

BENTHAM NEWS

WELL.....WELL.....WELL!

We've gone well crazy this month! On this page there's John Corrigan's account of the Black Bull well investigation and Rachel Clay's cartoon. Then on page 26 there's a further exploration of the well at Parkinson's Farm.

On Sunday 21st March, Bob Cattley and I were asked by Russell Jackson to investigate the newly found well outside the rear entrance of The Black Bull Hotel in Bentham, and the licensee, although absent, consented on condition that a camera was taken on the trip.

Caves are our usual underground location, so I asked a colleague in the Cumbria Ore Mines Rescue Unit about how to tackle this mined environment. Safety is always a high priority and the two additional factors that we were asked to watch out for were the quality of the air in the shaft and the structural integrity of the well.

We were not prepared for the first obstacle which was the slate used to cover the well. This looked as if at some time it had been half of a rather fine billiards table which had subsequently been used as the back doorstep of The Bull. With plenty of brute force we managed to remove the slate and it was clear from the first sight that we had an impressive structure below us.

Having disposed of the cover, we were able to see the surface of the water at some considerable depth and it appeared to be moving. Both of us had independently constructed devices for lowering a lighted candle, and one was gently edged down until it sat in the water, still burning brightly. That was the signal to descend. Carefully attaching a ladder and a rope to convenient anchor points we dropped them

in and listened for the splashes. As there were none from the ladder we added an extra length and were satisfied with the sound from this second attempt. This confirmed our earlier crude measurement that it was marginally over thirty feet to the water.

The first eight feet or so of the shaft was lined with stone that was held together with mortar. In the joints several straw stalactites had started and I imagine that these had been created by the leaching of lime from the mortar. Below the walled part, the rest of the shaft was simply chiselled out of the bedrock. The circularity and the workmanship of the shaft were impressive. At a couple of points there were rebates in the rock, two of which had timbers still in place.

Continued on page 16



Well, I never!

MAY 1999

ISSUE 151

WOMENS' INSTITUTES

High Bentham

By Doreen Park

On the 1st April we were not made April fools but were enthralled and informed by fitness instructor Heather Guy, on the ins and outs of osteoporosis. Each member was given several fact sheets which were worked through with Heather, and at various points she demonstrated an exercise. Members were encouraged to do the same. These exercises included skipping, press-ups (not on the floor but against a wall), and it was stressed that line dancing was very beneficial for all ages. Heather was thanked by Mrs. M. Hayton. The competition resulted in a tie between Mrs. P. Atkinson and Mrs. M. Rose.

A sketch written by Faith Wilson has been accepted to be performed at a Federation concert in October, at Clitheroe.

The next meeting will be on 6th May when "resolutions and birthday eats" will be the topic. Come and be surprised!

Low Bentham

By Jennifer Watkinson

"Experiences of an RAF wife" was the title of Jean West's illustrated talk at the last meeting. Being brought up in an isolated farming area it was a big shock to her when she set off to Cyprus for three years in 1963. With her young family she soon became involved with the locals and has

kept in touch with some of them. She touched briefly on the troubles between the Greek Cypriots and the Turks and some of the slides she showed were of war torn Cyprus. She preferred to send the children to a local school rather than a boarding school. Frequently she was left behind when her husband was posted to places like Northern Ireland and Belize. She was thanked by the president, who congratulated the darts team on reaching the final of the darts championship.

Four members attended the annual council meeting at Harrogate where Heather Hancock, Chief Executive of the Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority, and Nigel Rees, the well known broadcaster, were the guest speakers.

Competition winners were Miss Betty Dodgson, Mrs. Hilda Lister and Mrs. Edna Hewitt. The next meeting will be on 20th May when we will be having an evening of "Mystique".

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APRIL'S TOWN COUNCIL

By David Johnson

A full complement of councillors with the exception of Cllr. Jackson, met for the final meeting of the current year.

Police Matters

P.C. Kay represented the police whose objectives for 1999-2000 were listed. These include; a pro-active stance towards drugs, the reduction of theft from motor vehicles, improved community involvement and better road safety which includes a target of a 10% increase in speeding and parking fines.

Parking

It was agreed to review parking policy. Discussion focused on how to encourage people to park and walk to the shops, prolonged parking by some shopkeepers, public disregard for double yellow lines and the 30 minute limit. Complaints were made by Cllrs. and the public about vehicles speeding on Gas House Lane. The clerk was asked to investigate ownership of the road to see if the police could act.

Street Lights

The clerk was asked to make further enquiries from Norweb about street lights on Wenning Avenue and Hillside Road. Cllr. Preston reported on the informal request for a street light on Gas House Lane from The Red House. She said none of the other householders wanted a light. The request cannot be considered until a formal application has been made. The Mayor said the residents views would be taken into account should an application be received.

Flooding

Some progress has been made. The Home Housing association has finally admitted ownership of the land and Craven District Council will clear out the culverts. Cllrs. were concerned that this may simply move

the problem downstream but it was agreed to wait and see. The playing field committee is to drain the recreation ground and clear out the ditch.

Wheely Bins

Wheely Bins are to be introduced in May. The needs of the disabled and those with difficult access are to be considered on an individual basis. A leaflet will be distributed explaining the system. When asked what one should do with one's old bin one was suggested that we stuff them in the wheely bin!

Projects

The contract has been awarded for work on the cemetery and it should commence about mid-summer. Progress is still being made on the School Hill project, two meetings have been held and applications are to be made for grants. The Development Trust is involved with many improvements such as those to the entrance to the cemetery, the road at Mount Pleasant, plans for both recreation grounds and the changes at Low Bentham Institute.

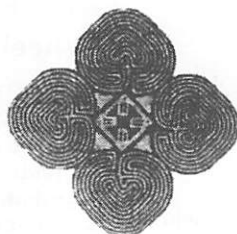
The Personal Touch

Tim Pilkington was congratulated on his inclusion in the MENCAP football team when it visits Geneva this May. County Councillor Atkinson informed everyone that he would be resigning in May for health reasons. He was thanked by the Mayor and many other councillors for the excellent way he has represented us over the years, a sentiment which I think everyone in Bentham will wish to share.

Finally I would like to add my own small accolade to Wendy Dowbiggin. This was her final meeting as Mayor and I am sure all those who have attended the Town Council meetings over the year will wish me to thank her for the efficient and thoughtful way she has handled the proceedings. Margaret Hayton will be our next Mayor. Good luck Margaret!

The next meeting is on 10th. May.

Hands & Heart



A healing workshop in Lancaster

Weekend of June 11th. - 13th. 1999.

Led by Alexander Heybroek.

The gift of healing is something we all have as a human potential. This is a course for those who want to develop this ability further, deepening their perception and understanding of what goes on when we practise spiritual healing - an opportunity to find our own 'medicine' or healing power. Together we explore hands-on healing; energy balancing, working with the chakras or levels of existence; protection and boundaries. We aim to heal the whole person, we also look at the art of counselling- listening and speaking from the heart - making our treatment complete. The true motivation for this way of healing is compassion and love, so we encourage these qualities in each one of us, gaining new levels of health and wholeness, and increased confidence in our abilities as healers.

Alexander Heybroek has lived and worked at the Findhorn Spiritual Community in Scotland for the last 18 years and is a member of the Findhorn Foundation Faculty. He teaches courses at home and internationally on Shamanic Consciousness, Spiritual Healing and Mysteries of Sound. Before his training at Findhorn he studied with several Tibetan Buddhist teachers. Over the past decade he has worked intensively with the Native American teacher Beautiful Painted Arrow.

Venue: The Friend's Meeting House, Meeting House Lane, Lancaster.

Cost: £60.00

Times: the course will begin on Friday June 11th at 7.30 p.m. and finish on Sunday June 13th at 5.00 p.m.

Lunches: Please bring food to share (Jacob's join).

For bookings and enquiries: please contact Paul Williamson, 68 Cleveleys Avenue, Scale Hall, Lancaster LA1 5HD. Tel: 01524 36709. Enrolment must be made in advance.

COUNTY COUNCIL CONCERNS



By County Councillor Ralph Atkinson

Resignation from County Council

Most people will have heard by now that I have resigned as your County Councillor on the grounds of poor health. With my injured back and now heart problems I find I can't keep up with the demands of the job and so it is time to step down and let someone else have a go. I've very much enjoyed representing you, the job is very well worth doing but it is quite demanding, particularly the journeys to and from Northallerton. Although I have considerably reduced my work load, especially the number of sub-committees I had, I still found it too much. I am very sorry to let you down in this fashion, particularly those who worked so hard to help with my various elections and all of you who have supported me so fully over the years. So thank you all for your support and encouragement. I will still be around Bentham if you want help.

White Rose Independence

It's now nearly 2 years (August 1997) since I drew your attention to developments in regional government. Well now it has happened. In addition to the much publicised governments for Wales and Scotland, the English Regions now have their own (admittedly lesser) form of self government. We have had a Regional Chamber - a meeting of local government representatives - for some time and this has now been joined by a Regional Development Agency based in Leeds. This is a quango of twelve people selected by the Secretary of State, mostly from business, but with four from local government (no Tories!), and including one Union representative, one university type, four ladies and one from an ethnic minority. I'm told they are all top quality people but time will tell. Certainly they have wide responsibilities, particularly for economic development.

County Budgets

Now that you have seen what your Council Tax is to be I hope you will study the details of what it is to be spent on in the County's "Explaining your Budget" circular. For those who still complain that we don't get our full share of expenditure, note that over 60% is spent on schools and roads, which is governed by the number of pupils and length of road in an area. Admittedly coastal defence seems pretty distant from our immediate concerns but I think it is right that we contribute towards it just as we contribute through the Income Tax for our armed forces. Also remember that we only pay directly through Council Tax for a small proportion of the cost of services, the rest coming from Business Rates and Income Tax.

Change in Parking Regulations

Recent changes in legislation allow the transfer of responsibility for monitoring parking on double yellow lines from the police to local councils, and the use of income from fines by the Council instead of Central Government. As a result, moves are afoot to introduce a pilot scheme in Harrogate. However, don't worry, it will be a long time before similar schemes are introduced in Craven, and even longer for Bentham.

P.S. An examination of my records reveals that I have written 180 columns for the Bentham News in the last ten years, 115 of which were about the County and 65 about the District Council.

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CHRISTIAN AID WEEK 9-15 May

By K. Goldsack (Hon Sec) and I. Joel, (Chairman)

Last year in the House-to-House collection Bentham raised £1026 for work overseas. In addition to response to emergency appeals, the following are among the projects supported through our overseas partners.

Ghana

Women who live near the sea have developed a fish-smoking business and sell their produce through inland markets, enabling them to build their own homes and school and latrines for the village.

Nicaragua

Loans made to farmers following the severe drought have enabled them to buy new seed and replant their fields.

Mozambique

In Namorroi, where people have been falling ill through drinking river water, a new safe water supply was constructed to replace systems damaged by war. Now, thanks to Christian Aid funding, spring water is piped from 5km away to the maternity hospital and town.

Christian Aid believes in strengthening people to find their own solutions to the problems they face. We supply funds to partner organisations for specific projects in their communities, and monitor progress to ensure that money is spent where it will have the most impact. Christian Aid collectors will be coming to your door during the week commencing 9th May. Please give as generously as you can.

TRAINING AND HOUSING FOR YOUTH

By Sharon Haslam

T.H.Y.N.C. is not a spelling mistake, it stands for Training and Housing for Youth in North Craven. This is a new project which provides quality, affordable accommodation and training, in a safe, supportive environment, for single young people aged 16-25, who are in housing need or homeless.

The accommodation is single bedded, self contained with basic furniture and shared facilities such as bathroom, lounge and kitchen. The properties are situated in Bentham and Hellifield.

Training can be tailor-made to suit the individual's interests, hobbies, need and ability. This can be achieved with help from me as the support worker, through an action plan, and will include education and life and social skills. For more information please contact me on 01729 824383, or at the Town Hall, Settle, BD24 9EL.

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BURMA AND THE FORGOTTEN REFUGEES

Exhibition at the Looking Well from Wednesday 19 May

By Chris Robinson

Recent events in Europe have again brought to our attention the plight of refugees. The public is well informed, and becomes involved in many ways. Yet a terrible silence lies over the fate of Karen refugees fleeing the Burmese Military Dictatorship.

Sometimes it seems our interest and compassion is limited to Europe. Equally horrific human rights violations happening in Burma (once a lucrative part of our Empire) go unnoticed. Though we pay lip service through the EU and the UN to these crimes we do little.

The Karen people were our allies in the second world war and suffered alongside our men who together made the bridge over the River Kwai. We should not forget our loyal friends.

For two months I lived in the refugee camps of Burma and Thailand with these hill tribe people, experiencing and hearing stories of atrocities. I took medical aid generously donated by Lancaster's doctors, and letters from Low Benthams Primary School children. The contact with our children in Low Benthams will encourage letter writing and develop literacy for all the children involved. The refugees appreciated

the few blankets, dolls and spectacles I also brought. Above all they thanked people for remembering them.

While there I taught drawing and English and organised initiatives. I joined the KNU 6th Brigade unit: the Karen depend on their army for defence. Attacks by the Burmese Army and a Buddhist Karen faction on defenceless women and children happen daily.

From me, the children learned Ba Ba Black Sheep: I learned from them that human beings are capable of anything and that hope springs eternal. My exhibition at the Looking Well from Wednesday 19 May - 25 June provides some insight into Burma and the refugee situation. There are drawings by refugee children, my own photographs words and drawings. There are hand woven bags and gem stones from Burma for sale. All proceeds go to the Karen refugees.

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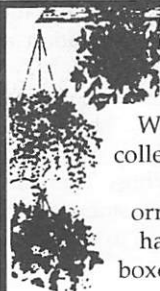
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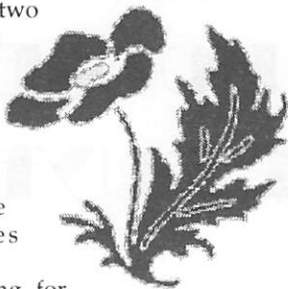
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OPEN GARDENS, 3rd & 4th JULY

By Susan Adams

NSPCC and Christian Aid are hoping to repeat the successful events of the last two years, when we were able, with the help of the gardeners of Bentham, to send large donations to the two charities mentioned above.



We are asking for help again this year, and anyone who feels able to let us use their garden is asked to contact Carolyn Woof, 62254, Susan Adams, 61182, or Mr. & Mrs Atkinson, 61134, by 3rd June.

For people who are new to the area, the event over the weekend is a trail around Bentham where about 20 local residents open their gardens to the public for viewing on both afternoons or on either Saturday or Sunday as commitments of the individual gardeners allow.

We hope to be able to add a few new gardens to some of the now favourite ones. Tickets in the form of a route map will be available at a later date, and as in past years, we hope to publish a full list of gardens available to us in the July issue of Bentham News. Thank you for your support.

YORKSHIRE DALES TOURING OPERA

By Floreen Cairns, Secretary

An ideal introduction to light and tuneful music can be gained on Friday, 21st May when Yorkshire Dales Touring Opera presents the Donizetti comedy, Don Pasquale, in Bentham.

The production has been directed by Thelma Hebden, who for added comic effect, has set it in the 1920s.

The plot is simple - rich man seeks wife, accidentally marries nephew's fiancée, friends rally round to ensure happy ending.

Memorable tunes are blended with skilled acting in this lively staging which stars Floreen Cairns, John Northrop, Alan Parkinson, David Rymer and Norman Fryer.

The venue is High Bentham Town Hall - for one night only. The opera starts at 7.30pm. Tickets, £6 (concessions £5) available at the door.



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POLICE FILE

By P.C. Danny Kay

The topic of this month's police file is "Observation".

Good Observation

Firstly, well done to the two local business men (you know who you are so no free ads!). One of them phoned into us with details of a suspicious vehicle seen on High Bentham Industrial Estate. The vehicle was followed and stopped by local officers, just into Lancashire. The vehicle and occupants have come to police attention in the past and this check assisted us with our intelligence gathering work. Secondly, we were alerted to the activities of the occupant of a pick up truck on Mill Lane, Low Bentham. Police officers attended the area and as a result of the information received, a man has been charged with an offence in relation to theft of scrap metal.

Observers Needed

We always need to be alerted at the earliest opportunity to any sort of suspicious or anti-social activity. If you see anything at all that you think may be of benefit to the police (and therefore, your local community) please tell us about it. Your information will always be treated in confidence. If you have the opportunity, try to accurately record registration numbers, and descriptions of people, and please phone as soon as possible. The longer you leave it before passing on information the less our chances of being able to take effective action. There are only two phone numbers to remember:- 999 for urgent

matters requiring immediate police attention and 41217 (Ingleton) for all other calls which will be diverted to a 24 hour control room.

Personal Observations

The following two groups of comments were made to me recently whilst on foot patrol in High Bentham, over a two day period. Most, if not all, came from local residents.

Group 1. "It's lovely to see a policeman walking around" - "Well done, you should be out every day" - "Hello Danny, it's nice to see you" - "Who are you?" - Well, there is always one, isn't there!

Group 2. "Have you nothing better to do?" - "You should be out catching criminals" - "You are a disgrace to the police service" - "I will never come shopping in Bentham again". I am reliably informed that this person has returned!

So there we have it, the "policeman's lot", and there is no prize for guessing which of the above groups had just been given parking tickets.

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POST OFFICE NEWS

By Alison Wilken

1. Tariff Changes. Tariffs changed for inland and overseas Royal Mail on 26th April. Changes also came into force for Parcelforce services on the same date. Leaflets detailing the new rates are available at Post Offices. The basic (up to 60gms) inland rates for letters are now 26p first class and 19p for second class.

2. Millennium Special Stamp Issues. The millennium series of commemorative stamps continues on a monthly basis. The May issue (on 4th May) will feature British industry and the June issue (1st June) will feature sports and entertainments - more information is available at Post Offices.

3. Dales Railcards - Dales Railcards can now be obtained over Post Office counters at a cost of £10 for a year. Application forms are available. Dales Railcards are good value and their purchase helps the case for improved rail services on the Lancaster Skipton line.

4. Spring Bank Holiday. Arrangements for the Bank Holiday on Monday 31st May will be the same as for the May Bank Holiday. There will be no deliveries of mail and counters will be closed. Pensions and allowances due on 31st May can be collected up to one week earlier. There will be no Sunday collections of mail on 30th May but a replacement collection from P.O.Boxes only will occur on 31st May.

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STRESS AND RELAXATION

By Marie Rayner

Everything we do and think is interconnected to every part of our lives. Our state of health affects our entire life and is in turn affected by what we do.

When you have a headache you take it everywhere with you - it is part of your life and all of you suffers. When you feel wonderful, the world seems a different place.

Stress is the internal response we make to external events - sometimes called the "Fight or Flight" response. This is a primitive natural reaction, a short-term response designed to cope with short-term danger. But we live in a society that is constantly confronting us with stressful situations, so the stress response stays permanently turned on. Eventually the stress levels build up and some part of our system is knocked out of balance. We then become more susceptible to illness and disease.

The causes of stress are outside the body but the stress itself is not - it is in us. This gives us power. We may not be able to change the world around us but we can learn to change our reaction to it.

Relaxation promotes the para-sympathetic system which counteracts the "Fight or Flight" response and which is concerned with mental and physical relaxation. Relaxation brings peace allowing the body to become balanced. Thus, a relaxed body can help to heal itself. However just telling our body to relax doesn't work - giving orders doesn't induce relaxation - but we can learn how to relax.

Relaxation sessions are held on Tuesdays at the Looking Well. If you would like to learn how to help yourself to better health, why not come along and join us.

STRESS

HIGH HOPES FOR GALA DAY

This annual family fun day (Monday 31st May) promises to have more for everyone this year. The organisers have been working hard and almost everything has been arranged. Everything, that is, apart from the procession! There will be new participants this year, but we really do need to have more floats. Surely it is not too much to expect that the larger organisations, including Angus Fire, Bentham Grammar School, etc would support this community event by taking part! There is still time to do so. But smaller organisations and individuals will also be parading. This year's Gala Queen is Isabel Marshall with attendants Lindsay Youansmouth, Louise Chappell, Zoe Edmondson, Imogen Harrison and Katie Stalker.

Bentham News Prize - £50!!!

The Bentham News has agreed to contribute £50 as the prize for the best Voluntary Organisation participation in the procession. Could your group use a £50 fillip? If you are not in, you can't win!

What will there be?

Among the attractions will be the opening by "Elvis", the procession, including the BN and the TIC, swing boats, a fun castle, tombola, children's motor bikes, Corio Raptor wild birds, Sue Ralph penalty shoot out, W.I. refreshments, Animal Rescue, ball throwing, Car boot sale, Fell Race, Bentham Bike Club parade of motor bikes, and a host

of raffle prizes to be won. Prizes have been donated by Taylors Garage, Horse & Farrier, Armstrongs, Tom Guy, Pica Print, Serendipity, Leyton Pet Supplies, M.J. Faichney, Multi Media Computers, Sid Hogg, Byres, Pennine Dampcourse of Ingleton, Cinders BBQ, Punch Bowl, Blow Your Top, Coach House, Dalecrest Travel, Low Bentham P.O., Dalehead Vet. Group, Hash Browns, BJS Printing, Naylor Myers, High Bentham P.O., and the Chemist Shop.

Tombola Prizes

Lorna and Dave Johnson will be collecting door to door from 17th May onwards, so please help. If you can contribute bottles, tinned goods, toiletries, toys or anything suitable for tombola prizes, it will help to boost the proceeds, which are divided between Bentham organisations.

The gala this year has been organised by a committee led by Sue Ray. It is hoped that this event can be developed over the next few years into a "Mardi Gras" type festival, but this can only happen if there is enough local support. So please join us!

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LOCAL EVENTS IN MAY

Sat 1st Bentham Horticultural Society coffee morning at the Town Hall. 10.00am-12.00noon. 

Looking Well, LETS seedlings & seeds swop, 10.30am-12.30pm.

Mon 3rd Low Bentham CP School's 90th birthday party at the school.

Tue 4th High Bentham Methodist Church Spring Anniversary Service, 7.30pm. Visit by Witton Male Voice Choir. Supper to follow.

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

Bentham Child Health Clinic at the Surgery, 2.00-4.00pm.

Looking Well, 1.15-3.30pm, Relaxation session, 2.00-3.00pm WISH Womens support group and both every Tuesday.

Wed 5th NSPCC monthly meeting at Lingfield, Robin Lane, 7.30pm.

Thu 6th High Bentham W.I. 7.30pm, Town Hall - "Resolutions and Birthday Eats".

Looking Well, 1.15-3.30pm Mucky Buckets play project, parents & under 4's and every Thursday.

Thu 6th Bentham Cycle Group easy ride for beginners, leader Les Harpur, meet at bus shelter, Robin Lane 6.30pm.

Fri 7th Looking Well, 6.00-9.30pm. Black Library fantasy wargaming club, over 11's, and every Friday.

Bentham Arts Alliance planning session at Punch Bowl, Low Bentham, 8.00pm. See page 16.

Bentham Footpath Group weekend in the Borders. Contact T. Burnett, 41304 for details.

Sat 8th Age Concern coffee morning, Town Hall. 10.00am-12.00noon. 

Sun 9th Christian Aid week, door to door collection.

Bentham Cycle Group ride, Sulber Nick with Lancaster CTC, leader Kathy Cartledge. meet at bus shelter, Robin Lane, 10.00am.

Mon 10th Burton-in-Lonsdale Horticultural Society coffee evening and entertainment in Village Hall, 7.00pm.

Town Council meeting in the Town Hall, 7.30pm.

Looking Well, 7.30-8.30pm, Tai Chi/Chi Qong gentle exercise session and every Monday.

Tue 11th Bentham Cycle Group ride Mewith Lane to Austwick, leader Kathy Cartledge. Meet at bus shelter, Robin Lane, 6.30pm.

Wed 12th CAB at Health Centre, 1.30-3.15 pm.

Bentham Alzheimer's Disease Support group, at the Looking Well, 7.30-9.00pm. "Spalding bulb fields" with Dennis Dafforn.

Thu 13th Arts Alliance AGM at Trust office at 7.30pm. See page 16.

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.

- Thu 13th Bentham Cycle Group ride to Slaidburn, leader Dave Hugill. Meet at Bentham Pottery 9.00am.
- Sat 15th St. John's coffee morning, Town Hall, 10.00-11.30am. 
Copy deadline for June edition of Bentham News.
Craven Juniors F. Club prize giving evening, Town Hall.
- Sun 16th Low Bentham Chapel 2.00pm, Anniversary Service, Rev. K. Dixon.
- Mon 17th Low Bentham Chapel 7.30pm. Friends from Sandyland Chapel, Kendal.
- Tue 18th High Bentham Toy Library in the Youth Club, 9.30-11.30am.
Bentham Child Health Clinic at the Surgery, 2.00-4.00pm.
- Wed 19th Looking Well, 10.30am. Opening of exhibition "Images of Burma" by Chris Robinson. 7pm, Beth Tyers introductory session on Homeopathy, see page 17.
Bentham Cycling Group ride, Lune Valley, leader Peter Edge. Meet at bus shelter, Robin Lane, 6.30pm.
- Thu 20th Low Bentham W.I. "Mystique" evening, 7.30pm, Victoria Institute.
Craven Community and Police Group, open meeting, 7pm at Town Hall. See page 25.
Bentham Footpath Group walk, Clifford Hall circular, 5 miles, leader J. Clapham 62326. Meet at Horse & Farrier 6.30pm.
- Fri 21st Waste paper collection at the Legion Hut, 8.30-11.00am. Proceeds to NSPCC.
Opera in Bentham! "Don Pasquale", Town Hall 7.30pm. £6, Concessions £5. See page 9.
- Sat 22nd Springfield Bowling Club coffee morning, Town Hall 9.45am-11.30am. 
Burton-in-Lonsdale Horticultural Society annual trip - Wallington Hall & Gardens, Hexham. £11.50 or £7.50 for N.T. members. Enquiries to Dennis Wilson 61546.
- Wed 26th CAB at Health Centre, 1.30-3.15 pm.
- Thu 27th Bentham Cycle Group ride, Lowgill, leader Rachel Murton. Meet at bus shelter, Robin Lane 6.30pm.
- Fri 28th Bentham News published.
- Sat 29th Samaritans' coffee morning, Town Hall 
10.00am-12.00noon.
Bentham Footpath Group walk, Stocks reservoir, 8 miles, leader P. Parrott, 01200 423125. Meet Lairgill, 9.30am, Stocks 10.00am.
- Sun 30th High Bentham Methodist Church, "Harvest of the Hills" 6.30pm. Rev. N. Price and a Circuit Male Voice Choir.
Bentham Development Trust Craft Fair, Town Hall Ballroom.
Bentham Cycle Group ride, Dent, leader Kathy Cartledge. Meet at bus shelter, Robin Lane, 10am.
- Mon 31st Bentham Gala. See page 13.

THEY ARE BACK!

IN STORE DEMONSTRATIONS FROM
10 AM ON SATURDAY THE 15th MAY



AT TOOBY'S BENTHAM

'the power to clean using high pressure steam'

Black Bull Well

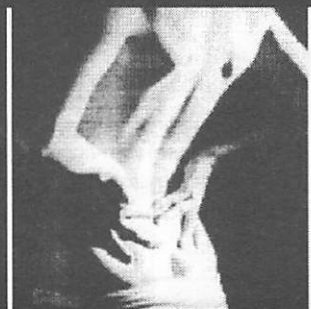
continued from front page

We speculated that this was probably for staging to hold tools, allow a resting place or just to assist in climbing out.

It was quite shocking to enter the water at the bottom as it was warm, certainly not the temperature that one would expect in a natural underground environment. I carried on down the rope until I was chest deep in the water but I could not touch the bottom. It is not an easy task taking photos from a caving ladder but I managed a couple and I will release copies of these when they are developed.

At this point I climbed the ladder and Bob went for a look. His report is somewhat more detailed and contains information about the subsequent filling of the shaft.
Editor - You can read it in next month's BN.

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BENTHAM ARTS ALLIANCE

By Keith Cowling

BAA was set up to spend a small pot of grant cash from the Arts Lottery Board and the Yorkshire Leader Fund on art and performances and events and workshops in Bentham. Over last year we had a number of successes including bringing the Dales Mini-opera "Carmen" to the Town Hall, and supporting workshops and community events.

BAA sees its role as a fund raiser and manager helping to increase the level of entertainment, music, art and drama in the town by promoting and supporting local initiatives. We still have cash in the bank and ideas about raising more, but we need some new blood and ideas. If you think that you would enjoy attending a meeting every couple of months, that spends lumps of other people's money on promoting events in Bentham, please come to our AGM on 13th May at the Bentham Trust office.

POW WOW

By Keith Cowling

BAA supported last year's Low Bentham POW WOW Festival at the Punch Bowl, which staged a weekend of live music and kids activities.

Sadly, it was blighted by terrible weather, and attenders listening to the great music in the marquees were often shivering with cold. Nevertheless it had much to commend it and opened up the possibility of building on the experience gained to do something better this year. It has been suggested, for example, that it should take place earlier in the summer, to coincide with the Low Bentham Street Market and the warmer weather.

But we need to start organising now if it is going to happen. So anyone interested, especially Low Benthamers, please come to a planning session at the Punch Bowl at 8.00pm on Friday 7th May.

RECIPES

By Doreen Park

How about some variations this month on the humble mashed potato?



Step by step guide to the perfect mash to serve 4 people.

- 2 lbs Desiree or King Edward potatoes
- 2 ozs butter
- 1 desert spoon salt
- 2 tablespoons whole milk
- 2 tablespoons crème fraiche
- black pepper

Peel the potatoes and cut them into even sized pieces. Put them in a steamer over boiling water, sprinkle with the salt and steam until absolutely tender, about 20-25 minutes. remove from the steamer and empty water from the pan. Put the potatoes back into the hot pan and cover with a tea towel for about four minutes to absorb some of the moisture. Then add the butter, milk and crème fraiche and mash. I find an electric hand mixer very useful.

Three deliciously different mash dishes

1. Mashed potato with three mustards

- 1½ tablespoons grain mustard
- 2½ tablespoons French's American mustard
- 1 tablespoon mustard powder
- 2 rounded tablespoons crème fraiche
- 2 ozs butter
- 3-4 tablespoons top of milk or single cream
- salt and pepper

Cook potatoes as above, then blend the mustards with the crème fraiche and add to the potato. Check the seasoning. This is wonderful with bangers or ham.

2. Watercress and Caper Mash

5 ozs watercress with the stalks removed

1 heaped tablespoon salted capers or capers in vinegar, thoroughly washed and drained.

2 tablespoons lemon juice

Cook potatoes as described. When mashing them add the watercress and beat until potato is smooth and fluffy. Then stir in the lemon juice and capers. Do not over salt the potato as the capers are salted. Good with grilled mackerel or herring.

3. Green Parsley Mash

2 ozs fresh curly parsley

5 fluid ozs milk

pinch of salt

While potatoes are cooking, place parsley with its stalks into a small pan and add the milk. Bring very slowly to a gentle simmer, possibly for five minutes or until the parsley is wilted and tender. Put into blender and blend until the milk has turned a bright green. When potatoes are cooked, add parsley milk and mix or beat until potatoes are light and fluffy. Add salt and pepper to taste. This is the perfect mash for fish but it is also good with boiled or grilled ham.

LOOKIN' WELL, FEELIN' WELL, BEIN' WELL!!

By Beth Tyers, *The Lakeland College*

Help yourself and your family to health this spring with the magic of flower essences and powerful but gentle homeopathic remedies. I'm giving a preliminary free talk at the Looking Well on Wednesday 19th May at 7.00pm.

Come and hear how you can deal with your family's problems from sleeplessness to PMT, low energy to hangovers, exam nerves to asthma, allergies to arthritis. Lookin' forward to meeting you there.

MEMORIES OF BENTHAM IN THE 1930s...continued

By Bateman Marshall

* After *Knowe Top* we come to *Croftlands*, at present owned by Alison Hanson. *Croftlands* was built in 1922 by my father when he was about to be married. It was occupied in the 1930s by Michael Faraday and his new wife, Annie Hully (they married late in life). Michael Faraday was the nearest living relative of the famous inventor and discoverer of electricity. Somewhere I have a newspaper cutting of him and his wife being feted in London at some celebration or other, it might have been the Jubilee. He was a colourful and distinguished character and an interesting raconteur.

* *Bigger Farm* was occupied by the newly married Sam and Helena Mason. Sam was one of a family of twelve, and Helena was one of eight. Sam could be found every morning pushing a milk kit in a truck round Bentham delivering pints and gills into customers' jugs.

* *Bentham Hall* - my home. Like Sam Mason, my father delivered milk on to the streets twice daily, seven days a week. I have even delivered milk on Christmas night. Milk was two and a half d (old money) or 1p (new money) per pint. Eggs cost as little as 6d (2p) per dozen. Boys leaving school could expect to be paid seven shillings (35p) per week while men got between £2.10 and £3 per week. I well remember the change to bottled milk. This was not at all well

received at first, because it meant that customers only got accurate measures instead of the little bit extra the old dears usually managed to squeeze out of the milk boy. The change to bottled milk also coincided with the introduction of Tuberculin Tested Milk, which in itself was also a big change. Now milk was bottled it could be delivered using a tradesmen's bicycle. Gilbert Thornborough took over our milk round just before the war and shortly after also bought Sam Mason's. At this time there were at least seven farmers retailing milk in High Bentham and a further three in Low Bentham.

* In the 1930s, if you were in the lower end of High Bentham most mornings there would be no need to turn on the wireless (radio) to get the local news. Mrs Bateson (*Peace Villas*) and Sarah Dowbiggin (Wendy's gran) would be chatting as they scrubbed their doorsteps, and their voices travelled far and wide with all the juicy bits of gossip.

* At dusk, or later, each evening Maggie Doran would be seen going with her jug to the back of Mark Smith's for her pint or more of ale. Mark Smith was the landlord of the *Horse and Farrier*. We used to keep cattle in the barn adjacent to the *Farrier*, and we had to let them out and bring them across the road into our yard for water each day.

* *Duke Street* has changed little to this day, although the allotments have gone. There used to be some twenty or more plots, some well kept others untidy and weedy.



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FOOTPATH MATTERS

By Maureen Ellis



The annual dinner of the Bentham Footpath Group, at the Highwayman, Burrow, like the filling of a sandwich, was nicely spliced between two good walks. Adrian Leigh's walk started at Cowan Bridge with its further point being the cluster of potholes at about 1000 feet, which have Gregareth to the east and Leck Beck to the west. Examination of pathfinder map 628 will show the route taken past Leck Hall and onto the tarmac road skirting the trees of Warren Strips. In the thick mist it couldn't have been easy to find the route off to bring us to the Rumbling Beck Cave, Death's Head Holes and Big Preanie Pothole. These are all deep caves that give entry for the sport of potholing. Quite quickly the land falls away to the valley out by pretty Leck Beck. Here the mist had cleared and there were good views as the path at first goes on the southeast bank far above the water. Later it checks down alongside it, on the return to Cowan Bridge. I am determined to return on a fine summer day and follow Leck Beck further up onto the fell, which it drains in a series of waterfalls through deep gorges.

The Lupton circular, started at the south side of the A65 about a quarter of a mile east of exit 36 of the M6. It was so good to see Tom Connolly in fine walking fettle as he and Joyce led the walk. We skirted Farleton Fell at the start, to take a path which gave front

views of Lupton Tower which we all knew from the road, and then crossed the A65 to go up by the Old Smithy in a northwest direction. Part of the interest of this walk was seeing buildings and crossing roads, or going under them, which we'd all seen from cars. Lunch was taken by the shelter of a stone wall in full sunlight and comfort. The next goal was St. Gregory's church at Crooklands, with its purple patch of crocus reminding us of spring. We returned by the canal towpath, with its notices of enterprises to re-open the parts of the canal closed in the M6 construction.

It was reported to me that the Bentham, Ingleton, Clapham circular was particularly cleverly planned by Frank Royston, using a series of rights of way not generally used. This is a significant advantage of having a local leader who has known the area intimately all his life.

Sue and John Pilkington were to have led the walk on 27th March but sadly John is ill. We all send our greetings to him for a speedy recovery and best wishes to Sue. Bernard Ellershaw stepped into the breach and on a perfect day he took us from St. James Church, Tatham, in a wide sweep to the confluence of the Lune and Wenning and onto Loyne Bridge with the Motte and Bailey behind it. Even some of the walkers not given to showing their emotions lit up at the sight and sound of gooseanders, oyster catchers and curlews. It would have been nice to pick a bunch of primroses and anemones and present them to Sue and John.

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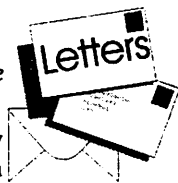
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FOR DETAILS

Dear BN,

Re: The suggestion of a lake on the playing field site



Not a lot of people know that there used to be such a lake on that very site.

When I was a lad and living in Bentham, the lake used to stretch from Staggarth in the east to High Bottom in the west, and from the bathing hut (which older readers will know was very close to the bottom of Thickrash Brow, or Summerhill as I knew it), and north towards Pyes Mill.

Every year, on the first of April, we would take part in the annual boat race which went from Shaky Bridge (so called because it used to shake when the spectators cheered their champions), to High Bottom. You could only take part if you had earned your 'silks' (as they were called), by some good deed you had carried out during the previous year. Each competitor would sit in his boat waiting for the coloured cloth ('silk') to be placed around his neck. When all the boatmen were in silks the race could start. It was a hard race and the 'fules' (as they were known) would be exhausted by the time it was over. Many a 'fule' was glad to see High Bottom at the end of a long row, I can tell you. After the 'Mill Row' things got back to normal with boats plying for hire between Staggarth, Pyes Mill and Moulterbeck. With the coming of the railway the lake became obsolete and had to go. Engineers found a huge stone holding back the waters roughly at the original entrance to the caravan site. This was removed and with the help of many eager hands it was dragged up to the top of Burn Moor. One of the boat owners was so upset about the loss of his living that he dragged his boat up the hill towards Goodenber and with great ceremony buried it with the engine still running. To this day the place is known as 'Boiling Well.'

Now there are few remaining signs of the lake of my youth, but if you look to your right as you enter the caravan site you can

still see the ridges left by the receding water. The bollards where the boatmen tied their boats are visible on the track leading to Moulterbeck Farm, and at the bottom of Mayfield Road are the steps which led down to the jetty at Pyes Mill.

Of course, there is the daughter of 'Wenning Lake', the River Wenning, which runs along the southern edge of the original lake. And in the mirror the other day I saw a picture of a 'fule' quite clearly. When your new lake is in its full glory, I will come with my Dutch friend, Avril Dwass, and sail once more with the Wenning silks.

Yours

Norman Foster,

15 Chestnut Grove, Ulverston, Cumbria

(Editors' note: Mr. Foster's letter arrived with the Bentham News on 31st March, just a day early! We are glad that so many of our readers, including Mr Foster, enjoyed our April Fool story.)

Dear Sir,

May I, through the courtesy of your columns, express my sincere gratitude and appreciation to the many Bentham folk who sent messages of encouragement and good wishes for my recovery during my 8 week stay in Lancaster Royal Infirmary. In particular permit me to mention by name the Reverend Canon John Bearpark (whose parishioner I had ceased to be one week before going into hospital) who visited me every week and Tom and Marlene Close and Norman Whitworth whose support to my wife, Val, was invaluable.

Finally, I was deeply touched by the prayers offered by the congregations of St. John's and St. Margaret's - my steady recovery is a testimony to their faith, and mine!

Yours sincerely,

Cliff Jones, FRGS,

The Schoolhouse

Drumblade by Huntly,

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BENTHAM PEOPLE

Personal Thanks

Susan Corless and her brother **Walter Emmott** and the family of the late **Hilda Emmott** would like to thank all friends and neighbours for their love and support. They also express their thanks for the donations which will be divided equally between the Intensive Care Unit at Preston Royal Hospital and the Asthma Society. The amount collected was £72.42. They also would like to thank **Alyson Leack** for all her help and friendship through this sad time.

Magoolagan - **Clare's** family would like to thank friends and neighbours for their kind expressions of sympathy. Special thanks to Doctors, Nurses **Sue** and **Meg**, and staff at **Burndale** and **Harden Ward** for their kindness and care. Donations of £109 in **Clare's** memory will be given to the Extra Care Fund at the Health Centre.

Campbell - **Pat**, **Lynda** and family of the late **Patrick (Pat)** wish to thank relatives, friends and neighbours for cards, flowers and donations received during their recent bereavement.

Thanks

Mrs Phoebe Slinger would like to thank everyone who visited her, sent cards, flowers and gifts, and for all the love, support and kindness shown to her during her stay in hospital.

John Pilkington would like to thank all friends for their cards, "Get Well" messages and offers of help, and Doctors and Staff at the Surgery for their care and support during his recent illness.

Margaret and Tot Denby wish to express their thanks to all relatives and friends who, on the occasion of their recent Diamond Wedding Anniversary, contributed in excess of £500 to the collection for the Multiple Sclerosis Society.

The **Lairgill** neighbours of **Albert and Eileen Lister** wish to thank them sincerely for being **Lairgill** paper collectors for so long.



Thanks

Johnson, Thanks **Nikki** and **Tush** for looking after me and my pals and thanks to **Cuz** and **Chell** for just being there! Ring the vets next time. "Anfield" **Rose**.

Congratulations

To **Tim Pilkington** who has been chosen to play in the **Mencap** football team in **Switzerland** in **May**.

Found

Ladies or girl's watch, telephone 62132.

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Computer - **IBM 486** - **CD ROM**, **Windows 3.1**. £75. Tel 61448.

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MARCH WEATHER

Rainfall figures from Mrs. M. Foster, other data from D. & J.S. Johnson.



March started where February ended with a period of wet and stormy conditions. The roads were flooded with over 2" of rain which accounted for more than half of the total for the month. The total rainfall was 110.8mm. (4.4inches).

The month progressed with generally dry but dull and overcast weather. There were periods of sunshine and temperatures of almost 15C. The average maximum temperature was 10.5C. It was 3C. above that for February and 2C. more than March last year. There were three nights of frost with average minimum temperatures of 4.1C., again 3C. more than in February 1999. The most pleasant weather was at the end of March when a S.W. wind brought mild and sunny weather and a maximum of 19C!



ANCHOR STAYING PUT - CRAVEN

Advice & help with house repairs or adaptations for elderly people of Craven. Bentham Development Trust office 1st Wednesday each month 11.00am-1.00pm or Tel: 01756 - 797181

KOSOVO COLLECTION

By Churches Together in Bentham

Thanks to the generosity of the kind people of Bentham, the total amount raised on Wednesday 14th April was £876.39. This is an amazing amount for a small village like Bentham but it emphasises the point that is constantly made by those visiting this area that Bentham people are kindness itself.

The money given will help the plight of the refugees from Kosovo whose desperate situation unfolds daily before us on our T.V. screens. So thank you to the people who gave so willingly and openly to this cause.

Clothing and blankets for the refugees have also been collected at the Trust office at 26 Main Street, Bentham, and by the time you read this, will have been forwarded to a larger collection point for transport to the Kosovan refugees. Again, many thanks to those who donated in this way.

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HORNBY DRAMA FESTIVAL

By Neil Read and Liz Alison

The successful Festival of one act plays has been held annually for 38 years. It normally runs for three days, typically with three plays being staged each evening by different amateur drama groups. At the end of each evening a member of the Guild of Drama Adjudicators gives constructive and helpful comments. Although the Festival is not strictly a competition, on the final evening the adjudicator does award marks for each play - inevitably introducing an element of excitement and anticipation to see who has achieved the highest marks.

Owing to the exceptional number of drama groups wanting to take part, this year's festival will now run over four days.

Last year a group of Cubs and Brownies from Hornby presented a short humorous play. It was enjoyed enormously by both the children and the audience, and this year they are performing another play and several Secondary Schools have been invited to take part. There will also be, for the first time, live interlude musical entertainment, including an amazing school jazz saxophone ensemble from Kendal.

Why not come along and enjoy some real live drama. The festival takes place on Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday and Saturday, 4th, 5th, 7th and 8th May at Hornby Institute. Tickets are available from Hornby Post Office.

CRAVEN COMMUNITY AND POLICE GROUP

*By Councillor Jenny Lister,
Bentham TC Police Liaison Officer*

The next meeting of the Craven Community and Police Group will take place at 7.00 pm on Thursday 20th May in Bentham Town Hall. The purpose of the "CAP" group meetings is to provide an opportunity for members of the public to meet with representatives of North Yorkshire Police and to take part in a question and answer session.

Many topics are discussed including local crime statistics, neighbourhood watch, farmwatch, lay visiting and policing plan etc. Everyone is welcome to attend so if you have questions, comments or suggestions for your police force, please come along. If you are unable to attend, please contact me on 015242 62908 and I will ask questions on your behalf.

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PARKINSONS FARM WELL

By John Corrigan

After our investigation of the shaft behind the Black Bull, our interest in the local man made subterranean structures was fired. Conversations with people who have lived here longer than either of us showed that there are, or have been, several wells, tunnels and other underground structures that could usefully be explored with a view to recording some more of our local history.

The obvious place to start was in the local wells and permission was given for a trip down the Parkinsons Farm hole. We understand that the well had been in a building, covered over, for many years until it was rediscovered. We were aware that there had been a fairly recent descent by Trevor Illston but felt that direct comparison with the Bull well might tell us more than asking for a report.

An initial reconnaissance showed that we were looking at a completely different structure to the one at the Bull. Two things struck us immediately, the diameter was much smaller and the shaft appeared to be walled to the bottom. Incidentally, as the top was open to the elements, there had been natural seeding and there were plants growing in the joints which would not have looked out of place in the grikes in the limestone pavements. Plans were then laid to take a trip down on Wednesday 7th April.

We tested to make sure the air was full of oxygen and measured the depth to the water surface to be 20 feet from the lip. We also lowered a bucket and brought up a gallon of water which was much colder and clearer than that from the well at the Bull.

As I travelled down towards the water's surface the well appeared to be narrowing but our tape showed this to be an illusion as from ground level to the water the diameter remained at 33 inches. Stones laid in regular courses and cut into a circular shape formed the inner skin down to and below the

surface of the water. The joints in this were all very tightly fitted and I could see no mortar at any point. At three points there were stones missing and it appeared that the well had a double skin of stone with the space between filled with rubble. It was suggested that there may have been a pipe from the well to a pump inside the building but my observations do not support this theory. Having said that, at the lower end of the well there are two pieces of metal which are clearly intended as pipe supports.

The water was as clear as one would hope for in a source of drinking water and the contrast with the murky liquid at the Bull well was marked. Beneath me the water looked just too deep for comfort. We had been told that on the previous descent the depth had been inches rather than feet. Incidentally, the overall depth was reduced when Goodenber Road was built, possibly as a result of changes in the drainage.

Measurement showed me that the water would be six inches above my head if I went to the bottom, although it was Bob who pointed out that the effects of displacement needed considering, so I made no attempt to go that far. We measured the total depth of the structure as 26' 2". The water was significantly colder than at the Bull, but not as cold as cave water. Bearing in mind the distorting effects of six feet of water and the reflective qualities of its surface, I was unable to see anything on the floor.

I would be interested in examining any other underground structures in the Bentham area and would welcome any assistance in locating these. If you are aware of anything that would be worth examination or can get permission for a trip into or through them, then contact either myself or the Bentham Trust office.

We have lost a lot of our heritage not only because of the disappearance of artefacts but also because we may have been careless in the past about recording details of our way of life. I would like to try to help those who are trying to rectify this by adding my little efforts.

BENTHAM CYCLE GROUP

By Kath Cartledge

This group was formed last year, a small friendly group of cyclists, who enjoy meeting together to cycle around the local countryside, and occasionally further afield, at a touring pace.

There will be a variety of rides, some of shorter length and more gentle pace, for those who don't yet feel up to tackling outings. There will also be slightly longer rides. Both will take place, one per week, on various evenings. Details will be on the diary page in the Bentham News.

We also plan some longer rides on Sundays and often these will join up with Lancaster Cyclists Touring Club. There will also be occasional rides during the day and in mid week. There is something for everyone so dust off that bike! You don't need an exotic race bike or expensive mountain bike to take part. So why not come and join us? You won't be left behind or laughed at for walking up steep hills.

For further information contact Kath Cartledge on 61567 or just turn up at the bus shelter on Robin Lane at the times shown in the diary page. For evening rides make sure you have a good front and rear light as it can be dusk when we reach home. You will be sure of a warm welcome.

BENTHAM NEWS MILLENNIUM DIRECTORY

Reminder

If you haven't yet sent in your entry for this special souvenir directory, please do so as soon as possible. Thanks to all those businesses which have advised us that they wish to be included. We will soon be contacting you for copy etc. The cost of display advertisements will be £6 per column centimetre, with lineage ads free.



ATTEMPT AT CYCLING RECORD

By Janette Ireland

Phil Leigh is again trying this year to beat the Land's End to John O'Groats cycle record which stands at 45 hours 2 minutes and 18 seconds for the 840 miles. Phil hopes to make his attempt anytime after 24th April, but the actual date will depend on the wind direction. When riding a bike, the wind behind you gives you quite a few extra miles per hour.

We have a few local sponsors, including the Porthole Eating House in Bowness, Lakeland Cycles and Atelier Signs in Lancaster. Anyone wanting to know more about the attempt can pick up a schedule from Bentham Sports, who will maintain a progress chart during the ride.

The route takes us through Lancaster along the A6 up to Kendal and over Shap. We can be contacted before the event on either:- Phone/fax 015242 62377, E-mail PLeigh7777@aol.com and web page <http://cres1.lancs.ac.uk/staff/pleigh/index.htm>. During the event contact Jill on 015242 63037.



WENNING BADMINTON CLUB

By Andy Chappell

In the Juniors Easter competition the boys winner was Philip Carter, with Adam Jackson runner-up. The competition for girls was won by Lottie Smith with Isabel Marshall runner-up.

After many years of helping to run the Junior Section, Peggy Dawber and Sandra Murray have decided to hang up their racquets. A big thank you to both of them.

If anyone would like to help next season, please contact either me or Trevor Dobson, 61210.



BABY OF THE YEAR!

The delightful photograph below shows three year old Rachel Carter, who won the Lancaster Woolworths Baby of the Year competition. Proud parents, Lindsay Greig and Gary Carter, were recently presented with the award by Tracy Patterson, assistant manager of Woolworths in Lancaster.



May is for the Cup Final

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CLASH CHART TO HELP YOU AVOID DOUBLE BOOKINGS

By Bill Kennedy

As the result of several organisations holding meetings or committee meetings etc on the same evening and at the same time, it was suggested that a "clash chart" should be opened to help organisations to avoid arranging meetings which would clash with those of other groups.

From 1st May, a diary will be available at the Trust office at 26 Main Street, in which local organisations may record the dates, times and venues of their meetings. The diary will be available for interested groups to consult before fixing meeting dates. A phone call to the office (61030) will be sufficient to have relevant details entered, or existing bookings checked. This initiative has become necessary because a number of people are involved in several organisations, and have had two meetings to attend on the same date and at the same time!

Obviously the more organisations which make use of this facility, the more successful it will become, so all organisations/groups are requested to take part.

We hope to have all the Town Hall bookings for the rest of the year entered by 1st May, so it will not be necessary to inform us of any bookings which have already been confirmed by the Town Clerk, Reg Pointon.

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