Year' Award.

*Individual Adventures: Clare Mason, from Clapham, will be joining 48 other young people on the 1994 Expedition to Kenya organised by the N. Yorkshire Schools Exploring Society. There she will meet the challenge of learning about a very different culture and way of life. She was chosen after a gruelling selection process, where the 'survival cuisine' posed an extra challenge to vegetarian Clare (she didn't eat the rabbit!).

With all this going on, you'd be stupid to play truant! Think what you'd be missing!

MINIBUS SAFETY

Following November's horrific school minibus accident in the Midlands, great public concern has been expressed about the safety of minibuses. John Collins, Community Tutor based at SHS, was asked about the safety of minibus travel from Settle. He explained that SHS belongs to the 'Youth Wheels' scheme which has a minibus based at SHS's Youth Wing. All the seats in this minibus are front-facing, and all are fitted with seat belts. The minibus has a Class V MOT certificate, like other public service vehicles and is fitted with a tachograph.

Drivers have to be over 25, hold a clean driving licence and undergo a 'competence to drive' test before they can be included on the insurance. The minibus is serviced every month by Ribblesdale Motors, and there is a policy of replacing the vehicle every 4 years.

'We do all we can to make sure that, in the awful event of an accident, we give everyone the best possible chance of escaping injury.'

If anyone has any concerns about the Youth Wheels Minibus, John Collins will be pleased to discuss these with you. He can be contacted at the SHS Youth Wing tel: (0729) 823312.

POLICE FILE 999

from Sgt. David Cochrane

Perhaps I should take this opportunity to introduce myself. I am Sergeant David Cochrane and I have recently transferred from Skipton to take up responsibility for the Ingleton area. Some of you may remember that I was the Community Affairs Sergeant at Skipton throughout 1992. It is my hope that I can form a point of contact within the local community and to that end I would like to encourage members of the public and groups or organisations to get in touch. I hope also to be invited to local venues to gauge local concerns and answer any problems about local policing.

Sadly my first article marks an increase in crime within the area. A total of 14 crimes have been recorded since November with a dramatic increase in burglary particularly to buildings other than dwellings. A number of commercial businesses have been attacked with substantial loss of property (e.g. Bentham Sportswear and the Spar Shop) as well as local private garages.

Prior to such crimes the offenders often visit the area to have a look round and are often seen and stand out as they are strangers. We need the assistance of yourselves. If you see strangers in the area or people just hanging around, we would appreciate a call. It would help to have a car number.

The following figures represent crimes recorded locally in Bentham

BURGLARY - (dwelling) 1

BURGLARY - (non-dwelling) 7

GOING EQUIPPED TO STEAL - 1
(person arrested)

THEFT FROM VEHICLE - 1

THEFT OF VEHICLE - 1

On a more positive note a number of persons have been arrested in the area whilst travelling through from other counties having committed crimes in those areas. Fortunately they were apprehended before committing crime in this area.

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Indiscriminate parking is still a problem and to date a number of motorists have been dealt with by way of fixed penalty tickets. We shall continue to monitor and take appropriate action.

Police surgeries were not a success. Yes I am aware that some views expressed that we could utilise our time better. I would like to make it clear that the officers attended voluntarily in their own time, either after completing a day shift or more often than not on their rest day.

In conclusion I would like to ask local residents to contact me with local problems that concern them. I can only reiterate that I and my officers have no control over the numbers of police officers that work in the area but we are keen to offer the best service we can given our current strength. Any complaints that are put to me, about manpower levels, I can only refer to a higher authority.

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COUNCIL CONCERNS



A HAPPY AND PROSPEROUS NEW YEAR TO ALL READERS OF THE BENTHAM NEWS.

1994/95 COUNCIL BUDGETS

After the Chancellor's November budget we were all scared of more than inflationary cuts in local government caps and grants. However, due to John Gummer's juggling with North/South and Rural/Metropolitan equations we haven't come out too badly. True, at County, we are faced with a 2.3% increase rather than the 3.5% one we had initially catered for. This means another million pounds or so to dredge out of the system and a possible increase in the Council Tax (Band D average) of £20 - £30. But at Craven we have been allowed an increase in SSA (Govt. estimate of expenditure and hence cap) 6% over last year - a tribute to our careful budgeting in the past(?) - overall not more than a £25-£35 increase in Council Tax. This is, of course, a hidden increase in central government taxes not mentioned by our dearly beloved Chancellor.

DOG DIRT AGAIN

Judging by the increasing number of complaints about dog dirt on the streets, especially in Bentham, dog owners are getting careless again. Fortunately some relief is on the horizon. The by-laws so long promised have now been submitted to the Secretary of State and can be expected to be ratified early in the New Year. Amongst other things these specify areas where owners must clean up after their pets and areas where dogs are not allowed at all at pain of quite hefty fines. So inconsiderate dog owners be warned!

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GOVERNMENT BY PATRONAGE

I've aired my views on the creeping danger to local government democracy of appointed boards and trusts lacking true accountability. The latest are the Govt's proposals for managing the potential EU grants (Objective 5B) which have no input by elected members at all.

CAR PARK CHARGES

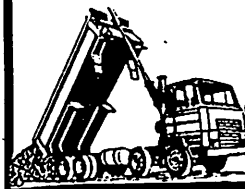
Two of the subjects which provoke the most passionate debate at Council are charges for car parks and public toilets. Bentham, and some other village are lucky in being free of both of these costs. A proposal to raise parking charges at Ingleton by 25%, in the interests of conformity across the District, was defeated but people without district passes will still have to pay 70p for 4 hours. However, charges for public toilets are set to double - from 5p to 10p which, as Bentham Town Council has been told, hardly touches the modern cost of some £60 to £80,000 for a vandal proof toilet.

LOCAL MANAGEMENT IN SCHOOLS

Boards of Governors in our local schools are now struggling with the implications of LMS as it is called. Being a governor involves more work and more responsibility than ever before and we should be very grateful to those who have taken on this task. It is not easy, and some of the things Governors are being asked to do, like taking responsibility for the curriculum and awarding points to teachers for efficiency are patently beyond the proper role of volunteers. We are very fortunate that we have good head teachers to help and guide us.

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We had a good trip to *Waves* in Blackburn. This is a very popular place with our members. 25 of them came on the trip.

We worked quite hard getting the Youth Club prepared for Santa's Grotto. Thanks to all the members who helped decorate the club and those who helped on the night. Unfortunately we didn't make very much money on our cafe but we enjoyed it anyway.

In the New Year we have invited members of Heysham Youth Club to come and visit us. They will arrive on Saturday 29th January. We're planning an afternoon of outdoor activities, a shared meal cooked by the senior members, followed by a disco.

Also in the New Year, we are changing our opening times:

Mondays: Juniors only from 6 - 7.30 pm

Mondays: Seniors only from 7.30 - 9 pm

Wednesday: Seniors only from 7 - 9 pm

Juniors may start to come when they are 10 years old even if they are still at primary school. Seniors are those who are over 13 years old.

Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme:

In the New Year it will be possible to gain D of E awards in Bentham. A D of E field officer has been appointed to set this up. If you are doing D of E at the moment at Settle, you can now do it in Bentham on Mondays from 7.30 - 9 pm. If you would like to start doing D of E, contact Vi on 62688 or Richard Phillips on 0729 824083. We're also seeking adults, male or female, to assist in the training of candidates who wish to gain their awards. If you are interested, please contact Vi or Richard.

Self Defence with Stephen Lund: Stephen was European Junior Judo Champion in the 80's. He has since taught Aikido to new recruits in the Army. His course is open to males and females over the age of 14. Stephen will teach various techniques to enable you to feel safe in different situations and handle them with confidence. Classes start on Tuesday, 11th January at 7.30 pm in the Youth Club.

Music Workshops with Mark Bradshaw:

Mark has taught music in London, Tanzania and Botswana. No previous musical experience is needed to join his course. Just bring an instrument along and Mark will teach you to play it on your own and with other people. Classes start on Wednesday 12th January and are open to any-one (including adults) over 14 years old.

There is also a new art class starting on Tuesday 11th January from 7.30 to 9.30 pm.

Come along and learn something new this winter!

Vi Christensen

METHODIST SOCIAL AFFAIRS CONSULTATION.

by Stephen Dawson.

At a recent meeting, guest speaker John Fidler, encouraged local Christians to enter the political arena. He reminded the meeting that many rural problems had a political solution and churches had to play their part. Dialogue with decision-makers is essential.

Cllr. John Pilkington outlined rural housing needs and pitfalls, and Veronica Hendricks (from St. John's Settle) spoke on third world debt and the proposed Year of Jubilee in the year 2000.

The Rev. John Bennett (also from the Settle area) explained some of his own forays into political issues and the challenges that these had raised.

At a coffee evening which preceded the consultation, £56 was raised for the Methodist Relief and Development Fund. The TEAR Fund Christmas stall made £47.

BENTHAM MEN IN BOSNIA

BY O.G.W.

How would you fancy being called out to recover a full petrol tanker that had slid off a mountain road and turned on its side in an area that is known to be mined? And, as soon as that is recovered, go to rescue a Scimitar AFV that has slid over the edge on the same road. And, following that go to the assistance of an aid vehicle? Or dive into the river at Mostar to survey the pillars of the bridge blown up in fighting. All this in a country teeming with armed volatile undisciplined rabble!

Well, that's just one day in the lives of two Bentham soldiers serving with the British Army as part of the U.N. in Bosnia. They both say the same thing: "Keeping so busy the time flies past" - the understatement of the year 1993-94.

Rob Mather and Gavin West both of Lairgill, High Bentham are serving in the same unit - 11 Field Squadron R.E. Rob is a corporal combat engineer, serving with the Royal Engineers, who are involved in the construction of roads, bridges, camps for the soldiers, keeping the aid routes open, he is also a qualified diver and has used this skill in Bosnia.

Gavin West is a sergeant in the Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers (REME) and his current duties are vehicle recovery. He and his crew are on 24 hour standby and are called out with great regularity to try to rescue the many vehicles that come to grief on the single track mountain roads in the atrocious conditions, now that winter has really arrived with sub-zero temperatures and heavy snow. An added complication is that the various factions use the same roads to move their artillery and troops around. His other task is working on supply to the various bases in the British area of responsibility.



They are both based at Tomoslavgrad - a Croatian town on the Split to Vitez road, their base is quite comfortable, but both men spend a lot of time out at places like Vitez, Gornj Vacuf in the main war zone where everyone seems to be shelling and fighting each other.

Needless to say they are both looking forward to a few days leave in January '94 before returning to finish their tour of duty. We wish them, and all the rest of the lads and lasses, who are trying to help in that sad country, a safe return.



Bentham News received this delightful poem from a reader who (modestly) requested to remain anonymous. We feel it is a lovely way to remember what was a memorable evening in Bentham.

LATE NIGHT SHOPPING

Bentham folk, both young and old,
Well wrapped up against the cold,
Watched the fireworks shooting high
Up into the star-lit sky,
A good start to the evening's fun,
We felt that Christmas had begun.

Overhead the bright lights twinkled,
In the shops, the glasses tinkled,
As traders proffered wine and sherry
Free of charge! We soon got merry,
And with mince pies and other treats
We wandered up and down the streets.

What? we said. No carol singers?
No brass band nor hand bell ringers?
Where they were nobody knew,
(We later heard they'd got the flu)
We thought it really was a shame,
A "Silent Night" just not the same.
But this apart, it was well done;
A Happy New Year to everyone!
"Two Revellers"

LOCAL EVENTS IN JANUARY

- Tues 4th Bentham Child Health Clinic at "The Surgery" 1pm - 4pm.
- Thurs 6th High Bentham W.I. Speaker - Joy Morgan. Topic - Gertrude Jekyll. Competition - Postcard or photo of a garden. Vistors welcome.
- Tues 11th Bentham Methodist Church "Bright Hour" at 2.15pm. Speaker - Rev. J. Paterson.
- Tatham Fells W.I. at Lowgill Primary School at 7.30pm. Speaker - Mr. David Alexander. Subject - "Humorous Claims." Competition - Home drawn cartoon entitled "New Year's Day".
- Bentham and District Camera Club "What's New in Photographic Shops" by Mr. Reg Stodden.
- Sat 15th Bentham News coffee morning in the Lower Town Hall 10am - 12noon.
- Sun 16th Guided Walk - Flannagill - Holly Tree, 4 - 5 miles. Leader Ken Walton (tel 62382) Please meet at Bentham Bridge 1pm.
- Tues 18th Angus Pensioners meeting. Slides and maps entitled "Watch this Space, 6 Missions to the Moon."

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- Tues 18th Bentham Child Health Clinic at "The Surgery" 1pm - 4pm.
- Fri 21st **WASTE PAPER COLLECTION** at the Legion Hall 8.30am - 11am. Proceeds to the N.S.P.C.C.
- The Countryside Society AGM and members evening at 7.45pm at Hornby Institute.
- Sat 22nd Age Concern coffee morning in the Lower Town Hal 10am - 12 noon.
- "Off the Wall" in the Town Hall. 8pm for wonderful Indian Food. 10pm for dancing to African music by K'dum. Tickets from Hairlines or from Jane, tel 62277.
- Tues 25th Bentham and District Camera Club meeting. Speaker Rev. Ken Clapham, Hon Chaplain to NASA. Subject - "Watch this Space".
- Sat 29th Panto coffee morning 10am - 12 noon in the Lower Town Hall. Panto tickets for "Pied Piper" will be on sale.
- Guided Walk Ingleton - Chapel le Dale, 8 miles. Leader Frank Royston, tel 41725. Please meet at Ingleborough Community Centre at 10am.
- Mon 31st Ewecross Historical Society in the Lower Town Hall at 7.30pm. Speaker - Dr. John Todd. Subject - "St. Bees Man".

LOCAL EVENTS IN FEBRUARY

- Tues 1st High Bentham Toy Library opens in the Youth Club, 10am - 1pm.
- Sat 5th St. Margaret's coffee morning 10am - 12 noon in the Lower Town Hall,
- Children's Disco, in the Town Hall, in aid of "Cot Death" research.

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THE CANDIDATE WHO NEVER WAS!

by Stephen Dawson.

At Bentham Conservatives' Annual Supper the speaker was Robert Goodwill, who was to have been our candidate for the European Parliament. However boundary changes now mean that our new Euro-constituency will be "North Yorkshire" and the candidate is to be Edward MacMillan-Scott, who will be visiting Bentham soon. Elections will be held in June 94 and we are hoping to motivate more people to vote, improving the normal 30% turn out rate at Euro-elections.

Despite the European flavour to the evening the menu was great British roast beef and Yorkshire pudding, beautifully prepared by Sheila and Derek Wade, new stewards at Bentham Golf Club. *Editors note:- We are sorry the above article did not appear last month, but it missed the deadline. May we remind our contributors to submit their articles by the 15th!*

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NEW SUPERVISOR FOR LOW BENTHAM PLAYGROUP

Bentham News has received an interview with the new supervisor of Low Bentham, Janet Dobson, by Lin Barrington.

Were you born in Bentham?

Only one mile away, in Mewith, on a farm called 'Flannagill' near the Green Smithy.

What qualifications have you that enable you to run a playgroup?

Last year I completed the P.P.A., 200 hour Diploma Course in Playgroup Practice at Lancaster & Morecambe College. I achieved level 4 in this (interviewers note:- this is the highest level) this qualification is recognised by the Social Services Dept..

Will you be doing any more courses or furthering your qualifications at all?

I would like to do a B. Tech course sometime in the future back at Lancaster College. It would also be nice to go to a P.P.A. Tutors course, but these are held in York and that's a long way to travel!

What aspect of your job do you enjoy most?

Its got to be the 'friendship' with the children. They give so much back and you have to earn their respect. Its a great pleasure to watch children happily playing and occupied. Its a challenge to provide well presented play activities, which allows them to experiment, to have fun and which gives them some motivation to learn. Its very satisfying to sometimes get it right.

Where is the Playgroup and what days and times is it open?

Low Bentham Institute.

Tuesdays 2 1/2 - 5 years 9.45am - 11.45am.

Thursdays (mother and Toddler) 0 - 5 years 9.45am - 11.45am.

Is the Playgroup open to the children of High Bentham and surrounding villages?

Yes. It is open to any child as long as there are vacancies.

What activities do you include in a normal session at Playgroup?

We try to provide as wide a variety as possible. Sand, paint, dough, imaginative

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play together with physical apparatus which will always be available. Pencils, scissors, glue, construction and water play are also very important.

What 2 books and records would you take on a desert island?

Tim by Colleen McCullough and the whole 11 books in the Poldark series by Winston Graham. MUSIC - Enya:- Watermark and Chris De Burgh:- Spark to a flame.

What's your favourite meal?

Chicken cooked any way.

If you could improve the playgroup in anyway what would you suggest?

It would be lovely to have a purpose built centre, with everything geared to the size of the children. It would be great not to have to pack everything away after each session, and be able to display our work on the walls.

What new years resolution have you made and how long will you keep it?

I always say each year I will do more in the garden and keep the weeds at bay more regularly. Here's hoping - at least until the Spring!

.....and finally!

The Playgroup is only as good as the 'people' who are involved in running it. Without help and support from a good committee, parents, carers and assistant playleader, playgroup could not exist, its a great 'Team Effort'!

Low Bentham although only a small village can be justly proud that it manages to maintain its own playgroup.

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GARDENING PAGE

from Joyce Knapp and Jo Taylor.

With the weather of late, sitting in front of the fire looking at seed catalogues feels a much better option than actually being outside in the garden. So if you do venture out its the time of year to restructure your garden, if it needs it, mine was thrown together last January. So now having experienced Summer and Autumn here I've got to know which spots are sunny, wet or shady. So I am moving plants to what now feels like a more suitable place for their individual requirements. (An excellent book to help with this is "RIGHT PLANT, RIGHT PLACE" by Nicola Ferguson PAN BOOKS)

The hostas, lamium, epimedium, vinca, skimmia, helebore's and violas are all being moved to the shade under my damson tree. The lupins, delphiniums, valerian, japanese anemone and all the herbacious plants to the sunny border where, I hope, the tall ones will help prop each other up.

When moving things about it is important NOT to get frozen soil down with the roots, so when you dig a hole move the icy soil well away, (frost usually only goes down a couple of inches). Be very careful not to knock frozen soil back into the hole while planting, as it could kill the plant. Raspberries, in particular, have tender roots.

In the depths of winter we can often find time to plan the layout of next season's vegetable plot, where one of the main considerations has to be rotation. This is important because if vegetables are grown in the same position year after year, then a build up of pests and diseases can occur in the soil. Also crop rotation is used to avoid depleting the soil of the specific nutrients needed by any given plant. Each plant requires different levels of nitrogen, phosphorous and potash as well as needing trace elements.

When planning my plot I also consider such things as shelter, i.e. a row of peas can be grown next to a row of lettuce, providing shade from the sun and preventing scorching.

As well as moving vegetables I also rotate strawberry beds on a four year basis

14 by planting a selection of the strongest runners produced the previous Autumn, in a new position. The reason I do this is to avoid the disease botrytis developing. Strawberries are also heavy feeders particularly of phosphorous, so they need lots of seaweed meal in spring. I have only touched briefly on strawberries here and may enlarge on the subject later in the year.

This is also a time to encourage birds into the garden to eat unwanted insects wintering there. A small piece of fat gets the birds queuing up to eat it.



While they are waiting, hopefully they'll eat the aphids and other bugs sheltering in cracks and under banks.

Getting nature to work for us is part of the fun of gardening organically. It is so much more interesting than just running for a handy spray without knowing what it really does.

As we asked last month, let us know what you want to read / learn about.

The Bentham Organic Gardening Group meets on the 1st Tuesday of each month, new members are very welcome. Contact Pauline on 21722 or Jo on 21776 for the venue of the meeting.

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LETTER

Dear Editor,

I'm writing to complain about the Spar opening. First we get told Reg Holsworth is coming. Some of us were very excited about this, but then that's cancelled and we get told Mr. Blobby's coming, even then I was quite excited. I cancelled going down to my friend's house because I wanted to go to see him. When I got there, he was fake, and you could see that easily. He was furry and he didn't blob about at all. He just stood there looking hopeless and nothing to be excited about.

Karen Kennedy (age 10)

BENTHAM SCHOOL NEWS

It was lovely to see the Carol Service and Junior Nativity so well attended by parents and friends. The school play, 'Peer Gynt', was an outstanding success and hopefully all who had occasion to see it were impressed by the professionalism of the whole production.

The school social services group continue with their monthly can and waste paper collections in Bentham, providing a valuable service to the community.

Bentham School wishes all the Bentham News Readers a very Happy New Year.

PRIMARY SCHOOL's TREE THEME

Digging in hard for conservation recently were Class 2 of High Bentham CP School. On 3rd December, with help from parents, oak, beech, rowan, silver birch and alder (25 trees in all) were added to the 140 already planted over the past 8 years.

The trees were bought from the International Tree Foundation with money that was donated by 'Africa Link', who are based on Wenning Avenue, and the school is very grateful to them.

After planting, the pupils wrote poems about trees, and here are two of them.

I WAS A TREE

by Jonathan David Wood

I was a tall fir tree,
the sun shone and birds made nests in me.
A chopper came one summers day,
it cut me down and took me away.
They put me in a big machine,
it minced me up and made me clean.
I was made into a newspaper one day,
then I was just thrown away.

THE SYCAMORE TREE IN SUMMER

(poet's name not supplied)

The Sycamore tree, my favourite one of all
Because it is so strong and tall
Lovely flowers, all pale green
Big shady leaves fresh and clean.
Lots of creatures make homes in the tree
If we look carefully some we might see
With ropes tied to branches it's great fun
swinging
While the sun is shining and the birds
singing.
When Autumn comes seeds twirl round
and round
Blown by the breeze they fall to the ground.

THE PIED PIPER IS COMING TO TOWN

by Margaret Cowling

The New Year will see the Panto people busily rehearsing for 'The Pied Piper of Hamelin', which will be performed during the February half-term, Wednesday 16th-Saturday 19th.

Jane Reas has written the script so it's bound to be lots of fun! Again, there'll be a mixture of new faces and old familiar ones, and plenty of children acting, singing and dancing. Tickets will be on sale at the Panto Coffee Morning on Saturday 29th January.

See you there!

BENTHAM PEOPLE

PERSONAL THANKS

NEWHOUSE - Margaret Newhouse would like to thank everyone for prayers, cards, gifts and visits during her recent stay in hospital and convalescence. Thanks also to social services and special thanks to the voluntary helpers in the Sue Ryder Shop.

HILL - John and Zoey, of Wenning Avenue, would like to let everyone know that they appreciated the kind thoughts, flowers and gifts received during their recent hospital visit and the last few weeks. Thank you all.

PATRICKSON - Congratulations to Arthur and Eva of "Gowbarrow" Bentham, who celebrated their Diamond Wedding Anniversary on the 1st January 1994. From all the staff at R. Turner & Son.

"Springboard" would like to thank everyone who helped in any way to make the Christmas Pudding Sale such a success. Despite a cold wet night, it was very enjoyable and £204 was raised.

CARTER - Neil and Jane would like to say a big thank you to all who sent cards and gifts for Sara Lousie's long awaited arrival.

CARTER - Jane would like to say a very big thank you to Neil for being with her every bit of the way.

MILLAR - Mrs Margaret Millar would like to thank relatives, friends and neighbours for their cards, gifts and good wishes during her recent stay in hospital. She would also like to wish everyone a Happy New Year!

HOSFIELD - Margaret, now resident at Burndale House, wishes to thank her friends for the cards and presents she received at Christmas, she would also like to wish everyone a Happy New Year.

16 **ERRINGTON** - Marjorie would like to thank all her friends for the cards, presents and help she received during and after her stay in Garnet Clinic recently, and a Happy New Year to you all.

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ACHIEVEMENTS

Deborah Carr of Bankwell, Robin Lane, formerly of Settle High School and York Art College, is now in her 2nd year at John Moore's University, Liverpool and has been selected to spend one month working in a textile studio in New York. She has excelled in one area of textile design and is financing this trip herself. If anyone would like to sponsor Deborah, they can do so by getting in touch with Ruth Carr tel 61321.

GOOD HOME NEEDED

Several large and unruly cheese plants need a good home. Any offers? 62043

HOUSE TO RENT

Cheap house to rent for February, March and April whilst I travel abroad. 62043.

CONCERT REVIEW

from David Greenup

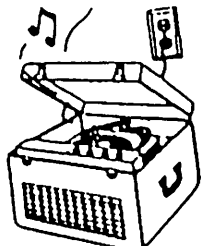
MEATLOAF - EVERYTHING LOUDER TOUR - MANCHESTER G-MEX 10TH DECEMBER

Probably the biggest man in Rock played to a sell out audience for over two and a half hours, and you couldn't fault him once. The concert started at 7.30pm with a four piece string section playing Meatloaf's greatest hits, which was shortly over powered by an electric guitar which made the G-Mex Centre vibrate and the orchestra to run off stage. Then the man himself appeared, MR LOAF, with the most powerful voice in the business singing the most popular songs in the world.

The concert was in two acts with Act 1 starting with *I would do anything for love* which was recently at number one for many weeks at the same time the album *Bat Out of Hell II* was at number one. Meatloaf sang his most recognised songs, *Two Out of Three Ain't Bad*, *You Took the Words Right Out of my Mouth* and *Heaven Can Wait*, but the best received songs were obviously *Bat Out of Hell* and *Paradise by the Dashboard Light* which the crowds went wild over. The gig also consisted of many new songs like *Out of the Frying Pan*, *Life is a lemon*, and *Everything Louder than Everything Else*, which I am glad to say was in Meat's typical brilliant style.

What can I say, two and a half hours of heaven and not one fault. Good to see Meatloaf back in the charts and back on form.

I give Meatloaf 10 out of 10 and your are a fool if you don't go and see him as his tour covers 93, 94 and ends in 1995, so there's no excuse for missing it.



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ROOM THERMOMETERS FOR NEW BABIES

from Judy Park - Health Visitor

All new babies born in Bentham, Ingleton, Burton in Lonsdale and surrounding areas will receive a room thermometer thanks to Rebecca and John Taylor's fund raising efforts.

Their baby, Arthur, sadly died of Sudden Infant Death Syndrome, and they are keen that no-one else will have to suffer as they are doing.

The health visitor will give parents of new babies a room thermometer and advice about trying to prevent cot-death.

Rebecca, John and the health visitors hope, in this way, to raise awareness and provide information so that parents of new babies can do everything possible to reduce their baby's risk of cot-death.

Ways of reducing the risk

- ◆ Try to put your baby to sleep on his/her back.
- ◆ Keep your baby warm but not overheated.
- ◆ Create a smoke free zone for your baby.



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BENTHAM REGENERATION PROJECT BIDS FOR EURO CASH

by Keith Cowling

Last year North Yorkshire County Council took the unusual step of making a bid to the EC for 'Objective 5b' funding. This most recent objective for EC Structural Funds concerns aid for rural areas with vulnerable agricultural industry where the economy needs to be diversified. At the time the application seemed to have little hope of success. The money that each country gets from the EC is fixed in a 'cake-cutting' deal in Brussels, and so for North Yorkshire to get some would mean somewhere else in UK losing theirs. The application was mainly intended to focus media attention on the plight of North Yorkshire's hill farmers.

But a year later, following strong support from government, things are looking very different. The county is close to having £19 million to spend on local economic regeneration targeted on needy areas including North Craven. The European Commission approved North Yorkshire's application just before Christmas.

Since Bentham already has a study of its needs and opportunities under way, concentrating on those areas where North Yorkshire want to spend their Euro cash, the Bentham Trust took the opportunity to submit an early bid for some of the European money for projects in Bentham.

18 Although there are bound to be others trying for 'a piece of the action', thanks to the Civic Trust Team, Bentham should have a professionally prepared plan of action for dealing with urgent local needs by the spring. This should help to put us ahead of other applicants.

The prospects for getting some things done that would really make a difference are suddenly quite good, therefore. So if you have any ideas about where a lump of European funding could be well spent around Bentham, call into the Study Office in the Tourist information Centre and tell Bentham Trust about them.



From your greengrocer, do you get:

Yes/No	a different choice of	9	apples	?
Yes/No		6	potatoes	?
Yes/No		5	cabbages	?
Yes/No		3	pears	?
Yes/No	a wide choice of exotic produce			?
Yes/No	advice on how best to cook it			?
Yes/No	access to recipe books/magazines			?
Yes/No	free delivery in the Bentham area			?
Yes/No	do they employ local people			?
Yes/No	Do they contribute to local activities			?

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EVERYTHING YOU EVER WANTED TO KNOW ABOUT THE CIVIC TRUST (BUT WERE AFRAID TO ASK...)

By Keith Dixon

It's been a long time coming but a study team from the Civic Trust Regeneration Unit (CTRU) are around in Bentham canvassing your opinions about what Bentham needs, and trying to match ideas with actions. They are talking to local residents, traders, local authorities and the network of voluntary organisations to see how all of them can best work together for the good of Bentham. Focusing on Bentham's local economy, environment, voluntary organisations and provision of leisure facilities, they will be trying to link the needs of the community to whatever investment opportunities, grants and benefits are locally or nationally available. At the end of November the team lead an evening meeting on the theme of 'The Good, the Bad and the Ugly' at which Benthamers drew maps of the area and marked on local features they considered especially good and worth preserving or nasty and in need of improvement. Interim conclusions from this workshop and the team's many interviews will be the subject of a second meeting at the end of this month.

Meanwhile, until the work is completed in March, members of Bentham Trust will be assisting the study team by staffing a study office in the Tourist Information Centre (next to Tom Guy's hairdressing salon in Station Road), which will be open for business between the hours of 10 am and 2 pm on Wednesdays and Fridays, and 10 am and 12 pm on Saturdays. They want to talk to anyone with suggestions to make or with questions to ask about what is being proposed for Bentham. If there is anything you think Bentham needs or does not need, this is the time to say so. At the next public meeting in the Low Bentham Primary School on 27th January at 7.30 pm the CTRU team will discuss the relative costs and difficulty of ideas put forward so far, and invite attenders to rank them in order of importance. The results of this exercise

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will be included in their conclusions and a range of constructive suggestions, which they plan to explain and exhibit in March. Above all, their objective is to find out what you want for Bentham and assist you in getting it.

METHODIST CHURCH

The Wesley Guild held a Family Night when they had a visit from Steven Joel and friends from Chipping who gave a programme of songs and readings, the message was given by Steven to a good company who enjoyed refreshments afterwards. A social was organised by the Young People when a large number of friends from around the area joined them, The proceeds of £50 were given to St. Johns Hospice.

Wenning Badminton Club

At the coffee morning held on the 18th December a total of £125 was raised. Raffle winners were:- Jill Taylor, The Petshop, B.Barwise, A. Coates, Mrs Preston, V. Barwise, Mrs Shaw, Sue Bloxham, Gilly at Grove Hill, Mrs Dodding, Jim Morphet, Wendy Dowbiggin and Keith Winnery, Low Bentham. Many thanks to all helpers and supporters who helped make this event such a success at such short notice.

Anyone interested in playing badminton please contact T. Dobson, tel 61210 or T. Marshall on 62163.

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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, Jane Callus, Keith Cowling, 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.

For information please contact Lesley on Bentham (05242) 62040, or to place an advert in BN please contact our advertising manager Jane on Bentham 62277. Items for publication can be left at Bentham Sportsweat, Station Road or at the house.

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. Tel (05242) 62180.

CHURCH SERVICES

St. Maragret's C of E, High Bentham.

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

St. John the Baptist, Low Bentham.

1st Sunday 9.30am Parish Communion (ASB), **2nd Sunday** 9.30am Morning Prayer. **3rd Sunday** Parish Communion (ASB). **4th Sunday** 9.30am Holy Communion (BCP). **5th Sunday** 9.30am Parish Communion (BCP).

St Bonifaces Catholic Church

Saturday 6.30pm. **Sunday** 9.30am. Holy Days 10am & 7.30pm. **Week day** services, see times in the porch.

Methodist Church, High Bentham.

Sunday Worship 10.30am & 6.30pm. Junior Church 10.30am. **Fellowship Meeting** Tuesday 7.30pm. Bright Hour 2.15pm alternate Tuesdays. **Springboard** 7 - 10 years Monday 6.15pm. Breakout 11 - 13 years Wednesday 7pm.

Methodist Church, Low Bentham.

Afternoon Service 2pm. Friendly Hour 2nd Thursday each month 2.15pm.

Religious Society of Friends, Quakers.

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