

BENTHAM NEWS



Regeneration Study Bonanza Gets Closer

Local authority big-wigs attended a meeting at the Black Bull in early June to consider the Civic Trust's proposals for Bentham, where Alan Caldwell, leader of the Regeneration Unit team asked the study's main funders to back its conclusions with substantial cash. Officers of the authorities attending, including Harry Crabtree, chief executive of Craven District, Richard Tulloch, regional head of the Rural Development Commission, Bill Cross, corporate planning officer for North Yorkshire and Councillor Marshall of Bentham Town Council agreed to recommend to their councils a plan to set up a development trust here in Bentham. Read the full story on page 17.

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COMMUNITY EDUCATION REVAMP

Local people have complained for years about the poor, patchy, unimaginative provision of Community Education in Bentham. It looks as if we have at last been given the chance to influence what happens in this area. North Yorkshire Community Education Service has created a new job: Bentham's own Community Education Coordinator.

A wide ranging programme of classes for the Autumn has been planned, including an Accounting and Management Development Course for Small Businesses, as well as Beginners' French, Music Workshop, Pottery, and Creative Embroidery. It is also hoped to introduce an afternoon Home Crafts Class and two weekend courses in the pre-Christmas period, one in Photography and one in Fabric Decoration. A major change is that some courses, for example Arts and Crafts and the Music Workshop, may be available for school children who can enrol if numbers allow and their Headteacher gives permission.

Community Education will prosper if it gets community support. Catherine Birtwistle, Bentham's Community Education Coordinator, would welcome suggestions

JULY 1994

ISSUE 93

High Bentham Gala

By Margaret Hayton. (Co-Ordinator)

Due to the lovely weather Gala Day was a huge success. It started with a bigger and better parade, so thanks to all who entered floats and fancy dress. Thanks to many people, including those who worked so hard to make the gala such a success, and to those who gave tombola prizes. Special thanks to Chris Wilcock and Tom Guy who have for many years helped with organizing the fell race. Also thanks to the sponsors, H. Wood & Co., Oglethorpe, Sturton & Gillibrand, Dales Crest Travel, C.M. Slinger & Sons Ltd., D.M. Jordan, and to bateman Marshall for the use of his field for car parking. It is hoped that you will all carry on the good work next year.

"Duck Race"

This year's duck race was a very long drawn out affair, despite a shortened course. Cross winds made the going very difficult, causing many ducks to be blown off course into the shallows.

The potential winner, owned by Mr. T. Lawson, arrived two yards from the finish, 10 minutes before the rest of the field, but was washed onto the rocks. Congratulations to the eventual winners, 1st No. 122 Palmoria - Jane Reas
2nd No. 151 Daniel - Donald Armstrong
3rd No. 189 Puddle Duck - Mrs Dastey

Thanks to everyone who supported this event, which raised £575 towards Gala Funds.

Rondo Ballet School

By Jane Callus

On the 20th and 21st May the Rondo Ballet School gave three performances of it's annual dance show. The first half of each performance was "Divertissements", (lots of little dances) and the second half being "The Sleeping Beauty Prologue". The performances played to packed houses and were thoroughly enjoyed by one and all.

Proof of the dancers' enjoyment came when, after the youngest class had presented it's piece, a hand appeared from the wings to pull them off. These 3 and 4 year olds didn't want to leave the stage!

It is impossible to single out any one dancer, but praise and thanks must go to Gillian Hurst and Joan Cunliffe for all their hard work in teaching the children and pulling together the 150 ish children and adults involved. Roll on next year.

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TOWN COUNCIL

By Kate Steele

A full complement of elected Councillors were present at this meeting: Baker, Dowbiggin, Hayton, Hewitt, Jackson, Joel, Marshall, Preston and West, with Mayor Hurtle presiding. District Councillor Pilkington was also there, along with 12 members of the public.

CO-OPTION OF LOW BENTHAM COUNCILLOR

You will remember that only three people stood for election in Low Bentham, leaving one seat unfilled. Two people were nominated by Councillors at this meeting: ex-Councillor Keith Cowling and Edward (Teddy) Woof. When it came to the vote, both had 4 each (there was one abstension), and Mayor Hurtle used his casting vote to give the place to Teddy Woof.

BENTHAM GLADIATORS

The Town Hall has seen a right old punch-up lately. Young farmers getting too frisky? Disaffected youth marauding in time-worn fashion? Ah no - it's the ladies of the Aerobics class vs. the Age Concern ballroom dancers. Apparently Aerobics don't pack up on time and Age Concern come in to set up too early. Strong words have been exchanged. Is this just a playground squabble or another Town Hall management problem? A swift diplomatic move by elder statesman Marshall, left the issue 'on the table' until September in the hope that tempers will have cooled by then.

PARKING AT A PREMIUM?

Some big haulage firm is complaining about illegal parking around the Main Street - Station Road junction. Why? Apparently several of the big wagons on their way to Angus have clipped stationary cars and been stung for insurance money. Time to revive that plan for the Robin Lane - Station Road flyover.

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SUB-STATION OK

Would anyone be surprised to learn that NORWEB's magnetic field survey of the sub-station revealed that levels of micro Teslas 'fall within the acceptable range'? No-one is volunteering to do a similar investigation of the toilets.

The Town Clerk is to get a fax machine. Expect immediate communication from Railtrack confessing responsibility for the lamentable state of the footpath under the Low Bentham Bridge.

FOOTNOTE:

Councillor Dowbiggin tells me my last report upset the newcomers. Well, that's public life for you - gold stars are hard won round here. But I think there is hope. New boy Councillor Baker said not a word the first meeting and was quiet for most of this one too. But just as I was beginning to think he represented Bentham's silent majority, up he came with a question about the rather bad sitting of the bottle bank. OK, so it's a bit of an old chestnut, but a valid point nevertheless. Then he had a go at the Sunday car boot sale and even felt brave enough to tackle the speed and volume of traffic on Wenning Avenue. I thought he would never stop! But I'm sure there's the makings of a fine local Councillor there.

Come and hear Councillors old and new at the next meeting on Monday 4th July and make up your own mind.

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Bentham & District Camera Club

By P.A.Marshall

At the recent Annual General Meeting, Mrs S. Pridmore, who retired after six successful years as Programme Secretary, was elected to the committee and Mrs. S. Avery was appointed as her successor. Officials re-elected were: President, Mr. L. Blundell; Chairman, Mr. P.A. Marshall; Vice-Chairman, Mr. M. Culshaw; Treasurer, Mr. M. Jackson; Secretary, Mr. D. Smith; Competition Secretary, Mr. N. Crellin; Committee, Mr. D. Dafforn, Mrs. M.I. Carr.

Membership increased slightly during the year and a total of 20 events were arranged, including lectures, competitions and social evenings. Mr. & Mrs. Illston were thanked for all their work in preparing the room and organizing refreshments at the meetings in Low Bentham Institute.

The Annual Dinner was held at the Stonegate Restaurant when the following annual trophies were awarded:

Humphries Cup (set of slides) Mr A.G.Fellows.

Illston Cup (monochrome prints) Mr. W.Hinde.

Humphries Trophies (small colour prints) Mr. N.Crellin. (large colour prints) Mr. D.Smith.

Theme competitions (slides) Mr. P.A.Marshall. (prints) Mrs S.Avery.

Clifford Bentham Trophy (theme aggregate) Miss. M.Hodgson.

Clapham Trophy (points during the year) Mr. P.A.Marshall.

High Bentham Women's Institute

By Margaret Hayton

"Bee Keeping" was the topic of the June meeting. Mr. John Windsor gave a most interesting talk and showed various equipment used by bee keepers. This was followed by a slide show.

July's meeting is Poetry, Punch and a Plate. Bring your favourite poem and a plate for the Jacob's Join. Fruit punch will be supplied. Don't forget the coffee morning on Saturday 30th July. Gifts of bric-a-brac, plants and cakes will be very welcome.

N.S.P.C.C Collection Success

The recent house-to-house collection held in High and Low bentham, Burton-in-Lonsdale and Wray, for the NSPCC realised £1,021.27. Many thanks to everyone who helped and supported this event.

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COUNCIL CONCERNS

By Councillor Ralph Atkinson

NEW POLICING STYLE

As you will remember, when the Police brought in their new "Team Policing" concept last year many of us, including our local coppers, protested vigorously. Well, for once we've been proved right. The system just didn't work well and they're now going back to something much nearer the old system. This is called "Local Area Policing" and though we won't get back to the old "village bobby" at least we should know their faces when they turn up. This still hasn't got over the problems of a shortage of man(and woman) power and local telephone communications, but at least it's a step in the right direction.

The Police Bill now before Govt. will still divorce police authorities from local government and have significant centralising effects on finances and performance, which is very worrying.

HOME TO SCHOOL TRANSPORT

A new report out from the Association of County Councils is very critical of the system of home to school transport, saying it's both out-dated and dangerous under modern conditions - basically it hasn't changed since the 1944 Education Act - fifty years. The report calls for greater equality of access (whatever that means!), more attention to safety and more flexibility. Together with recent horrific accidents we hope this'll prompt the Govt. to move at last.

EUROELECTIONS

Although the local results of the Euroelections were disappointing for some of us, everyone should be congratulated on the turn-out. At over 40% this was significantly higher than both the national and the constituency results. So a big thank you to all those concerned citizens who made it on the day.



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REORGANISATION

I've been very surprised at the number of people who tackle me on the street about reorganisation of local councils (it's not about boundary changes by the way!). Earlier in the year the Secretary of State's decision was postponed until after the European elections. However, this may be delayed by judicial challenges which have been mounted by counties, including North Yorks. Meanwhile opposition to the whole idea grows. UNISON, the big local government union has come out against and is trying to influence Labour MPs to do so too. So everything is in the melting pot.

From London comes an account of the workings of unitary authorities which replaced the Metropolitan authority. Apparently many of the functions of local government have been taken over by appointees on quangos (quasi-non-government organisations) - over 270 in London alone. Paid as they are what is the cost?

FINANCIAL WORRIES AT COUNTY

Initial indications on the 1995/96 County Revenue Budget are that Govt. is going to allow us something like #15 million short of our estimates for continuing services at their present level. If this turns out to be the case we're going to have to face cuts in services - and in a situation where we're already cut to the bone this is going to hurt. The loss of maybe up to 300 jobs, small schools, discretionary awards, old people's homes and, of course, the usual whipping boy - road maintenance.

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BENTHAM FOOTPATH GROUP

By Len Moody

Maureen is hard pressed with the North Craven Heritage Trust Journal and has asked me, as an "occasional" correspondent, to do some notes for this issue.

Firstly, perhaps, we should congratulate Bill Kennedy on taking over the job of co-ordinator of Bentham News, and extend our best wishes to him in his years of retirement. It is good to know that he appreciates the local scenery, and we invite him to sample more of it from some of the local footpaths. Bentham News throughout the years has been a great ally of those who foster the "footpath cause".

The 1994 programme of guided walks started off excellently with the evening walk on 10th May, via Boiling Well and Clifford Hall. It was led by David Fisher, a local lad, supported by some 18 local residents. On 21st May we were privileged to have Frank Royston, knowledgeable outdoors veteran,

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to lead a walk in the much admired area of Ribbleshead. Then on 28th May, Keith Wear, another enthusiast, led a circular walk in the neighbouring Hindburn valley around Lowgill, at the very height of the bluebell season. The excellent planning may be noted - within one month a walk within the parish boundaries, a walk including a neighbouring community, and a walk further afield.

In June the evening walk from Bentham Bridge around Greystonegill, was well supported, and the refreshments offered by the leader, Verena Smith, at Far Sunny Bank, were really appreciated. Tom Connolly's walk on 5th June in Dentdale, was well timed to review Dent meadows just approaching their flowery best. The walk listed for 11th June was to take in the historic "Fox's Pulpit" on Firbank Fell in upper Lunesdale. Jean Worth who had researched the walk, was unable to take it, but led by Frank Yates, the walk gave great satisfaction to all those taking part.

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YOUR LETTERS



Dear Editor,

May I take advantage of your columns to thank all those who took part in the recent council elections. Voter turn-out was excellent, 53% being very good for such elections, even though it was not quite as good as Hellifield and Gargrave (both recording over 60%).

Secondly, my personal thanks are due to all those who helped with the leafletting, putting up posters, telling and recording on the day. However, my greatest thanks are for all of you who gave me such overwhelming support. The welcome you gave me when I was going around canvassing was heart warming and this was reflected in the final voting figures. As an adopted Benthamite it made me feel both very humble and proud to be asked to serve you in this fashion.

Lastly, I should like to thank my opponent and his party. If he had not put himself forward I probably wouldn't have gone round canvassing and so probably would have found out about the wonderful support you have given me.

Yours sincerely,
Ralph Atkinson.

Dear Editor,

I would like to thank everyone who voted for me in the Parish Elections, and to the Bentham News for their write up.

Mrs M.Hayton
3 South View, High Bentham.

The two letters, above, should have appeared in the June issue. Apologies for their omission to Mr. R. Atkinson and Mrs. Hayton. Bentham News.

Dear Editor,

I would like to express my disgust at the shabby way that the Town Council saw fit to turn its back on the opportunity to co-opt and retain Councillor Keith Cowling on the Council.

Eight years of valuable service, his application for re-election, and 380 or so votes, counted for nothing. What do the Bentham electorate think of this I wonder!
Brian Cowling (no relation)
Low Bentham Road, Bentham.

Dear Bentham News,

Reference to Town Council report Bentham News June 1994.

When the ladies who run Bentham Playgroup arrive to prepare the Town Hall we find our job made much harder because our toys have been moved or taken apart. As one of the Town Halls most regular users (in 1993 we paid £1280 rent) we feel we deserve a say in the matter.

In order to provide a stimulating and challenging environment for the children who attend, we need large toys, for which there is no storage but the stage. Instead of preparing bikes, trains, prams, jigsaws, books, paint and glue, we have to find all the pieces of our larger items and then spend time putting them back together. One item went missing for three weeks because no one told us where it had been moved.

Other problems for playgroup include being locked in and out of the building, items vandalised, pins left on the floor, plug sockets missing and on one occasion, someone had urinated on a large cushion which the children sat on for story time.

We do not know who is responsible for all of this, but we can staunchly defend the ladies of the W.I.; they are not guilty. We feel that more communication between groups, and a more active role from the council, is called for - the situation could be greatly improved by forward planning and consideration.

Play leaders assistants and committee members,
Bentham Playgroup.

Dear Bentham News,

I have always believed that I was the tightest bloke in Bentham, but after standing on the gate at the Bentham Gala I now realise I'm not even a contender.

The few who went into hysterics at the idea of parting with a £1, the few who spent up to an hour "hovering" in the area waiting for a chance to sneak past, and the few who patrolled the playing field boundary looking for a "free way" in, should realise that the Gala is a community event, organised for community enjoyment with all funds raised going back into the community....ourcommunity.

It makes no difference whether you pay or not, I do not want your money, I just happen to be helping out in a cause that does. Many thanks to the hundreds that did contribute, commiserations to the few that didn't. They will have the chance to make good next year.

Mick Ramsay, Mount Pleasant, Bentham.

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"OFF THE WALL"

The annual "Off the Wall" picnic will be held at Hilltop, Wennington in the beautiful gardens of Boris and Maggie Haworth on Sunday 3rd July from 2.00pm. This is a opportunity to meet and make friends, share food and drink, and review last years events, as well as considering suggestions for what could happen next season.



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BENTHAM HEALTH CENTRE

Project 6

From the 2nd June a new service has been operating from the Health Centre in Bentham. Every Thursday between 1.30-m and 3.30pm, Project 6, a voluntary drug and alcohol agency is offering "drop in" sessions to anyone with problems relating to alcohol, drugs, solvents or with concerns about HIV/AIDS. Confidential advice, information and counselling is available and the service is open to all. A needle exchange scheme also operates at these sessions.

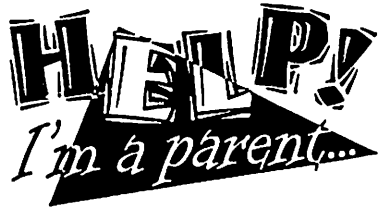
Project 6 is an established drug and alcohol agency working in the Craven area. Help and support is also offered to the friends and family of people with such problems, as well as providing an outreach service offering information to schools and youth groups. Referrals are welcome from individuals, voluntary and statutory agencies.

In addition, Project 6 operates the Craven Needle Exchange Scheme, with outlets at the office in Skipton and pharmacies and Health Centres around the Craven area. This is a service for injecting drug users, which provides free needles and syringes, and a place to dispose safely of used equipment. The Needle Exchange Scheme aims to prevent the spread of HIV by ensuring that people never have to share injecting equipment. Information on safe sex and free condoms are also available. If you require any information about the service offered, please "drop in" to one of the sessions for a chat, or call in at the office in Skipton - 2nd floor, Ship Buildings, Street, Telephone 0756-794362.

HEALTH NOTES

By Christine Hodson, Health Visitor/School nurse.

If anyone has any requests for information, or topics to be covered in the Health Page, please leave a message at the surgery. Ideas would be very welcome.



By Alison Hawkey

"Help, I'm a parent" is a 7 week course of 1 1/2 hours per week discussing family issues, such as communication, self esteem, independence and discipline.

We meet at 10 Werning Avenue, High Bentham on Wednesdays from 8.00-9.30pm and anyone is welcome to come. For more information ring 62050.

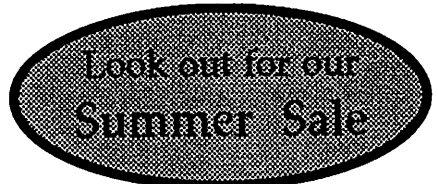
FAMILY BAR-B-QUE & MARQUEE

Fri. 11th Aug. Adults £2.75 Children £1.25

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BENTHAM PLAYSCHEME 1994

22nd August - 2nd September

This year's playscheme will be bigger, brighter and hopefully attract even more children than in previous years. As well as offering the usual activities like sports and games, we shall be able to put on a whole range of new activities for 6-13 year olds.

Music Workshops

In collaboration with Yorkshire Youth Music from Halifax, Rural Arts from Thirsk, and the Community Education Service, we have managed to get funding for an extremely talented and experienced musician, Duncan Chapman, to come and work with the children, helping them to make instruments and compose music. Duncan can teach anyone to play on almost anything and no musical knowledge is needed to take part in his workshops.

Among his own compositions are "The Invasion of the Trolley Snatchers" for the Attractive Bargain Bucket company, soundtracks for films, a piece called "Air Horns" for four air-horns over large spaces, and "Eric the Moose goes for a Walk in the Snow" for string-quartet and funky piano. He has also made a large junk gamelan (whatever that may be) and built instruments played by the wind or motion of the trees. So, if you fancy making a balloon saxophone, thumb-jianos, flutes, chimes or "bonangs" (tuned hubcaps, for the uninitiated - one of Duncan's specialities) then playing them with a real musician, join the playscheme and Duncan will help you.

Dance Workshops

Then alongside the musical elements of the project, there will be additional workshops where props, visual arts and costumes will be made. One group of children will be involved in dance and movement sessions organized by Gail Ferrin from Rural Arts, with funded by Yorkshire and Humberside Arts. At the end of the two weekperiod, the intention is to have all of the work done - both music and dance - come together in a final procession.

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Furthermore, as 1994 is the Year of the Family, it seems particularly appropriate that all the workshops will be open not only to children, but also to any parents who would like to get involved. So if you are children, no need to sit at home wandering what to do with your summer holiday, or if you are parents, what to do with your children when they are bored. Come along and take part in this exciting project.

The Ingleton Connection

We also hope to be able to set up and run a playscheme in Ingleton this year, to run concurrently and tie in with the work going on in Bentham. Alan King from the Community Centre has very kindly offered us the use of some space there and at present we have funding for one play leader. The Bentham Playscheme Committee is trying to raise the money for another. However, for this plan to go ahead, we will need to hand over responsibility for some of the organizing and fund raising to a group of interested parents in Ingleton.

If you would like to find out more about the playscheme in Bentham or Ingleton, please get in touch with us. We will be very glad to hear from anyone, with enquiries or offers of help. These will be especially welcome.

From the Bentham Playscheme Committee.
Please contact either Lin Barrington, 61034, or Vi Christensen, 62688.



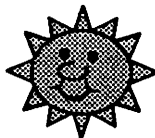
LOW BENTHAM GALA

Sat 23rd July - 1.30pm.

Venue - School Field (off Burton Road)

Procession leaves Low Bentham Car Park at 1.00pm, led by a marching band.

Please come and support Your Gala
The sun will shine



Burton Under 5's

Parents with children under five will be interested to know about provision in Burton-in-Lonsdale, based in the Richard Thornton Primary School, available to people locally and in the surrounding area.

The three types of provision are aimed at the needs of children at different stages of their development, and their parents.

PARENT AND TODDLER GROUP

This group meets on Tuesdays and Fridays in the afternoon between 2.00pm and 3.30pm. All parents (including parents to be) and children under school age can attend the sessions. Parents themselves run the Group, are responsible for their children's involvement and use of the excellent indoor and outdoor equipment.

PLAYGROUP

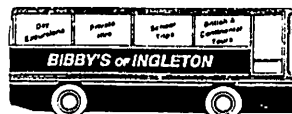
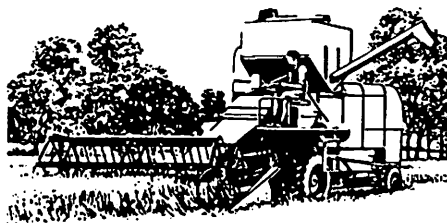
A member of the Pre-School Playgroup Association, it caters for children of 2 1/2 (toilet trained) up to school age. Open from 9.00-11.30am on Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays, the Playgroup employs two experienced supervisors who run the sessions along with parents from a rota system of helpers. The group provides a safe and stimulating environment in which children can learn as they play.



RISEING FIVES

A session from 9.00-11.30am caters for Rising Fives 12 months before they start school, run by a qualified teacher and parents on a rota system. The Group provides a more structured environment for the older children in preparation for school entrance.

For further information, or just to have a chat, contact the Chairwoman, Penny Woolham on (05242) 62850.



BIBBY'S OF INGLETON

- 30 July - 8 days Torquay £269
- 28 Aug - 7 days Newtonmore - £259
- 17 Sept - 8 days Isle of Wight - £249
- 18 Sept - 13 days Heart of Italy - £449
- 2 Oct - 6 days Bundoran, Co Donegal - £209
- Every weekend in Nov - London - £89
- 10 Nov - Paris Weekend - £99

Ring 05242 41330 for brochure

Concerts!

- 17 July - Bryan Adams, Gateshead - £36
- 25 Sept - Shirley Bassey, Blackpool - £38
- 23 Oct - Daniel O'Donnell, Liverpool - £21
- 12 Nov - Tom Jones, Blackpool - £38
- 26 Nov - Daniel O'Donnell, Blackburn - £21
- 14 Dec - Cliff Richard, Sheffield - £39

Day Excursions!

- 13 July - Great Yorkshire Show, Harrogate - £6
- 30 July - Carlisle - £5

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LOCAL EVENTS IN JULY

- Fri 1st** And throughout July, Tombola & Coffee at the Nationwide Office, to raise funds for the MacMillan Cancer Relief Fund.
- Low Bentham CP School Book Fair daily till 6th July 3.30-4.30pm except Tue 5th. Sat. 2nd 10-1130am.
- Sat 2nd** Bible Society Coffee Morning in the Town Hall, 10am-11.30am.
- Bentham Footpath Group Walk - Ribblehead Circular (7-8 miles), leader Geoff Huddart tel 61700. Lairgill at 10am.
- Sun 3rd** 2pm onwards-"Off the Wall" picnic in Boris & Maggie's garden, at Hilltop, Wennington. All welcome.
- Mon 4th** Town Council Meeting 7.30pm.
- Tues 5th** Bentham Child Health Clinic at "The Surgery" 1pm-4pm.
- Toy Library in the Youth Centre 10am-1pm.
- Wed 6th** North Craven Heritage Trust. W.R.Mitchell's Annual Field day: "Wensleydale", assemble Ashfield car park Settle at 9am.
- N.S.P.C.C Monthly Meeting, at Oxenforth Green, Tatham 7.30pm.

Listing for Local Events

Day.....Date.....

Event.....

Venue.....

Name & Tel No.....

Please complete and return to B. Kennedy,
1 Lakeber Ave., or hand in at Bentham
Sportswear Shop.

Help! I'm a parent, 8pm at 10 Wenning Avenue-62050-All welcome.

- Thurs 7th** High Bentham Women's Institute - Poetry, Punch and a Plate. Bring your favourite poem. 7.30pm Lower Town Hall.
- Fri 8th** Homing Society dispatch pigeons to race at Cheltenham. Pavilion 7.30pm.
- Men's tennis match v Kendal. Bentham Playing Field Courts 6.30pm.
- Sat 9th** Settle Blind Association Coffee Morning - Town Hall 10am-noon
- Tues 12th** Tatham Fells Women's Institute at 7.30pm at Tatham Fells Old School. Mr Peter Marshall - "Guess the connection". Competition - Summers Day Snap.
- Wed 13th** High Bentham C P School Open Night 6.30-8.00pm. Everyone welcome.
- Help! I'm a parent. 8pm at 10 Wenning Avenue-62050-all welcome.
- Homing Society dispatch pigeons to race from Niort France, 7pm Sports Pavilion.
- Fr1 15th** Waste Paper Collection at the Legion hall 8.30-11.00am. Proceeds to the N.S.P.C.C.
- Deadline for August edition Bentham News.**
- Sat 16th** Bentham Horticultural Society, Coffee Morning 9.45am. Town Hall. Cake stall, raffle, plants.
- Sun 17th** Bentham Footpath Group Walk, River walk (3-4 miles), leader Margaret Marshall. Tel 61272. Bentham Bridge at 6.30pm.
- Tues 19th** Bentham Child Health Clinic at "The Surgery" 1pm-4pm.

Toy Library in the Youth Centre
10am-1pm.

Wed 20th Help! I'm a parent. 8pm at 10
Wenning Avenue-62050-All
welcome.

Thurs 21st Low Bentham Women's
Institute, 7.30pm in the Victoria
Institute, Low Bentham. Speaker
Anne Gibbons - "The Alexander
Technique". Competition - "A
Pill Box"

Fri 22nd Homing Society dispatch
pigeons to race from Appleton,
7pm Sports Pavilion. 1st young
bird race.

Sat 23rd St. Margaret's Mother's Union
Coffee Morning in the Lower
Town Hall.

Low Bentham Gala, 1.30pm at
School Field. Procession 1pm
from Low Bentham car park.

Sun 24th Bentham Footpath Group Walk.
Knight Stainforth/Feizor (5
miles), leader Mary Hudson tel
51498. Please meet at Lairgill at
1.30pm.

Wed 27th Help! I'm a parent. 8pm at 10
Wenning Avenue-62050-All
welcome.

Fri 29th Bentham News published.

Sat 30th High Bentham Women's
Institute Coffee Morning, 10am
to 12noon in the Lower Town
Hall.

Bentham Footpath Group Walk.
Coldcotes (7 miles), leader
David Stubbs tel 61430. Please
meet at Lairgill at 1pm.

LOCAL EVENTS IN AUGUST

Tues 2nd Bentham Child Health Clinic at
"The Surgery" 1pm-4pm.

Thurs 4th High Bentham Women's
Institute Outdoor Visit.

Tues 9th Tatham Fells Women's Institute
at 7.30pm at Tatham Fells Old
School. "Summer Expedition".
Competition - Penknife.

Thurs 11th Bentham Footpath Group Walk.
Crummack Dale (7 miles),
leader Gerald Amos tel 51621.
Please meet at Lairgill at 10am.

Sat 13th Arthritis & Rheumatism Council
Coffee Morning in the Town
Hall.

Unplugged

Acoustic Music Club
Black Bull Hotel Bentham

By Alison Hawkey

"Unplugged" is Bentham's own acoustic
music club, meeting on the 1st Friday each
month in the Black Bull. Our guests in June
were Maire Ni Chathasaig and Chris
Newman, and everyone agreed that it was
one of the most elevating evenings since the
club began.

We were all shocked and saddened to
learn of the tragic death of one of our most
talented guitarists, Tim Lea, 18 year old son
of Phil and Mary who organise Unplugged.
Tim's talent was a rare and precious gift
and all who knew him experienced a great
sense of loss, as well as privilege to have
heard him play. Our deepest sympathy and
prayers are with Phil, Mary and the family
during this sad time.

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MEMORY LANE

By Henry Garlick

The Town Clerk

Richard Jackson, Town Clerk of Bentham in the 1930s, was a dapper man always dressed in dark suits. This stamped the style and station of the legal profession or a man of importance. On one occasion Mr Jackson placed notices around the Town Hall, to the effect that anyone bringing rats tails to the Town Hall would be paid one shilling per tail. It was the Council's way of encouraging townsfolk to reduce the rodent population in the town.

One day as he sat in his office, a bright young lad walked in with two rats tails for the reward on offer. The Town Clerk opened a tin money box, remarking "Suppose there are quite a few rats on Lairgill". The lad cheerfully agreed as he pocketed the two shillings. "Don't leave them here, please put them in the box provided in the Butter Hall" So the young fellow took the offending tails to put in the box, filled with salt petre, a crystalline salty substance, meant to be hygienic. But he was quick to note that the Town Clerk had no stomach for rat tails. He ran his hand round the inside of the box and found another six tails. He left his two but took three of the others as he left the premises. During the next few days he took more tails in to claim the shilling reward. Each time he was asked to take the tails and put them in the box in the Butter Hall. By the time the scheme ended the Town Clerk complimented the lad on his success as a rat-catcher.

The box was sent to be disposed of but no one ever checked how many tails it really contained. The number of tails was tallied from the number of shillings paid out. The Town Clerk was satisfied with the response to the exercise, though the lad lost his lucrative source of income.



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EVERYTHING FOR THE BUILDER

Bentham School News

The Summer term at the school ends on Saturday 9th July with the annual Speech Day and garden Fete at which the guest of honour will be Lieutenant General Sir Derek Lang, K.C.B., D.S.O., M.C., DL. A concert and the speeches and prizegiving will take place in the morning.

In the afternoon there will be a number of events including another opportunity to see the trilogy of plays by Samuel Beckett, which were the school's highly acclaimed entries for the Hornby Drama Festival, and an extract from *Midsummer Night's Dream* performed by some of the younger pupils. There will also be a dance display, Nursery and Reception Sports, as well as side shows and cream teas. Visitors are most welcome.

This will see the end of a busy term both in and out of classroom. It has been the time of public examinations for the 5th and Upper Sixth Formers. but also a busy time on the games field with Sports Day, Swimming Galas, and a full fixture list for cricket, tennis, rounders and athletic teams. The boys cricket team have had a particularly successful season at all levels. There have been a number of trips and expeditions away from school. The First Years had an adventure week at Coniston at the end of May, and there have been field trips to the Lake District and Northumbria and a watersports weekend at Windermere. Duke of Edinburgh Award Expeditions at Bronze, Silver and Gold level have also been taking place.

Clearly the major event in the development of the school this term has been the move of the Nursery, Infant and Junior Department from Bridge House to Moon's Acre to give greater room for expansion and the start of the building work at Bridge House to create a new senior girls' boarding house. Work is well under way and should be completed for the start of the new school year in September.



Charity Concert

St. John's Church Low Bentham

By Judith Johnson

On Saturday 11th June, the annual charity concert was held in St John's Church for the benefit of aid agencies in Rwanda. An enthusiastic audience heard a varied programme including adult singing, recorder and guitar groups, an organ solo and flute duets. The church warden produced a very original and witty poem on the subject of slugs and a group of older girls presented a moving item of original dance.

The hit of the evening was four songs by the Junior Church members, which everyone, especially the parents in the audience, enjoyed. St John's would like to thank all those who took part in any way and helped to raise a total of £145 for relief work in Rwanda.

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SPORTS NEWS

By Janette Richardson

Cycling

Sholto Haggart has had 2 good road races in June. He finished 2nd at Richmond in a 50 mile race and finished 12th in the Divisional Championships at Merseyside.

Running

Lancaster Rotary 10 Kilometres

On 29th may, Jill and Janette ran 10 kilometres, on hilly roads and tracks round Bolton-le-Sands. They finished equal 10th out of 21 ladies, in 49.40 minutes.

Bentham Gala Fell Race

It was good to see some local runners turn out for this event. Well done to Andrew Cochrane (62nd) and Steven Foster (64th). Phil Leigh and Janette jogged and walked round - thanks to all who sponsored them for Greenpeace and to all the marshalls and helpers, without you we would have been lost!

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Netball

By the "Umpire"

Wenning v Upper Wharfedale

Wharfedale are a new team in the league. Wenning stamped their authority on the game from the start and won comfortably by 46-29.

Skipton College v Wenning

Wenning, with two substitutes, travelled to Skipton on a cold windy evening. The teams were evenly matched. Luckily some sloppy passing by Wenning was equalled by their opponents! Wenning's three "midfield movers", Jackie Walker, Mandy Lawson and Tracy Carter, enabled them to dominate and the final score was a win for Wenning by 21-14.

Wenning v Addingham Bandits

The Bandits are an experienced team with no weak links and it was no surprise to find them leading 14-10 at quarter time. The 2nd quarter saw Wenning at their best. The "Energetic Interceptor", Jackie Walker, with Sharon Telford, Laura Widdup and Tracy Carter played magnificently to establish a 16-15 lead. Wenning have a large squad of players and at half time 3 substitutions were made. The rhythm of the 2nd quarter was lost however, and the fast high scoring game ended in a win for the Bandits by 49-38 (No disgrace).

Matchmakers (Skipton) v Wenning

A little aggression here - enough said. Wenning won 25-21.



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Bentham News is available not only in many places in High Bentham, and the Low Bentham Post Office, but also in many outlets in neighbouring villages. The Post Offices in Burton-in-Lonsdale and Clapham and the Travel Agents at Ingleton are some of the distribution points serving the wider community in the surrounding area. They kindly have copies each month which are available for a suggested donation of 30p. This small charge is to help towards running costs. We are grateful for all the goodwill and interest shown by everybody who supports the paper in this way.

We try hard to reach everybody who may want *Bentham News* in the local area. If we are failing to do this, and you are not able to obtain a copy, please let us know. Contact the co-ordinator, Bill Kennedy on 62492.

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Regeneration Study Bonanza Gets Closer

By Keith Cowling

Craven District Council, North Yorkshire and the Rural Development Commission look set to channel major funding towards Bentham following the recent Civic Trust study of the town. The cash will help form a local development, with an office and employed staff, to make the projects, mentioned in the report, happen. The funding package, which includes a major bid for European money, is made possible because Bentham is in a Rural Development Area and in the part of North Yorkshire which recently qualified for Euro support. Although nothing will be certain until Craven and North Yorkshire Councils ratify the proposal later in the summer, all the indications are that it will go ahead. Plans are already afoot to channel cash from a national charity to complete the Goodenber Road play area and (on a longer timescale) to develop the Youth Club to provide space for a community education unit.

Advice on Grants

Optimism increased this week after the meeting, when officers of the Rural Development Commission demonstrated their new keenness to target funding on Bentham by giving a presentation to a packed meeting of the Traders and Bentham Trust about their wide range of grants and support for rural businesses and organisations. So local action by Bentham Trust, which began with a raffle and coffee morning, looks set to lever big sums of government and European support for Bentham firms and projects. And remember, you read it first in the Bentham News...

The exhibition of drawings of the Civic trust's proposals for Bentham has moved from the surgery to St. John's Church in Low Bentham.



BENTHAM PEOPLE



Personal Thanks

Segger. Jim, Robin, Sandra and families would like to thank family and friends for cards, messages of sympathy and donations to St.John's Hospice, following the death of Veronica. Special thanks to Doctors and Nurses at Bentham Health Centre.

Capstick. We would like to thank every one for their kind messages of sympathy, and donations to Cave Rescue, received during this sad time. Special thanks to Mary, Patsy, Anne, Joe and Brother Bobby for their constant care and comfort on and after 24th May. Love and peace to you all. Jean & Family.

Parker. Mrs Marion Parker would like to thank her many friends and relatives who sent cards, flowers, and made donations to the Bentham Health Centre, on her recent sad loss. Marian would especially like to thank Dr. Walker.

Campbell. The family of the late Edith Campbell wish to thank all relatives, friends and neighbours for their overwhelming expressions of sympathy, beautiful floral tributes and generous donations for Bentham Health Centre, received during their sad loss. Special thanks to all the staff at the Health Centre and Rev.D.Brown for his sincere ministrations.

Thanks

Jack Emmott would like to thank everyone for their support in aid of the Kidney Foundation Fund, including Lyn for her help. Thankyou.

Tom Cahill would like to thank all the friends and neighbours for their cards, phone calls and good vibes during his recent operation and recovery. "I felt I was floating on a sea of caring" Thanks also from Naurika for all the help and support during this difficult time.

18 Good Luck

To Robert and Elizabeth Paley in their new home in Wesley Close. We'll all miss you but will be calling in, so have the kettle on! From your friends and neighbours in Springfield.

Wanted

Kenwood Gourmet Food Processor. Other makes considered. Tel 61596

For Sale

Issues 1-78 plus 4 binders, of "Be Creative". £60.00 o.n.o. 05242 62661.

Horse Manure for composting. 10 bags £4. Delivered locally. 62176.

"B" Reg Ford Sierra, good runner, 1st time starter. MOT Aug '94. Unused for 8 months. £500 ono for quick sale. Tel 62789.

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French Classes. These classes will recommence in September. Any queries, ring Anne Hodgson on 62994.

Holiday '94. Direct travel to all airports, car and minibus. (05242) 62391.

Work Wanted

Student, 19, home for the summer, seeks work. Labouring, gardening, driving etc. Anything considered. Tel Tim Brown, 61608

Cancellation

The Cross Bay Walk, scheduled for the 17th July has been cancelled because of the guide being seriously ill. Please contact your church group for further details.



More on Level Crossings

By Keith Cowling

Someone was kind enough to supply some historical information on the broad verge beside the track just west of High Bentham, mentioned in last month's article. Until about 15 years ago another section of track laid out as a shunting siding existed here to support rail freight services to George Angus Ltd. and local farms. It was removed, presumably, at a time when most goods traffic moved over to road transport.

I was also reminded that there have been a number of accidents and near accidents on this part of the line in recent years and some of the reason for the new barricades may be due to this. So apologies to British Rail if apologies are due. My central point however, that it is very strange to spend so much money on level crossings when the rest of the service is so poor, still stands.

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HIGH BENTHAM TOY LIBRARY

By L. Rushton, Chairwoman

The Toy Library has been running for 4 1/2 months with very good results. We now have 58 of our own toys with 22 leased from Skipton for our 56 members to choose from.

The booking system is working very well with some toys being more popular than others. 27 toys are pre-booked for our next opening which leaves 53 toys waiting to be taken out. So there is still lots of choice.

A meeting was held recently to increase the number of committee, and to elect a new treasurer. Julie Taylor, the retiring treasurer was thanked for her valued input into the setting up of the Toy Library. She said that she regretted that due to many other commitments she could no longer fulfill the duty of treasurer. Lin Barrington of Low Bentham was nominated and agreed to accept the post. We hope she will enjoy working with the rest of the team.

The new Ingleton Toy library was also on the agenda. Many of the parents of Ingleton find great difficulty in travelling the twisty road from Ingleton, but have shown great interest in the work of the Bentham Toy library. They were invited to join us and discuss the setting up and running of a Toy library in the Community Centre alongside the Thursday toddler group.

A chairwoman, Alison Grimshaw, secretary Paula Dent and treasurer Ann denby, were elected to obtain funding etc., and a meeting was arranged for Thursday 23rd June at Ingleton, to enlist other interested parties. There were seven names put forward as people interested in helping. This is a very positive development and we are hoping that the opening will follow shortly.



BENTHAM AGRICULTURAL SHOW CAVY SECTION

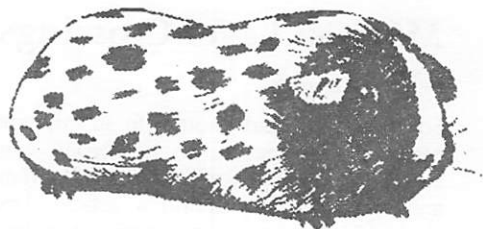
*By Oliver Joyce & Jan Alston,
Cavy Section Secretaries 62899.*

The livestock section of the show has been extended this year to include a cavy section. "Cavy" is the name given to exhibition guinea pigs. A thriving "fancy" exists and shows are held throughout the country every weekend, run under the rules of the governing body, the National Cavy Club. A small local show may attract 30-50 exhibits, whilst the major ones may reach 500-600 cavies. The most prestigious are those with which small livestock exhibitors will be familiar - The London Championship Show and the Bradford Championship Show (which despite keeping the name, has moved to the Doncaster Racecourse Exhibition Hall).

HOW THEY'RE JUDGED

Judging is similar to that of other livestock. Standards are laid down for each breed of cavy, by the N.C.C. The cavy first competes against others of the same breed in the "Breed Class". Winners then go forward to compete against other Breed Class winners in the Challenge Classes, to find the best exhibits in that section/age group, from which "Best in Show" is selected. The schedule is usually divided into 5 sections. The first is the "self" section. This is for solid colour cavies conforming to one of the nine recognized colours. The "Non-Self" section is divided into "coated" cavies, (for example the long haired Peruvians, Abyssinians and the recent import from Canada, the satin coated cavy.) and the "marked" section. This includes those with Dutch, Agouti or Himalayan markings. The fourth section is for rare varieties - those which have yet to have a full judging standard and includes unusual colours and some very exotic varieties.

Juvenile exhibitors may compete in open classes and "Juvenile section" for purebred and pet cavies, giving a chance to compete against other youngster's exhibits.



Exhibitors need not to belong to the NCC nor cavies to have any form of identification ring or pedigree. A cardboard box is perfectly adequate for transport as cavies are placed in wire mesh pens provided, on arrival at the show. As each class is judged, they are carried to the judging tables by stewards. Cavies may also compete against the rabbits and hamsters in the children's pet show.

The schedule for the cavy section of the Bentham Show will be available in a few weeks time and the entry forms have to be completed ten days before the show. If you are not sure which class your cavy should be in - contact us! Our judge for the day, Mrs D. Powell, Keighley, a judge on the National Cavy Club judging panel.

To make the show a success we need your support! If there are any local businesses or individuals, who would like to sponsor the cavy section in any way, we would like to hear from you.



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RECIPES

By Doreen Park

At last month's W.I. the competition was a cookery item including honey. Here is the recipe for my effort which I found delicious on its own or served with cream, as a sweet.

APRICOT NUT TRIANGLE

This is enough to make 18.

For the base

- 3ozs butter or margarine
- 2ozs dark brown sugar
- 1oz rolled oats
- 1oz sultanas
- 2ozs chopped nuts
- 2 tablespoons clear honey
- 3ozs self raising flour
- 1 egg, size 3, beaten

For the Topping

- 6ozs dried apricots
- Finely grated rind of 1 orange
- 5 fluid ozs orange juice
- 2 tablespoons clear honey

An 11" x 7" x 1" tin, base lined and greased. Set the oven to moderately hot, gas mark 5 or 375F/190C

To make the base, melt the butter or margarine in a pan and then stir in all the remaining ingredients for the base. Spoon into the prepared tin. Level the top and bake on the top shelf of the oven for 20 minutes or until light brown. Leave to cool.

To make the topping, place the apricots, orange rind and juice in a saucepan, bring to the boil and simmer gently for 5 minutes or until the apricots are soft. Liquidise or process with honey and then spread over the base. Cut into 18 triangles.

HONEY TEABREAD

- 2 ozs butter or block margarine
- 5 ozs honey
- 5 ozs demerara sugar
- 10 ozs plain flour
- Pinch of salt
- 1 teaspoon bicarbonate of soda
- 1 teaspoon baking powder
- 1 teaspoon ground ginger
- 1 teaspoon ground mixed spices

- 1 teaspoon powdered cinnamon
- 4 ozs finely chopped mixed peel
- 1 egg
- 1/4 pint milk
- Flaked almonds to decorate
- Loaf tin 8.5"x4" greased and lined

Gently melt the fat in a pan. Remove from the heat and stir in the honey and sugar. Leave to cool. Sift the flour, salt and raising agents and spices into a bowl. Add the chopped peel. Beat the egg and milk together and mix thoroughly with the cooled honey mixture. Pour the mixture into the prepared tin and scatter flaked almonds over it. Bake in a moderate oven, Gas 4, for an hour and a quarter until well risen and firm. Turn out the teabread and leave to cool on a wire rack. Keep for 24 hours before serving, cut into slices and buttered.



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NORTH CRAVEN CND WELCOMES DUTCH GREENPEACE MARCHERS

By Alison Hawkey

Members of North Craven CND welcomed and provided hospitality for 3 Greenpeace Campaigners on the local leg of their 285 mile march from the Ministry of Defence, Whitehall, up to Sellafield in Cumbria.

Rens Willet, John Mes and Andre Sinicola arrived in Bentham to glorious sunshine on Monday 13th June from Skipton, and left, refreshed, on Tuesday for Kirkby Lonsdale, taking in a visit to Settle High School and Ingleton Middle School en route.

The three men are aiming to raise public awareness of the newly opened Thorp (Thermal Oxide Reprocessing Plant) at Sellafield, emphasizing the connection between us and Chernobyl (Sellafield is only 40 miles from Bentham), the site of the world's worst nuclear accident only 5 years ago. The "March Macabre" culminated in a mass blockade at Sellafield on the solstice Monday 20th June where local campaigners Vicki Mulligan and I joined the men to register our protest.

Low Bentham Institute

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NORTH CRAVEN CND AGM

By Alison Hawkey

North Craven CND held its Annual general Meeting in Bentham on Thursday 1st June. Members reiterated their concern for matters anti-nuclear, noting in particular the peace camps held monthly to demonstrate locally both at Menwith Hill, near Harrogate, and at Sellafield.

It was agreed to donate £40 to the organisation "Children of Chernobyl" which brings children from Chernobyl to Ireland for two weeks holidays. Apparently this opportunity increases a child's life expectancy by 2 years. Dr. Zolovok, Director of the regional children's hospital, believes that "...each child taken to Ireland is returned two years of life".

North Craven CND campaigns locally and can be contacted on 62050.

Nationwide Colouring Competition Winners

Congratulations from Nationwide Staff

Well done to Laura Moorby (age 4) who had a cash builder account opened for her, and the oldest winners, Heather Cowgill (age 7) and Emma Cowgill (age 10) who won Smart 2 Save Accounts, Nationwide's special account for savers between the ages of 7 and 14 years. This account which can pay tax free interest, gives the children the ownership of the account, signing for their own withdrawals, and paying in as little as 50p if they wish. It's a super way of introducing them to the saving habit, giving them a sense of responsibility for their own finances.

We could not have held the competition without the help of Mr. Johnson and his staff at High Bentham County Primary School. On behalf of Nationwide we would like to thank them all very much for their support.

EDITORIAL INFORMATION

BENTHAM NEWS is published at 'Latharna', High Bentham by an editorial committee consisting of Shirley Brown, Tom Cahill, Jane Callus, Keith Cowling, Keith Dixon, Christine Hodson, Ken Robertson, Kate Steele, Jean West, Pam Woof and our co-ordinator Bill Kennedy who can be contacted on 62492.

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

To place an advert in BN please contact our advertising manager Jane Callus on Bentham 62277.

Items for publication can be left at Bentham Sportswear, Station Road. Please also include your name and telephone number. **THE FINAL COPY DATE FOR PUBLICATION IS THE 15TH OF EACH MONTH.**

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

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CHURCH SERVICES

St. Margaret's C of E, High Bentham.
SUNDAY 8am Eucharist. 10am Parish Eucharist & Junior Church. WEDNESDAY 9am Eucharist. Mothers Union 2nd Tuesday each month 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). 10.30 Family Service. 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.
Calf Cop, Low Bentham. Meeting for Worship, 10.30am on 2nd and 4th Sundays. All welcome. Any enquiries please ring 62365.



Life's a Beach

A personal view of this year's Horse Fair that never was.

By Keith Cowling

June Fair weekend was warm and overcast. Travellers returning from Appleby Fair had been arriving in Bentham for some days, many parking on Lairgill. New faces filled the pubs and shops, horse carts and wagons trotted and the air of cautious excitement that used to accompany Bentham's Horse Fairs returned briefly to the town. The atmosphere was heightened by North Yorkshire County Council Highways Department who, with unerring sense of occasion, turned the whole of Main Street into a beach by spreading stones over the road and much of the pavement.

A happening, yet somehow not an occasion. It could have been a carnival but it wasn't. It could have created a traffic jam down the valley to Wennington, as Wray Fair did with its scarecrows, but it didn't. There was no Horse Fair, and many of us are left wondering why. Some of the travellers collected in the pubs and some lively music was played, but although publicans and police confirmed a peaceful weekend, directors of the Auction Mart declined (again) to allow the mart to be used. So an event that could have brought pleasure, trade and publicity to Bentham withered on the vine.

But it would not be right to put too much blame on the Auction Mart. The right to hold a fair in Bentham was established in law as far back as 1307, when John de Moubay received a royal 'charter' to that effect. In modern times the fair has been staged around mid summer both by charter and by custom to coincide with the need for farms to hire extra labour for 'hay-timing'. It is possible therefore for any interested parties to promote it and any landowner in the parish to stage it. But talking to people who complain about June Fair it is hard to avoid the feeling that Bentham wants all its visitors to be respectable, middle aged, caravanning couples who don't clutter up the town too much or make a lot of noise at

closing time. All very well, perhaps, but such tourists form a very seasonal market that contributes little to the local economy in the winter months.

What Bentham also needs are events and 'themes' that draw day visitors from a more local catchment area and help create an image of a welcoming town with good shops and pubs. For next year, groups concerned with attracting customers, like The Traders, The Town Council, the Show and Gala Committees and the Bentham Trust must work together to promote more seasonal events good enough to bring trade into the town. Such a collaboration would enable us to have a proper re-think about how to stage a Horse Fair that is good for Bentham.

Local Action for Justice and Peace

by (Fr.) Pat Smythe

15 people attended the June meeting which was mentioned in two letters in last month's Bentham News. The notion of local coordination and cooperation was welcomed, and the ecumenical and 'open' character of the initiative was approved. Another meeting, to which all are welcome, will take place in September, but prior to this an 'interim' executive, representing local churches and other interested parties, will meet at 8pm on Friday 29 July in the Wenningdale Room.

An immediate aim is to gather information about the activities of any local group who are in any way concerned with issues of justice, peace and 'the integrity of creation', and to bring together a calendar of events that are planned on behalf of those in need. In the longer term it was agreed that meetings should be convened each year, either to share information about particular issues, or to look at the work of different organisations.

Further information about this exciting and interesting initiative will be included in future editions of Bentham News.