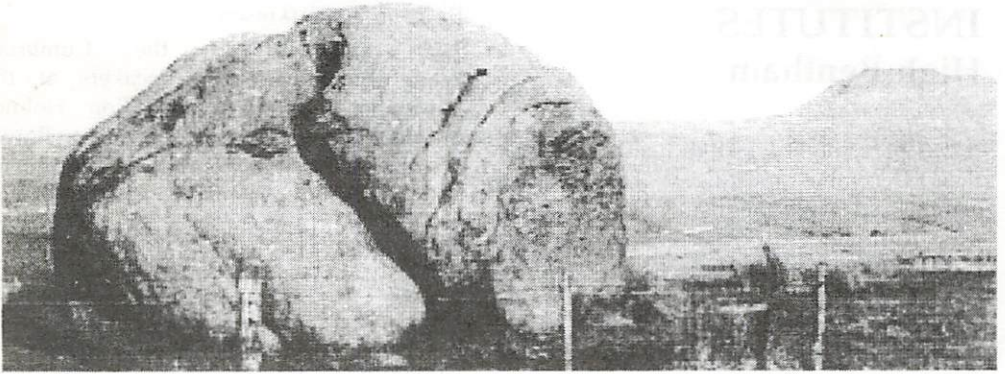




HISTORY OF BENTHAM'S PLAYING FIELD

Although cricket has been played on the Millholme field (as it was then known) since the 1930s, the struggle to find a permanent site for the football team was long and tortuous. In the prewar years local lads were frequently chased off the few flat fields in the area when the season dictated that agricultural needs were paramount. For a while the Sedgwick brothers organised games on a field behind the Station Hotel in Wennington, and such was the enthusiasm that the sight of teams of twenty-a-side playing all day Sunday was not uncommon. For a few years after 1945 the present site was used for football, and when it became unavailable John Marshall allowed use of the present Riverside Caravan Park as a pitch.

A visit by an athletics team from the local factory to the then Geo Angus headquarters in Newcastle in the late 1950s proved to be something of a watershed. Having seen the magnificent and varied facilities available to their colleagues, the aspiring Bentham Olympians, who had apparently given a very good account of themselves, thought, *"What's good enough for Tyneside is good enough for Wenningside"*. A delegation received a sympathetic hearing from Mr Ashton (general manager of the Bentham works at the time). However it was some considerable time before the dreams became a reality. For a number of years many Bentham people paid sixpence a week into the Bentham lottery organised by Bill Haigh and his helpers. Eventually patience and dedication was rewarded and a grant was forthcoming from the National Playing Fields Association to augment the money raised locally. Geo Angus bought the Millholme Field and contributed a further £3,000 and in 1964 a lease was granted by Geo Angus and Co Ltd to the trustees of the Bentham Playing Field Association. There was, and continues to be, a peppercorn rent paid to Angus, and the property was vested in the official Custodian for Charities. The lease was *"to maintain and improve said property to use as a recreation ground for the benefit of the inhabitants of the Parishes of High and Low Bentham."* The management committee had to include two Bentham ratepayers, one Bentham bank manager, two Angus representatives and members from the football, tennis, cricket, youth club and British Legion organisations. Frank Alston and Neville Preston were among the original trustees. The chairman of the association was Hugh McCombie, the secretary Ted Binns and among the committee were John Marshall, Ronnie Proctor, Jack Chamberlain, Tommy Whitford, Frank Parker and Jim Guy. In 1992 the lease was extended to 2012.

Continued on back

WOMENS' INSTITUTES High Bentham

By Doreen Park

It was party night for High Bentham W.I. at their December meeting. The evening commenced with the usual business then Mrs. Ruth Parker prepared and served a meal of turkey and beef salad, followed by trifle and fresh fruit, made by the committee. The President then held a quiz with Mrs. Currie's team being declared the winners.

After a break Mrs. F. Wilson gave a demonstration on making a Christmas cracker and Mrs. Margaret Hayton served her home made punch with mince pies. This was followed by carol singing. The Vice President, Mrs. Doreen Park announced the 1998 competition winner as Mrs. Sheila Brown and then drew the raffle, with eight members winning prizes. Mrs. Rosemary Currie, on behalf of members, thanked the committee for a most enjoyable evening which closed with the President and Vice president distributing a gift for each member, from under the Christmas tree.

The February meeting on the 4th will be addressed by Mr. H. Barnes, speaking on National Parks, USA. The competition will be "A holiday photo".

Low Bentham

By Jennifer Watkinson

Two members of the Cumbrian Woodturners were the speakers at the November meeting. Mr. Ron Holmes presented a wooden plaque and a flower that he had made, to the vice president, Mrs. Lydia Williamson. His friend, Roger, assisted him by displaying the many items of his craft which he had made specially for competitions or for selling at craft fairs. Soon two tables were laden with bowls of different shapes and sizes in different woods; thimbles, toadstools, rolling pins, needle cases, Christmas baubles, boxes and pens made from exotic woods. He even brought two examples of different sized dolly legs! His colleague then showed the four stages in how to assemble a backed stool. Afterwards every member was given a hand painted Christmas tree.

Competition winners for a photograph frame were:- Mrs. Hilda Lister, Mrs. Isabel Carr and Miss Alice Jackson.

Bishops Thornton and Shaw Mills, our twin W.I. invited members to their 50th birthday meal at Burnt Yates, which five members attended.

Five intrepid walkers braved the atrocious weather when they joined other members of the North Yorkshire West Federation for an autumn walk around Hebden. The host W.I., Linton and Threshfield, provided a much appreciated hot meal afterwards.



Now that you have tidied and prepared your garden for the winter, give a thought to your mower and other garden machinery. In the same way that your car needs servicing - the performance and life of your machine will be increased by regular maintenance. Don't leave it till the season starts, book your machines in now and beat the spring rush.

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TOWN COUNCIL

by David Johnson

A full complement of Councillors attended.

Daylight Robbery

The Council has written to the Chief Constable about the bank robbery, expressing unease about our vulnerability to such attacks and the impact of the poor response time on public confidence. The police reply stated their response had been adequate and had been misrepresented by the press. The prime objective had been to apprehend the offenders and as they were no longer in Bentham it had been necessary to search elsewhere. The incident was a major cross border operation involving three local police forces, a helicopter, dog teams, tactical firearms units and all the forces at their disposal. Sergeant Pappin emphasised that the two officers working the Ingleton section had been deployed immediately. He said everything possible had been done and that it was unfortunate that the thieves had escaped. Some Councillors thought there were Benthamers with further information. Sergeant Pappin asked them to come forward immediately.

The Mayor pointed out that there had been several major robberies over previous years. People were aware of police communication problems and were anxious about their security. Sergeant Pappin thought it was imperative that the plan went ahead to convert two police houses into a Police Station at Ingleton otherwise the nearest police station would be at Settle! He invited suggestions from the Council and the general public for suitable police targets for 1999/2000.

Skipton C.A.B.

Sylvia Valentine described the work of the Citizens Advice Bureau. She summarised its functions and illustrated the vast range of demands made on it. It costs about £1500 a year to keep the service in Bentham. She asked for volunteers who are prepared to be trained and work in this part of Craven. The

organisation plans to change its name to *Craven Citizens' Advice Bureau* in the near future. County Councillor Atkinson asked the Council to consider a substantial increase in the precept made to the C.A.B. when it meets on 6th. January.

School Hill

The public meeting had been well supported. It was agreed that School Hill should be an open area to be used as a public arena for stalls, bands and other events. Mrs. Howarth of Cobblestone Designs will provide plans to create a mosaic as a centre piece. The Development Trust is to talk to Norweb about the sub-station and explore the possibility of finding funds for the project.

Rubbish

Craven District Council has lent its support to the Council to try to tidy up a vacant plot of land and the old tennis courts off Lakeber Drive which are being used as a rubbish dump. Most of the Councillors felt it should be cleaned up and properly fenced.

Allotments

The allotment group is still pressing for a response from Craven District Council. It seems they could have a prolonged wait!

The Development Trust

Jean West presented a report about the activities of the Trust, including the new Community Office. The Trust is working on a number of projects including the production of a waterproof walkers map with Bentham at the centre, an audit on disabled access and small business support grants. It provides advice on fund-raising for projects organised by other groups, such as the youth centre, improvements to the Bentham Play Area and the entrance to the cemetery. It is considering millennium plans for a Museum in the Street together with an exhibition of photographs and memorabilia at Easter 2000. Advice is also available on housing, through the Anchor Housing "Stay Put" scheme.

LOOKING BACK

By Mrs. Ruth Parkinson (who recently celebrated her 90th birthday)

When I retired from the Staff of Ingleton County Secondary School in 1968, the editor of the school magazine asked me to write something of my reminiscences of the time spent in the school. I headed my article "Looking Back" and it seemed appropriate to use the same title when the editor of the Bentham News requested a few reflections of my life in Bentham, on the occasion of my 90th birthday.

I came to Bentham from Hornby when my family had "flown the nest"; a smaller house was needed and none suitable was available in Hornby. I have enjoyed a varied and active 25 years here, and joined the local societies - W.I., Ewecross Historical Society, the Photographic Club, the Footpath group, the Horticultural Society, Age Concern and have latterly been happy to be associated with the Justice and Peace movement, and the Bentham Development Trust.

It has been a privilege to be a member of the Methodist Church, and to help with the music there and to play the organ when the need arose at other local churches. I am also happy to have been associated with the ecumenical activities in the area.

Perhaps my greatest satisfaction has been the founding of a local branch of the Arthritis Research Council, of which I have been Chairman, and latterly President. It

has been a joy to see the interest and support develop over 21 years, now raising £3,000 - £4,000 each year for the cause of research. Long may the interest continue.

It has been a pleasure to be surrounded by so many former pupils who are so splendidly making their contribution to the community, and to make such a host of new friends in the district. Truly, Bentham is friendly and generous.

The response to my invitation to an "at home" for my birthday has been a wonderful tribute which I greatly appreciate. My thanks to everyone for the friendship and support I have received and for the way in which a "Lancashire Lass" has been helped in her endeavour to serve a lovely corner of Yorkshire.

KIRKBY LONSDALE BAND

By Judith Johnson

Kirkby Lonsdale Band is coming to Bentham again!! The band will play a stimulating and varied programme of marches, hymns, film music and selections. Tickets are available at the door at £3 and £2.50 for concessions. What better way to spend a wet afternoon in January?

Come and join your local brass band on Sunday 31st. January at 2.30pm. in Bentham Town Hall.



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COUNTY COUNCIL CONCERNS

By County Councillor Ralph Atkinson



May I wish you all a healthy and prosperous New Year.

Budget 1999/2000

The Government's local government figures for the coming financial year are now out and give no cause for rejoicing. The forecast Revenue Support Grant is increased by no more than 0.5%; it's expected that there will be less from business rates and, due to the gradual erosion of our balances over the last few years, there'll be less from this source. On top of this our Standard Spending Assessment for the County is only up 4.7% as against 5.2% for other county authorities (don't ask me why!) so I'm afraid there will be an unavoidable cut in County services. How these will be shared out remains to be seen but it will be the impossible task for councillors to judge whether, for example, holes in the road or baths for old ladies should be paid for. Not an exercise that I relish!

All in all this should work out at an increase in Council Tax of about a pound a week for Band D and others in proportion. The only progress that's been made is that we now have guidelines for three years, not just for one as in the past, so at least we can plan ahead.

School Transport Shortfalls

A recent independent report reveals that it costs between £36 and £41 a year to provide transport for scholars in urban areas, whilst in rural areas like North Yorkshire, it may cost ten times as much.

Although the Revenue Support Grant does provide for some extra in rural areas, it falls up to £60 a year short per scholar, of what is needed. This adds up to around £4.5m a year on our budget of £10m or nearly 50%. Along with other rural areas we are lobbying Government to reduce the deficit but are not getting much joy.

Cuts To Fall On Social Services

To some extent the decision I refer to above, i.e. roads versus old ladies, will be taken from us, for Government has decided to renege on its election promises to improve social services and is, in effect, cutting them. Although the SSA shows a 0.5% increase (as against other services of between 2.7% for Highways and 6.3% for Education) the loss of last year's transitional grant (to pay for the delegation of services from the NHS) means that in fact we have to face a reduction of just over £3m on a budget of £71.5m.

1997/98 Performance

In the face of the above cuts it is ironic to report the very high performance against set indicators of the County Council's services last year. Almost every measure shows a performance of over 90%. To pick out only two - there were 53 referrals to the ombudsman, slightly less than the five year average. In only two of these was the county council judged to be at fault. On highways, the percentage achievement of repairs to dangerous roads and pavements within 24 hours was 99.6%, and the number of days roadworks were in place per mile of road was only 4.1 days, tho' this applies only to county works and busy roads. The net expenditure on all services provided by the County Council was £601, meaning that we get pretty good value for money from our Council Tax.

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LETTER FROM AMERICA (No. 2)

Dear B.N. Readers,

This is the second instalment of my "Letter from America". My last letter covered the first experiences of my family (the Simpers, me - Margie, my husband - Adrian and our now 3-year-old daughter - Eleanor) on arrival in the U.S.A. This letter describes our new home.

We have found a lovely house to rent called a Single Family Home, which is a detached 3-bedroomed house with an enclosed back garden (called the back yard - over here, garden implies a showpiece!) and rambling lawns at the front. It has, as always here, a double garage (actually, some houses have triple ones). The house is on a new estate (1988) built on old meadowland and is one of many growing up around the commuter belt of Washington D.C. All the houses are detached with large gardens because space is not an issue.

All the houses on our street have 5-figure numbers, ours being 13178. Have you ever wondered why American addresses have such long numbers? There are certainly not over 13,000 houses on our road. It is because the houses are numbered from the centre (sorry center!) of the postal town, starting with the first and oldest house being No. 1 and so on, regardless of the street. So our address being 13178 Ladybank Lane, HERNDON is really house number 13178 of HERNDON, which is our nearest small town.

The houses are of timber frame construction, with the inside timber frame built first (rain is not a concern here, we being on roughly the same latitude as Lisbon, and nor is the cost of wood). Afterwards, a brick façade is added. This is then covered with timber or aluminium look-alike timber for the final Virginian look - something rather like a doll's house with the compulsory porch at the front as in The Waltons (where is my swinging seat - Adrian promised me one for my birthday?) There is a deck (wooden patio) at the rear.

Our garden has a little Chinese garden in one corner (a pond with a red arched bridge and bamboo, but no resident panda) because the owner of the house is American Chinese and wanted a reminder of his childhood back in China.

The interior of the house is very open plan with no doors. Eleanor can run around from the front door to the "family room" (living-room), through the kitchen, into the dining-room and the more formal front room (most American houses have 2 sitting-rooms) and back to the front door. She finds it excellent for roller-skating. I am not so sure.

The stairs (quite steep) are bang in the middle of the house and lead up to a substantial landing and the 3 bedrooms. There are 2 bathrooms upstairs and a cloakroom downstairs; American houses are never short of these, although the word "toilet" is not acceptable. It must be called a bathroom whether there is a bath in it or not - they regard "loo" as quaint English. Our bedroom has a walk-in dressing room off it (again quite usual). There is no overhead lighting at all upstairs; one is supposed to use lamps. At present, we only have a light bulb or two which plug into a socket - not very beautiful, but functional.

The windows are not designed to open. They are all double-glazed with a bug screen as well and, although nominally sash windows, are very reluctant to stay open without a piece of wood for support. The Americans have what they call "all year round interior weather" which means that the thermostat is set at a particular temperature (this alters slightly throughout the 24 hours) and remains there - in summer the air-conditioning blows cold air; in winter the heating blows hot air, so an open window is unnecessary and costly. The interior weather system does not include rain; mind you, there is very little of that outside either. I honestly believe that the Americans love making films about humans living in space or on other planets because the change to them would not be so dramatic as it would be for the likes of us. They are quite used to living in a false environment created by background heat and light, just as in a space capsule or space

LETTER FROM AMERICA (No. 2) (Continued from page 6)

base on a planet. They would not necessarily notice the inability to go outside and "feel" nature, or at least they would survive longer and happier without it than others.

I write this at the end of October and outside it is like a late August day in the U.K. - quite beautiful, especially with the colours (or "colors") of the "Fall". Trees here go through several different colour changes, including red, orange and yellow before they finally turn brown. Not quite the same as the quick turn from green to brown I remember from my English autumns. No wonder the beauty of the Fall is so famous here. We have had no rain for weeks and weeks, although this is unusual; it has been a very dry year.

Much has happened since we moved into this house (which is why this second letter has been so long coming) and we have learned a lot about America and its ways. I shall tell you more in my next letter, coming soon I hope.

Margie Simper

Dear Bentham News,

When I was pregnant with my first baby, I stopped my 40-a-day cigarette habit and gave in to cravings for toffee apples and rice pudding. During the following nine months I gained six stones in weight. Even so, when I had my baby, I thought I could get back into my size 6 jeans, and when I couldn't, I cried my eyes out.

I started suffering with Post Natal Depression and had a very low self esteem. I got a lot of comfort from my doctor but the root of it all was my weight. I was too embarrassed to even walk down the street some days. I tried all kinds of strict diets and lost some weight slowly, but it was hard work.

Then a friend told me about Slimming World Healthy Eating Plans and they sounded too good to be true! I love the Eating Plans - I can eat so much! And the



"No humiliation" policy is great too. The weight has come off fast, even though I still enjoy chocolate, cakes and crisps!

All of my self esteem has been restored and I have now shed nearly five stones, my boyfriend has proposed and we are getting married in July! I have been given the opportunity to run the local Bentham class, which is at 7pm on Tuesdays in the Town Hall. Contact me on 62932 for details.

Angela Ward.

Dear Editor,

Re -The Central America/Hurricane Mitch Appeal Benefit Concert, 5th December.

Thank you!!!

The event on the day raised over £800. The Bentham Street Band made £12.00; the Flying Ferrets shops collection raised over £15.00; Bonnie's Book Stall made nearly £20.00 and Adrian's auction of items donated by Heath's of Birmingham extracted a further £88.00 from people attending the Town Hall in the evening. Copies of the receipt for the final total will be posted. May I, on behalf of the organising group for the above event, please thank the following for their generosity and help with the event:-

For sponsoring auction prizes - The Black Bull Hotel, The Coach House, The Horse and Farrier Restaurant, Hash Browns, Bamfords, Fishers Clothing, Tom and Rachel Guy, Bentham Sports Shop and John Heath and Co. Ltd., Birmingham.

For donating tea and coffee - Spar and The Late Shop, Bentham.

For serving refreshments - Tessa Tyndall and the Beavers (sounds like a band), and people from St. Margaret's Church, Bentham (who also helped on the book stall).

For providing the bar, and a donation - The Punch Bowl, Low Bentham.

For arranging and managing the evening - Adrian Leigh.

The following acts and bands - The Bentham Street Band, Tom and Wal, Tasha and Jack, The Accapella group, Mandy and Lucy, Rain, The Swamp Fossils, *Continued on page 8*

LETTERS (continued from page 7)

The Hokum Hobos, Smokin' the Swarm, Shades of Blue, Fquari, and DJs Adam, Josh and Eric.

Thanks also to Off the Wall for the Hall decorations, and to Bentham Arts Alliance for providing PA equipment and pump-prime money for the event. Thanks too, to Jane Preston and to the Bentham News for publicity and to Richard Turner's and Langdale Accountants for sundries.

The group organising the event was - Michael Barron, Will Holmes-Davis, Pauline Hill, Tracy Midgley, Bonnie Mitchell, Sean Sanderson and Mark Fletcher. Special thanks to John and Sean for their wonderful practical help and support throughout. I would just like to add that, from a bit of a wild idea, the event took shape and was organised in a little over three weeks. Everyone connected with it has been generous in a huge variety of ways. We are sure the money raised will help Central American survivors of Hurricane Mitch. Thank you.

Mark Fletcher, on behalf of the Organising Group.

Dear Editor,

I see from your November issue of Bentham News that equipment on the playing fields is repeatedly vandalised, and that there have been a number of unsolved thefts and burglaries recently.

I think it may be because the police prefer the easy jobs - like sticking parking tickets on the vehicles of kind-hearted people like my sister-in-law making a twenty minute visit to help an elderly person (despite having a severed Achilles tendon), and even on the cars of professional carers on similar errands.

I myself received a ticket, after driving 330 miles to visit my mother at 3, Ashfield Cottages. Unless I park in front of someone's house in Goodenber Road - so that they had nowhere to park when they came home from work - I was not aware there was anywhere else to park. I was given no

chance to explain to P.C. Carpenter until I phoned him at Ingleton. In my youth the saying was "if you don't know, ask a policeman". When I asked him where else I could park he said "That's your problem". I was not parked on the road and in practice I was not obstructing the pavement either. The gap between my car and the house was wider than the whole pavement is further along. And I saw an invalid chair pushed through the gap with plenty of room to spare on both sides. Of course the bureaucrats in the ticket office wouldn't listen to reason either. Result £20 fine. Further result, one very upset visitor. If this is an example of relations between public and police in Bentham, it is hardly surprising that no one can help with information about real crime. And I am left wondering what to do in future. In the past both my brothers had cars stolen from "proper" car parks in Bentham. So I won't risk that in view of the number of unsolved crimes already on the books. And there does not appear to be any worthwhile public transport system left in your area. So it looks like another £20 fine next time I visit.

Yours faithfully,

John Burns

Umberleigh, Devon.

Editor:-Readers comments are welcome on any of the matters covered in this letter.



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The Mayor, Councillor Wendy Dowbiggin, who opened the Bentham Community Office at Bentham Development Trust, seen with Alice Wallace of the Charities Information Bureau and Lin Barrington of the Trust, at the official opening ceremony during Late Night Shopping on 11th December. The Community Office is for use initially by voluntary organisations/groups in Bentham, but will later be open to the public, but not for commercial purposes. The equipment includes a computer with internet access, and software to help identify possible funders, printer, scanner and photo-copier.

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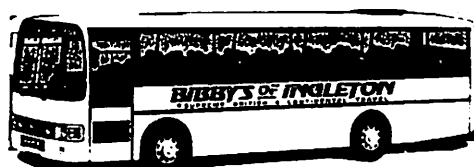
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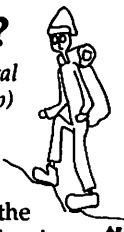
By Angela Robertson (General Secretary, Bentham Footpath Group)

Too much eating, drinking and watching old films on the tele? Then resolve to have a healthier New Year with the Bentham Footpath Group! Walking is the purest exercise. It involves all your muscles and helps the circulation of your blood without putting pressure on the heart. It improves the action of the lungs and aids digestion. Taken regularly it offers weight control and is a marvellous aid to a good night's sleep. Disregard the nonsense that suggests that, to be beneficial, exercise must always test one to the limit. Country walking is not a penance, it is a pleasure.

There are 79 footpaths in the Bentham Parish, as recorded in a survey for the National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act 1949. They cover a distance of some 47.5 miles going along river banks, through undulating pastures, flower meadows and wind-swept moors. They provide superb panoramic views and pass by features such as stiles, steps, footbridges, gills and barns.

Guided walks are sociable occasions, usually with a mix of locals, "off-comers" and sometimes visitors. Invariably there is a fund of knowledge to be gleaned from fellow walkers about the local area, sometimes historical, sometimes geological, sometimes local gossip! Included in the programme of Saturday or Sunday guided walks for January and February is a Bentham/Ingleton/Clapham circular (8-10 miles), a Leck circular (8 miles) or a more robust Whernside walk (7-8 miles). Shorter walks, about 4-5 miles, take place on a Thursday afternoon. The meeting point for these walks is Lairgill car park. For more details of the January programme see the noticeboard outside High Bentham Primary School. If you would like more information about the Footpath Group and its activities regarding footpath problems, waymarking or conservation please get in touch with me on Bentham 61285.

Forget that last chocolate biscuit and get your walking boots on!



Hash Browns

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EXAMPLE

Total cash price	£600.00
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Main Street, High Bentham. 61214.

FREE TRAINING FOR COMMUNITY GROUPS in HOW TO USE THE FUNDING POINT AT THE NEW COMMUNITY OFFICE

Members of voluntary organisations in Bentham are encouraged to make use of the new equipment and specialist programme identifying potential funders.

Training in how to use the programme is free and friendly at

Bentham Development Trust on
Wed. 27th January 1.00-3.30pm.
Call Bill or Lin on 61030 to book.

LOCAL EVENTS IN JANUARY

Fri 8th Looking Well, Black Library
Fantasy Wargaming Club, 6.00-
9.00pm and every Friday.

Sat 9th Looking Well, Rag-rug making,
beginners session, 2.00-4.00pm.

Mon 11th Ewecross Historical Society
Annual General Meeting, Town
Hall, 7.30pm.

Looking Well, Tai-Chi/Chi
Qong gentle exercise session,
7.30pm and every Monday.

Tue 12th High Bentham Toy Library in
the Youth Club, 9.30-11.30am.

Bentham Child Health Clinic in
the Surgery, 1.00-3.00pm.

Bright Hour, 2.15pm, Methodist
Schoolroom.

Looking Well, WISH Womens
Support Group, 2.00-3.00pm
and every Tuesday.

Looking Well, Millennium
Banner workshop 1.30-3.30pm
and every Tuesday.

Wed 13th Looking Well, Alzheimer's
Disease Carers Support Group
7.30pm.

Bentham Footpath Group
quarterly meeting for members,
7.30pm, Town Hall.

Fri 15th Copy deadline for February
Bentham News.

Fri 15th Waste paper collection at the
Legion Hut, 8.30-11.00am.
proceeds to NSPCC.

The Countryside Society AGM
and Members' meeting, Hornby
Institute, 7.45pm.

Looking Well, Craven Advocacy
open meeting, 1.30-3.00pm.

Sat 16th Bentham News coffee morning,
10.00-11.45am, Town
Hall. Please support us.
Home baked products  would be welcome!

"Off The Wall" 8pm Town Hall
Ballroom. Buffet style meal.
Dancing to Fquari, plus local
cabaret. £7 members (£10 non-
members) £3 after 10.00pm.
Tickets from Hairlines, 61554.

Looking Well, 2nd birthday
celebrations 10.00am.

Sun 17th Bentham Footpath Group walk,
Wherside, 7-8 miles, leader D.
Fisher 61449. Meet at Lairgill
9.30am.

Mon 18th Bentham Playing Field
Association open meeting at
8.00pm, at Wenning Avenue
clubhouse. See front page.

Burton-in-Lonsdale
Horticultural Society, Village
Hall 7.30pm. Ken Mosey - plant
hunting in Europe.

Tue 19th Angus Pensioners' meeting in
the Town Hall at 2.30pm.
Illustrated talk.

Bentham Traders open meeting
7.30pm at Craven College new
business room, Millers Court.
See page 16.

Thu 21st Looking Well, Mucky Buckets
Play Project, 1.30-3.30pm and
every Thursday.

Sat 23rd Bentham Football Club
coffee morning 10.00am-
12.00 noon, at the Town  Hall.

Listing for Local Events

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

Event.....

Venue.....

Contact.....Tel.....

Please complete and return to Bill
Kennedy, 1 Lakeber Avenue, or to
Bentham Sportswear, Station Rd, by 15th.

Sat 23rd Looking Well, Rag-rug making follow-up session, 2-5pm.

Mon 25th Ewecross Historical Society meeting, Town Hall 7.30pm.
Mr. Tom Clare - The archaeology of villages in Westmoreland and North Lancashire.

Tue 26th High Bentham Toy Library in the Youth Club, 9.30-11.30am.

Bentham Child Health Clinic in the Surgery, 1.00-3.00pm.

Bright Hour at 2.15pm in the Methodist Schoolroom.

Wed 27th Free training in fund-raising for voluntary groups, Community Office, Bentham Development Trust, (61030) 1.00-3.30pm.

Fri 29th Bentham News published.

Sat 30th Council Millennium Project coffee morning in the Town Hall, 10.0am-12.00 noon.

Wesley Guild - Lunesdale Choir at the Methodist Church 7.30pm.

Sun 31st Kirkby Lonsdale Brass Band varied musical programme 2.30pm at the Town Hall. See page 4.

Bentham Footpath Group walk, Leck circular, 8 miles, leader A. Leigh 63037. Meet at Lairgill/Cowan Bridge 9.45/10.00am.

Local Events In February

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

Fri 5th Bentham Footpath Group Annual Dinner - please ring 62326 early January for venue and booking.

Sun 7th Bentham Footpath Group walk, Lupton circular, 7-8 miles, leader T. Connolly. Please meet at Lairgill at 10.00am.

CONGRATULATIONS!

& Happy 60th Birthday, on 17th January, to our popular and hard working Mayor, Councillor Wendy Dowbiggin



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"UNDER FIVES" FAIR AT LIBRARY

By Diane Wells

On Thursday 26th November the Benthams Library hosted an "under fives" fair. In a warm and inviting atmosphere young children were encouraged to share an inviting range of books.

The event was well attended with groups from Nursery, Playgroup the Looking Well, and local families. Nita Dewar, our special services librarian from Skipton, read from an exciting selection of books to a captivated audience. We saw Fireman Sam climbing ladders, the aftermath of the Farmer's Enormous Sneeze, and the highlight for me was the tale of the Long Nosed Pig. I am privileged to know exactly how the pig got his snout (an unfortunate accident) and why he only ever says Oink. Also on offer were craft activities, a well stocked book stall offering 20% discount and a representative from Sainsburys who brought healthy snacks and advice on well balanced food.

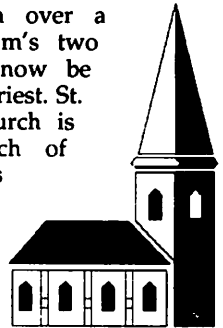
The library has many things to offer for all ages, including tapes, videos, local information and extensive reference material, as well as the obvious shelves full of books on all subjects. It is a lovely place to visit on the way home from school and being virtually free is very accessible to everyone. (There is a small charge for tapes and videos).

Hopefully more events will follow and remember it is never too early or too late to start enjoying books.

BENTHAM PARISHES TO HAVE NEW PRIEST-IN-CHARGE

By Canon John Bearpark

For the first time in over a hundred years Benthams two parish churches will now be under the care of one priest. St. John the Baptist's Church is the old parish church of Benthams, and dates from medieval times. In 1837 St. Margaret's Church was built, but at first was looked after by curates from St. John's. In 1872 St.



Margaret's became a separate parish, with its own Vicar.

After the Reverend Brian Underwood left St. John's in 1992, the Bishop of Bradford decided not to appoint a new Rector, and eventually the Rectory was sold. The Reverend Martin Bamforth, Vicar of Burton-in-Lonsdale was asked to become also Priest-in-Charge of St. John's. Following his departure for a new ministry in Cyprus last September, the Bishop again held a review, and as a result on January 27th at 6.30pm, Canon John Bearpark will be Licensed as Priest-in-Charge of St. John's.

Services in the two churches will remain at their existing times, thanks to the assistance provided by the Reverend Brian Levick and Mr. Les Harpur. A warm welcome is extended to everyone to attend the Licensing Service.

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SETTLE HIGH SCHOOL CELEBRATES MILLENNIUM WINDFALL

By Lionel Edwards

A major Science Fair is set to take place at the school following a £10,000 Millennium Award from the Royal Society and the British Association for the Advancement of Science. The main aim of the fair is to promote the public understanding of science and technology, especially its effects on our lives. It will also help to improve public knowledge of some local applications of science, and will develop links between schools, industries and community groups in the area.

Local primary and middle schools are being invited to take part in the venture. The idea is that each school will carry out some scientific research in partnership with

partnership with a local industry or environmental group, then present the results at the Science Fair. The range of projects which could be undertaken is huge. It is expected that in addition to work directly related to local industrial processes, some schools may carry out research on the flora and fauna of the Yorkshire Dales, or other environmental issues such as recycling. A central theme will be how technology and science have changed over the 20th century.

Settle is the first school in North Yorkshire to have benefited from this national initiative, which has so far given over £850,000 to science educators across the country for work in their communities. We are eager to hear from local companies or organisations who are involved either in science or the environment. Do you think we could work together on a project?

If you would like to discuss this possibility, please contact Lionel Edwards at Settle High School and Community College, (01729) 822451.

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BENTHAM TRADERS OPEN MEETING

There will be an open meeting for all local
business people on Tuesday 19th January
1999 in Craven College's new business room
at Millers Court.. The following topics will
be discussed:-

Loyalty cards- Guest speaker
from Kirkby Lonsdale Chamber of Trade
will speak about Kirkby experience with
loyalty cards.

Events for 1999- Should we have a more
structured plan for meeting dates laid out
on a membership card and what major
events should be run?

Possibilities are an Easter event and the bike
show at Witsun.

Royal Mail promotional leaflet for spring

The aims of B.T.A. Is the image right? How
can it attract new members from the 200 +
businesses in the locality?

Please come to join us at Millers Court in the
New Business room at Craven College at
7.30 p.m. on Tuesday 19th January.



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RECIPES

By Doreen Park

Here are some recipes in which you can make the most of leftovers. The first one is very rich and full of calories!



Stilton and Watercress Tart

- 8 ozs shortcrust pastry to line tin
- 1 oz butter
- 2 bunches watercress, stalks removed
- 10 ozs diced blue Stilton cheese, rind removed.
- 3 eggs
- 5 fluid ozs single cream
- salt and pepper
- salad leaves and radishes to garnish

Preheat oven to 200C (400F, Gasmark 6). Roll out the pastry and use to line an 8" flan tin. Prick the base and chill for 15 minutes, then bake blind for 10-12 minutes. Lower oven temperature to 180c (350F/Gasmark 4). Meanwhile prepare the filling. Melt the butter in a large frying pan, add the watercress and cook for 1-2 minutes, stirring continuously, until just wilted. Drain in a sieve, pressing out excess liquid, then arrange in the pastry case. Tuck the Stilton cubes into the watercress. Beat together eggs and cream, season with salt and pepper and pour into the flan case. Bake for 30-35 minutes or until set. Serve warm or cold with salad leaves and chives.

Turkey and Chutney Loaf

- 12 ozs cooked turkey, finely diced
- 3 ozs fresh white breadcrumbs
- 2 eggs
- 1 small onion, chopped
- cherry tomatoes and salad leaves
- 2 tablespoons chutney
- 3 fluid ozs milk
- 2-3 ozs ground paprika
- 4 tablespoons finely chopped parsley

Preheat the oven to 180C (350F, Gasmark 4). Place all the ingredients in a large bowl and mix well. Press the mixture into a greased 1lb loaf tin and bake in oven for 35-40 minutes. Serve loaf sliced, hot or cold, with tomatoes and salad leaves. Cook's tip. This loaf is delicious served hot with a spicy tomato sauce.

Ham and Mushroom Rolls

- 8 large slices ham
- 6 ozs cream cheese
- 6 fluid ozs soured cream
- 1 egg, lightly beaten
- salt and pepper
- 1 small onion, finely chopped
- 4 ozs cooked spinach, well drained and chopped
- celery leaves to garnish

Mushroom Sauce

- 8 fluid ozs cream of mushroom soup
- 2 fluid ozs soured cream

Preheat the oven to 180C (350F, Gasmark 4). Remove any fat from the ham. Combine cheese, soured cream, egg, onion, spinach and seasonings. Place about 2 tablespoons of the filling on each slice of ham and roll up. Arrange the rolls, seam side down, in a shallow baking dish. Combine sauce ingredients and salt and pepper, then spoon over the rolls. Bake in oven for 25 minutes. Garnish with celery.

Cook's tip. Turkey or pork slices make good alternatives to ham. Other soups can also be used, such as celery or tomato.

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ESTATE AGENTS

PEOPLE PAGE

Thanks

Maurice Metcalfe. I would like to thank all relatives, friends and neighbours for visiting me, and for their get well cards and good wishes sent during my recent stay in hospital.



Mrs. Ruth Parkinson thanks most sincerely all who helped to make her 90th birthday celebration such a happy event. It was a pleasure to see relatives and friends who came to the morning "get together" and to Pye Busk. Thank you for the many cards, flowers and gifts. Donations for Arthritis Research of £100 are greatly appreciated.

Helen Tomlinson would like to thank her family and friends for their generous donations to the Kidney Research Fund on the occasion of her fortieth birthday on 5th December 1998. A total of £395 was raised. Also, thanks for the flowers, gifts and cards and for making it such a memorable occasion.

Thank you to all those who donated musical instruments to our Project for Young People, and to Paul Deaville and Russell Jackson for their "strong man" act in moving the piano.
Bentham Youth Representatives

Hornby Drama Group. We should like to thank you all for the very encouraging support which you gave our November production of the "MacBeth"(!) play. We had a very large number of back stage helpers and we greatly appreciate their efforts.

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NOVEMBER WEATHER

Compiled by Judith Johnson, rainfall figures from Mrs. M. Foster.



Generally a more average month with rainfall of 110.6mm (4.3"), the ten year average being 99.4mm (3.9"). There were spells of warmer and frequently wetter weather with a westerly airstream and frosty, dry interludes. Frost occurred on six occasions and a smattering of snow early in the month on November 4th.

Now that Summer is only a memory we have fewer expectations of the weather. In Summer we expect the weather to be good and feel cheated if it is not, but in Autumn and Winter we tend to ignore what is going on outside the house and if the weather is good then it is a bonus. A better way to view the weather in Summer also!

MUSIC AND SONGS QUIZ

Supplied by Roy Wilkinson, with a cuddly toy for each of the first three correct entries opened. Please leave entries at Bentham Sports on Station Road, with your name and telephone number, by 18th January.

Fill in the missing numbers from these musical questions.

1. ___ little boys.
2. Only ___ hours from Tulsa.
3. Green bottles left after one accident ___.
4. ___ street rag.
5. The roaring ___.
6. ___ blind mice.
7. Total number happy in my blue heaven ___.
8. ___ street.
9. Pennsylvania ___.
10. ___ alone.
11. How many girls were kissing and hugging Fred ___.
12. ___ shades of green.
13. Take ___.
14. ___ times a lady.
15. Until the ___ of never.

Answers to December Quiz.

- 1 Carol, 2 Present, 3 Turkey, 4 Angels, 5 Shepherds, 6 Inn, 7 Mary, 8 Three wise men, 9 Carol, 10 Holly, 11 Mistletoe, 12 Crackers, 13 Cards, 14 Santa Claus, 15 Nuts.

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POST OFFICE NEWS

By Alison Jones

Special Stamp Issues 1999 - The Millennium Collection

The Post office is celebrating the approaching millennium by dedicating the whole of its 1999 Special Stamps programme to celebrating 100 years of British achievements. There will be one issue a month, each on a different theme. The first theme, in the issue to be released on Tuesday 12th January, is "Inventors". Further special issues will follow on the first Tuesday of each month. Leaflets giving full details of this Millennium Collection are available at Post Offices.

Sale of Dales Railcards at Post Offices

Post Offices in this area will be selling Dales Railcards as from Saturday 2nd January 1999. At present the railcards are available from a limited number of manned railway stations or by post. The cost of the railcard is £10 and this gives discounted rail travel to local residents for a year for journeys between points on the Skipton & Carlisle and Skipton & Morecambe lines. Further information is available from post offices or manned railway stations.

Conclusion of Government Review of the Post Office

The government has concluded that the Post Office should remain in the public ownership for the foreseeable future but that it should be given more commercial freedom as a public corporation. More of its profits will be available for reinvestment in services and other related ventures. An independent regulator will be established to protect customers' interests whilst the government will have less detailed involvement in Post Office activities. A White Paper will follow during 1999. The government has stressed its commitment to the present standards of service in terms of mail handling and the national network of post offices.

LOOKING WELL IN 1999

By Alison Jones

We wish everyone a happy New Year as we start the final year of the Millennium. We celebrate our second birthday this month and would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who has helped us over the past two years. We invite you to come in and make a wish for the future on Saturday morning, 16th January.

Our regular sessions continue as usual - for fuller details please refer to the diary page. Join us on Tuesday afternoons to design and make banners for the millennium or come to Joyce Knapp's rug making starter session on Saturday 9th and 23rd January.

A group of older people are planning to apply for a Help the Aged Millennium Award. If you are over 60 and have an idea of something you would like to do for the community, let us know as we may be able to include it in our application.

NEWS FROM THE VILLAGE BAKERY

You don't have to break in to get our products!

We are happy to serve you during shop hours, Monday to Saturday, from 6.30am. A New Year, a new bakery, producing new lines of pies, cakes and pastries.

Make a New Year Resolution to visit us at least once a week and treat yourself. The Millennium is only twelve months away; make sure you are well prepared with a good supply of cream cakes and breads! - We are - come and see.

Happy New Year to you all, Peter, Duncan and Staff.

CECIL'S SWANSONG

By Stephen Dawson

The Conservative Supper at the Golf Club was something of a family occasion. The speaker was Lord Parkinson of Carnforth who retired as Party Chairman in October, and, as Cecil Parkinson, was a Minister in the Thatcher era. Cecil's parents lived in Bentham for many years and his sister, Norma, still lives here.

Lord Parkinson declared that Bentham had witnessed his last political after-dinner speech. Norma had persuaded him to end his retirement for one night only, and 72 people sat down to a delicious Christmas dinner prepared by the Club Stewards.

In his remarks, Lord Parkinson didn't underestimate the task facing William Hague. Even at their lowest ebb the Labour Party, under Neil Kinnock, never fell below 200 MPs, and the 162 Tory MPs were dwarfed by the Labour benches. The Liberal Democrats had seats on several Cabinet

Committees and this left the Conservatives voice as the sole opposition to an arrogant and powerful Government.

The Prime Minister was wary of criticism and had reduced his appearances in the House of Commons. Labour also sought to introduce the "closed list" system of voting, and to replace the House of Lords with a quango. As the House of Lords was a rather timid chamber with a brief to scrutinize legislation, Lord Parkinson questioned the Government's motives.

Lord Parkinson was very critical of the proposed Single Currency. He warned that an interest rate set in Frankfurt for all of Europe, rich and poor, could lead to civil unrest. The Tory policy of observing the ECU in good times and bad was absolutely vital. He also described William Hague as "a tremendous young man, with a great sense of humour for a Yorkshireman", and capable of restoring Tory fortunes. An encouraging start had been made in the number of local by-election wins.

Lord Parkinson was thanked by Derek Jordan, a Deputy Chairman of the Party in Skipton & Ripon. Branch Chairman David Stubbs presided.

DIRTY DOGS!

We've had a lot of complaints of the increasing menace of dog dirt on our pavements. At least one child has had eye problems caused by dog dirt. Next month the Bentham News will carry a feature on this, including advice to dog owners and ideas on what needs to be done to reduce the problem, and keep our pavements cleaner.

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ARE YOU BETWEEN 16 AND 25 YEARS OLD? (OR DO YOU HAVE A FRIEND OR RELATIVE WHO IS?)

By Lin Barrington

If so, you might be interested in THYNC. What is it (apart from bad spelling)? It stands for Training and Housing for Youth in North Craven, a new local project based in Benthams and Settle. The idea is to offer housing and training to local young people to help them towards settled employment and permanent housing locally.

The training will be tailored to meet each person's need, so it could be anything from help to improve reading and writing to 'A Levels'. If a young person is already on an educational course, he or she can still be considered.

The housing is 'supported housing', which means that each young person gets as much (or as little) help as they need to live independently. The help could be with managing money, claiming benefits, advice on how to cope with housework, help with any particular problems they have etc.

THYNC is an offshoot of Craven Rural Housing Action which is based in Skipton, and is part of Timble Housing Project, a registered charity. For over a year, representatives from Community Education, Craven College, Youth Service, Health Service, Craven District Council, Timble Housing, Home Housing and Benthams Trust have been meeting to discuss the project. Timble has raised funds from the Housing Action Trust and we are now about to buy (with the assistance of Home Housing who manage Wesley Close) and rent houses in Benthams.

So if you are interested, get in touch! Contact Helen Squires on 01729 824383 and get more information. There will also be posters and leaflets about THYNC in various spots in Benthams in the near future.

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HISTORY OF BENTHAM'S PLAYING FIELD

(cont. from Page 1)

In the early 1970s the field was drained and the pavilion, one tennis court and children's play equipment was put in place at an overall cost of £8,000. In 1976 a second tennis court was added. In 1981 the BPFA provided the funds for the construction of a bar and the Bentham Sports Club was created. Under the club's rules, two thirds of profits have to be retained to enhance the recreational facilities. Despite initial teething troubles, thanks to the patronage of the local caravanners and the hard work of Jim Guy (treasurer) and his committee, over the years a sound financial base has been created. In 1984 the tennis courts were resurfaced and marked for 5-a-side football and netball, thus enabling a netball team to be formed.

The constituent clubs pay an annual £50 rent to BPFA. It has been possible for the rent to be unaltered for 20 years because the Social Club meets the overheads of the pavilion. The BPFA receives an annual grant from the Town Council towards maintenance costs and the annual gala contributes towards running costs. Over the years the BPFA has also received financial assistance from Angus, CDC and the Sports Council.

CRICKET AND FOOTBALL PITCHES TO GO?

It is clear that many people did not know that the provision of permanent facilities for cricket and football in Bentham only goes back to the 1950s. Now, 50 years on, we are in danger of losing them. The present Playing Field committee badly needs an infusion of new blood so that the existing sports facilities, which are too easily taken for granted, can be both maintained and improved. Hopefully the community spirit and dedication which

led to the creation of the amenities (explained in the article on page 1) can still be found among the Bentham people of today. Among the challenges to be met are persuading the powers that be that the flooding, which is now so bad that it threatens the very existence of the cricket pitch, is the result of a general drainage problem on that side of Bentham, for which the playing field acts as a sump.

If you wish to express your views, or better still actively participate in the future of the Bentham Playing Field Association, please come along to the open meeting to be held in the Wenning Avenue clubhouse on Monday 18th January at 8pm.



MILLENNIUM BANNERS

By Jean Taylor

Would you like to make a Banner for the Millennium for your church, school, club etc? Come and sew a stitch, have a chat and a cup of coffee and enjoy a relaxing and worthwhile enterprise with friends. Everyone is welcome at the Looking Well, on Tuesdays from 1.30-3.30pm, starting on 12th January.

CAROL SINGING AT LATE NIGHT SHOPPING

By Judith Johnson

Groups from all our local churches and other volunteers enjoyed singing carols outside Hash Browns. With Mary Longton accompanying on the accordion the group sang for about an hour collecting £62.34 for St. John's Hospice. Many thanks to singers and donors alike.