

BENTHAM NEWS

DOCTOR ASSAULTED IN SURGERY

On Wednesday 12th May, Dr Ralph Sullivan was assaulted in the surgery by a local man, and suffered a black eye, haemorrhaging to the left eye and a cut and bruised nose. The man, 40 year old William Roy of Burton Road, Low Bentham was arrested by police at the surgery. He appeared at Skipton Magistrate's Court on Wednesday 19th May and pleaded guilty to assault causing actual bodily harm.

Sarah Tyrer, prosecuting, said that the assault resulted from Dr Sullivan refusing to sign a back-dated sick note for the wife of the defendant. The court was told that Mr Roy shouted at the doctor who explained why he could not legally issue a back-dated sicknote. Mr Roy then punched the doctor in the face, and was arrested by police and taken to Skipton Police Station, where he said that he felt no remorse for the assault. The case has been adjourned to 16th June pending pre-sentence reports.

As far as we are aware this is the first time that such a violent incident has taken place in the Bentham surgery. It reminds us of the difficult job that our health professionals do and of the vulnerability of those who work in our front-line medical services, who have to deal daily with distressed members of the public. We would like to send Dr Sullivan our best wishes for a speedy recovery and to thank him, and all who work at the Surgery, for the valuable service that they give to our community. We spoke to Dr Sullivan who was at home on a week's leave recovering from his injuries, and he told us that by the time this was published he would be "back to work as usual."

ELVIS PRESLEY IS COMING!

Elvis Presley is coming to open Bentham Gala on Monday 31st May - so don't miss it!

The theme of the day will be "PRIZES GALORE" - prizes for everything - for buying a programme, a raffle ticket, a number on the tombola, for having a go on the stalls or one of the games. There's even 50p for every child who takes part in the parade!

The parade of floats, fancy dress and wonderful music leaves Cleveland Square at 1.30pm.



The Fell Race starts at 2.30pm, and there's plenty to entertain you as you wait for the runners to return (including lots of motor bikes for both adults and children).

So, fingers crossed for good weather!

NEW INDIAN RESTAURANT

The dramatic refurbishment of the old 'White Rose' cafe will please curry lovers, since it is due to open this month as an Indian Restaurant. This is a welcome addition to the Main Street and also adds spice to the widening range of gastronomic delights available in Bentham.

Editor's note: We regret that we have had to hold over both Bateman Marshall's and Bob Cattley's articles because of lack of space, and apologise to readers who were looking forward to reading them.

JUNE 1999

ISSUE 152

WOMENS' INSTITUTE

High Bentham

By Doreen Park

It was birthday time at the May meeting of High Bentham Womens' Institute, but to start with there was the serious and lively debate of the four Resolutions for the Triannual Meeting. These were presented to members by Mrs. Joy Morgan and Mrs. Ruth Bridgewood. They were thanked by the President.

Then the birthday supper of pizza and punch was served, followed by the birthday cake. Mrs. Faith Wilson thanked Mrs. Ruth Parker for making the food and Mrs. Margaret Hayton for preparing the punch. The competition for an old bottle was won by Mrs. D. Park.

The President informed members that all the arrangements were in hand for providing the refreshments at the Gala on 31st May, and that entries from members for the County Show at Hoghton Tower were to be given to her before 29th May.

The next meeting will be on 3rd June when Mr. L. Foden will talk on "Hanging baskets and Troughs". The competition is "A gardening tip".

At the meeting on 1st July Mrs. Pat Heywood will speak on "Cordon Bleu Cooking" and the competition will be for "An old cookery book".

Low Bentham

By Jennifer Watkinson

Members were enthralled as Mrs. Davis, a member of the Egg Decorators Guild, unwrapped boxes and boxes of exquisitely decorated eggs. Using musical box and lipstick movements, lighting, hinges, mirrors, paint dyes, wallpaper, velvets and ribbons, she incorporates many skills into this delicate craft. She brought along the tools of her trade, many types of eggs, drills and a spring-loaded marker, and explained the various stages involved; blowing the egg, cleaning, cutting and decorating. As it takes several weeks to complete an egg she always has four or five on the go at the same time. She mentioned that she always did the most intricate parts first and added that nothing is wasted as any accidents are turned into greeting cards or brooches.

She presented one as a raffle prize which was won by Mrs. Dorothy Lund. Competition winners were Mrs. Pamela Warbrick, Mrs. Joan Gilroy and Mrs. Lydia Wilkinson.

Several members attended the Ingleborough Group Rally which was hosted by Clapham W.I.. After a sumptuous supper, Madge Hindle, the actress, spoke about her life on the stage.

The next meeting, on 17th June, will be a beauty evening with Mrs. P. Usher. The competition will be "A beauty tip".

BURTON-IN-LONSDALE GALA

**Saturday 12 June 2pm
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MAY'S TOWN COUNCIL

By David Johnson

Three minutes longer than January's meeting finishing at 8.40pm., but still very brief. Crucially three Cllrs. were missing: Cllr. West, Cllr. Hurtley, and Cllr. Jackson. Because of the absence of such a large proportion of the Council it was decided to postpone the appointment of the Deputy Mayor and all the appointments to the various committees until June. This made a large hole in the agenda and the meeting finished quickly. It opened with Wendy Dowbiggin thanking everyone for their support and handing the post of Mayor on to Margaret Hayton.

Caring for Our Heritage

The Council discussed what best to do with the documents relating to the Council and The Town Hall i.e. The Enclosure Award, the minute books and the deeds for the Town Hall. The Enclosure Award is kept in a metal drum which is damaged. The Council decided that the documents should be kept in fireproof containers, and correspondence over 7 years old could be destroyed. Cllr. Woof offered to repair the drum and make a metal box to contain the rest of the documents.

Those Drains Again

The drainage problems to the rear of Wesley Close were discussed. It seems it all relies on a 4 inch pipe and that it had been blocked with a tennis ball! A broken pipe was discovered and repaired. Excavations in the field owned by Craven District Council failed to uncover the rest of the pipe. (Perhaps it runs into the Black Bull well!) Everyone is now awaiting heavy rain to assess the impact of the work. The District Council has issued an order to clear silt and debris from the culvert in the playing field. It is hoped this will help keep the recreation ground and the council land dry.

Parking

The Council's sub-committee on traffic problems reported back to the Council. They wondered about reducing the waiting restrictions on Station Road, allowing parking nearer to the Town Hall and making provision there for some disabled parking. They felt there was a case for double yellow lining a section near Barwise's Bakery, thinking about some traffic calming measures outside The Horse and Farrier and for making some minor alteration in the layout of the road at the Midland Bank to make it impossible to park there. The most interesting idea did not receive unanimous approval.. The suggestion was that parking outside the Co-op be stopped and that parking be moved to the opposite side of the road. Some Cllrs. felt this would improve the situation for lorries entering and leaving Station Road. However the real problem is thoughtlessness and the reticence of people to park their cars and walk to the shops. Reg was asked to write to the County's Highways Department requesting a formal site meeting.

Calling All Organisations

You may be interested to know that The Development Trust has organised a 'Clash Chart Diary' at the Trust Office. This is available to all organisations and it is hoped every society and group will book down the dates of their events. This should help to avoid clashes.

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BENTHAM MAN ORGANISES SPONSORED WALK FOR KEIGHLEY BLIND ASSOCIATION

By Lin Barrington

You may have seen Paul Foster of Lakeber Avenue walking in Bentham with his new guide dog 'Glint'. Paul is a pupil on a computer training course for blind and partially sighted people run by Keighley and District Association for the Blind, and is organising a sponsored walk to raise funds for its 'Into 2000 Appeal' which will provide better computing facilities such as screen enlargers, specialised computers with speech facility and a Braille Link machine, as well as increased tutor hours.

He says "The association has enabled me to learn computing and the idea of the walk is to give something back. I have chosen the 'Inn Way Walk' which is a 90 mile circular walk, split into seven sections, around the Lake District. This walk need not be attempted in its entirety, but can be divided into day or even half day walks depending on people's ability. It would enable members of the association or the community to make a positive contribution to this appeal as well as providing a lot of enjoyment."

The walk starts on 14 August. If you would like to sponsor Paul, or to help out in any other way, please call in at the Bentham Trust office, 26 Main Street (61030), where there is a sponsorship form.

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RALPH ATKINSON

an affectionate appreciation

By Shirley Brown



I spent a pleasant time recently interviewing Ralph Atkinson in his lovely new home in Tweed Street - the famous bike covered by a sheet of polythene outside the front door. Ralph had not been over-enthusiastic about the idea of being interviewed, but I felt that people in Bentham who have formed a great affection for him during the years that he has lived here, would like to know more about him and the life he has led as he retires from public office.

What about his early life? Was he groomed to be a politician from an early age?

He was born in 1929, the only son in a family of 4 sisters and a step-sister. He was reared in Bradford and educated at Bradford Grammar School, and left school at 15 after his mother died. He spent the next 5 years working as a farm labourer, cowman, head cowman and farm foreman in West Cumberland and the West and East Ridings. After the war he applied for a scholarship from the West Riding Education Authority, and from 1948-50 went to Bangor University where he obtained a degree in agriculture. There was a high drop-out rate on the degree course (70 students in the first year dropping to 12 in the second) - perhaps because many soldiers returning from the war had been persuaded to have a go at agriculture but were not really interested in it. To get a job back in farming Ralph had to conceal his qualification! It was much later, as a mature student at Lancaster University in 1979/80, that he obtained a further degree, an M.A. in Systems Management. While still at Bangor and after a severe attack of jaundice, Ralph was holidaying at the 'Holiday Fellowship' in Conway, and here, in 1949, he met Pat, his future wife. In 1951, Ralph and Pat were married. At the same time, frustrated with his farming job, he applied for the colonial service and was accepted. This turn of

events dramatically changed his life.

After training for a year at Cambridge and another year in Trinidad, Ralph, aged 24, became an agricultural officer in Uganda in charge of an area as large as Yorkshire. He was responsible for a £500,000 cotton crop and eleven coffee seedling nurseries, and in charge of 30 African graduates and 200 labourers. He spent three out of every four weeks away from home, travelling around the farms in his area. Today, colonialism is, perhaps, a perjorative term, but then colonial officers felt that they were making a concerted, worthwhile effort to improve the lot of third world countries. Ralph and Pat's three children were all born in Uganda. It was a beautiful and fantastically fertile country. While there, he learned the language, Luganda, and enjoyed the "*intensely stretching*" work and felt warmly welcome everywhere he went - a far cry from the country we hear about today.

After nine years in Uganda he spent five years as a senior agricultural officer in Bechuanaland, which became Botswana after independence. In 1969 Ralph joined the UN Food and Agriculture Organisation and was sent to Pakistan (North West Frontier Province). This was Ralph's last long assignment overseas, and was followed by many years of shorter tours as an agricultural advisor to such countries as Iraq, Kenya, West Indies, Lesotho, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Sudan and the Kosovo province of Yugoslavia. Ralph and Pat lived in eleven countries in all, and Ralph worked in a further dozen.

Continued on page 6.

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Continued from page 5

Ralph remembers vividly the ethnic tension in Kosovo when he was there in 1980, and feels it was not hard to predict the harrowing turn of events that we are now witnessing.

Ralph joined the Quakers in Uganda in 1957. Although his father was C of E and he was in Bradford Cathedral choir as a boy, he felt himself more drawn to the Society of Friends. "I often feel," he says, "that I have one foot in each camp in various areas of my life." At the age of fifty six, he had had enough of working overseas and was indeed, "sickened" by some of what he saw - the corruption, lack of adequate resourcing and follow up, and the attitudes of some of the new recruits. Having been an "international Civil Servant" all his working life, Ralph took early retirement.

Ralph now wanted to involve himself in work where he could combine his interests in conservation and agriculture. The perfect answer came in 1987 when he was recruited by the Liberals, and for the next ten years he was a Councillor on Craven District Council. He was Chairman and Vice-Chairman of several committees including Chairman of the Environmental Services Committee, Vice Chairman of the Policy and Finance Committee and Chairman of the Economic and Development Committee. Among other activities he was a founder member of The Bentham Development Trust and Bentham Footpath Group, and involved in Bentham Abbeyfield Society and St. John's Scout Group. As a North Yorkshire County Councillor from 1989 to 1999, he was a

member of the Highways Committee and several sub committees and a member and vice chairman both of the Dales National Park Committee and the Forest of Bowland Advisory Committee. He was also President of Ribbleshead Sheep Show from 1993 to 1996.

One comment on this long and varied political life is that "I have never asked anyone for a vote, and I never will."

At this point I asked Ralph why he chose to make his home in Bentham. He said he had some early happy associations with the area, coming to Scout camp in Low Bentham as a child and sending all three children for some of their early schooling to Bentham Grammar School. He and Pat travelled the length and breadth of Great Britain for three to four months searching for their ideal home. The North East was too cold, the Welsh borders were too expensive, Somerset and Devon were too precious - Bentham was just right.

He is used to living in small communities, dislikes the idea of squirearchy, is comfortable in areas where there are small farms and has been very happy in Bentham. Most importantly, he needed to be, "within the sound of the curlew".

And what of the future?

"I have never planned my life and I am not going to start now. I am going to wait and see."

.....and so shall we.
Meanwhile we would like to take this opportunity of wishing Ralph and Pat a long and happy retirement among us.



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RECIPES

By Doreen Park

With warm summer nights coming here are two easy to make pasta bakes to eat indoor or out.



Salmon pasta bake (to serve four)

- 9 ozs pasta shapes
- 1 oz butter
- 1 oz plain flour
- ¾ pint of milk
- 1 tablespoon chopped fresh dill
- 7 ozs cream cheese
- 12 ozs salmon tail fillet
- 4 ozs asparagus trimmed and sliced in half
- For the topping**
- 1 oz melted butter
- 1 oz breadcrumbs
- 1 oz grated cheddar cheese

Cook the pasta shapes in a large pan of slightly salted water until tender. Drain thoroughly and set aside. Meanwhile, melt the butter in a pan and stir in the flour and milk gradually, until you have a smooth thickened sauce. Stir in the dill and cream cheese and cook for a further two minutes. Season to taste.

Remove the skin from the salmon and cut into bite sized pieces. Toss these into the sauce with the asparagus and cooked pasta and spoon into an ovenproof dish. Preheat the oven to gas mark 6, 200C, 400F. Mix the melted butter, breadcrumbs and cheese and scatter over the top. Bake for 15 minutes and serve with vegetables or side salad.

Broccoli, Stilton and Pasta Bake

- 8 ozs pasta tubes
- 2 tablespoons olive oil
- 12 ozs broccoli florets
- 8 ozs stilton, crumbled
- 1 oz each butter and plain flour
- ½ teaspoon ground coriander
- ¾ pint milk

For the topping

- 4 thick slices white bread, crusts removed cut into cubes
- 2 ozs finely grated cheddar

Pre heat the oven to Gasmark 6, 200c, 400F. Cook the pasta as in previous recipe, adding 1 tablespoon olive oil. Cook the broccoli in a separate pan until just tender. Drain and set aside.

Make sauce as before but omit salt as there is enough in the stilton. Mix together the pasta, broccoli, crumbled stilton and sauce and transfer to a shallow 3 pint ovenproof dish. Mix the bread cubes with the remaining olive oil and scatter over the top of the pasta with the finely grated cheddar. Bake for 20-25 minutes until the bread cubes are crisp and golden and the sauce is bubbling and completely heated through. Serve hot with a green salad.

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BENTHAM AGRICULTURAL SHOW

By Judith Johnson

The Management Committee met on April 20th headed by their Chairman Robert Butterfield, Secretary Val Lawson, Treasurer Jennifer Lister. The grand Raffle was arranged with two excellent prizes of a portable colour T.V. and a mini hi-fi and lots more. A new attraction this year is a section and demonstration of pygmy goats. Finally two fund raising events have been arranged.

The Presidents evening will be held on Saturday 3rd July at 2, Pye Busk by kind permission of Mr. And Mrs. McManus.

The Annual Show Dance will be held at Hornby Institute on 16th October with a meat and potato pie supper and country and western music from Bob Kendal. Tickets will be £10.

H. B. SCHOOL NEWS

Free Books For Schools

We have had a fantastic response to the Free Books for Schools appeal. We set a target of 10,000 tokens, providing between 40 and 80 books. The appeal stands at 14,000 and with two months left should get well beyond that figure. Many thanks to all contributors.

Co-op Sports For All

The school has had a great response to the recent sports equipment offer at the Co-op and has been identified as the most successful school in the North-West. We claimed a free parachute with other small items such as skipping ropes. This promotion is running again so any tokens will be gratefully accepted. Once again a big thank you to all who contributed.

School Trends Award

Just before Christmas our Reception class was identified as being the smartest dressed class in the North of England and only just missed out on the national prize. As a consolation we got free school uniforms for those in the photographs. Well done to all.

Auction of Promises

We are looking for offers of promises to be auctioned to parents in school to raise funds towards a P.C. Offers may include lessons, ironing, baking and cleaning. To offer a service or item please contact the school.



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LOOKING WELL NEWS

By Alison Jones

New activities this month include the first meeting of a Cancer Support group on 8th June and a fascinating 5 week course on homeopathy, flower essences and healing by Beth Tyers. Following the success of his exhibition, Cliff Machin is going to run an art class for all ages and abilities. Many people have also expressed an interest in glass painting so we hope to set up a beginners class. Call in to sign up and tell us what time/day suits you best.

Black Library

If you would like to see what fantasy wargaming is all about, come in on Saturday 12th June, from 10.30am-4.30pm to watch and have it explained. You can join the club and take part on Friday evenings at 6.00pm. You don't need to have your own equipment as the group has recently received a grant to buy equipment for the club.

Burma & the Forgotten Refugees.

We invite you to write a short story/letter/poem in response to something you have seen in Chris Robinson's fascinating exhibition. A handwoven Karen Bag, Burmese Gemstone and elephant watercolour will be awarded to 3 selected entries - one for each age category, under 12, 13-18 years and adults. Entries to Looking Well by 21st June.

LUNESDALE ARTISTS STUDIO TRAIL

By Tony Roberts

Last year there were over 2,000 visitors to studios in the Lunesdale Trail. 1999 promises to be even more popular. The work of 12 professional artists will be open to view in local studios, from 12th-27th June, from 11.00am-4pm daily (8.00pm on Thursdays, closed Mondays). This is a chance to see and discuss the work they are doing and to see the environments in which they work.

Nearly all studios are offering work at budget prices as well as things usually seen more expensively in galleries. Skills to be seen include sculpture, textiles, ceramics, fleece and printmaking, as well as drawing and painting. Maps of the trail will be available free at Toll Bar Garage, Kirkby Motors, Country Harvest and local Tourist Information Centres.

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CHURCHES PAGE

RELIC OF ST BONIFACE COMES TO BENTHAM

What has led to the spiritually significant journey of a relic from the year 755 to Bentham in 1999?

In 719 an English monk called Winfrid left England to preach the Faith in Germany and there he changed his name to Boniface. By 746 he had become Archbishop Primate of all Germany, and in 754 he received permission from the Pope to revert to being a simple monk and set out to preach in Holland. The following year he was killed and his body was returned to Germany. Here it was buried with great honour in Fulda, where Boniface had founded an Abbey which remained for many centuries a centre of excellence for learning and spirituality. The Bishop of Fulda, Bishop Dyba, served in the Holy See's Diplomatic Service with Monsignor Loftus, the Parish Priest of High Bentham's Church of St Boniface. He has offered a relic taken from the body of St Boniface for interment in the new altar at Bentham. The relic was handed over in a solemn ceremony in Fulda Cathedral on 21st May, and there were discussions about setting up links between the two parishes.

The Church of St Boniface was built in Bentham in 1860 on the site of a former brewery, hence the choice of the name St Boniface, who is the patron saint of brewers. It was replaced by the present church in 1959, so this year is its 40th anniversary. A highlight of the celebrations will be the dedication of a new altar by Bishop David Konstant on 5th June, the feast of St Boniface. The base of the altar will be a carved stone dating from the thirteenth century, which is being given by the pre-reformation Anglican Church of St John in Low Bentham.

Further information can be obtained by visiting the web site, www.leeds-diocese.org.uk. or by contacting Mgr Loftus on 61315.



ST MARGARET'S CHURCH

New Organist

Many of you will now have met our new organist, Dr. Donald Millar. We are delighted to have Donald with us and he has been introducing the Singers to new music as well as putting them through their paces in preparation for each Sunday's worship.

Thanks to Kathleen

We owe a special debt to Kathleen Goldsack, who has retired after 8 years of service as Churchwarden. In her place we welcome Janet Slinger. David Adams continues in office as our other Churchwarden. Churchwardens are admitted to office during the Archdeacon's Visitation, an annual service which this year took place in St. Margaret's Church, with Churchwardens from all over Craven being welcomed by the Venerable Malcolm Grundy.

ST. JOHN'S LOW BENTHAM

St. John's Patronal Festival day will be on Sunday June 27th and we are offering an open invitation to anyone to come along.

After the Family Service and a Baptism at 10.30 am we will meet at Low Bentham Primary School at 12.30 for a Jacobs Join lunch in the grounds if fine and in the School if wet.

Following that come and join us in an easy Treasure Hunt around Low Bentham for children and adults alike and a picnic tea while we sort who has won.

METHODIST CHURCH

We have just celebrated "Harvest of the Hills" in our church, when the congregation gave thanks for all the lambs born this spring. Jesus is our Shepherd and everyone is a member of his flock.

POLICE FILE

By P.C. Danny Kay

A few notes on various unrelated topics this month.

HOME SECURITY

Summertime always brings a rush of D.I.Y. projects in and around the house, so why not spare a few minutes to think about your home security.

Q. Is your home adequately protected day and night?

A. Probably not.

Q. Is there anything that can be done about it?

A. Yes. Pick up the phone, call your local Police officers on Ingleton 41217 and ask them to arrange for a FREE crime prevention survey for your property. A trained officer will visit you by appointment and offer professional unbiased advice on all aspects of home security. Don't delay, call today.

Bogus Salesmen and Callers

These are some of the worst kind of criminals who prey on the more vulnerable members of the community, usually the elderly or infirm.

Luckily we are not plagued by such people in the Bentham area, however, please remember the few points below and the chances of these people committing crime in our area will be reduced.

1. Always ask for some form of identity. All public service and utility employees carry identity documents usually with photographs. Take your time and read the document carefully.

2. Never allow strangers into the house until you are totally satisfied as to who they are. If in doubt ask them to come back at a later date and then seek the advice of the Police.

3. The Police and Fire brigades never endorse items such as alarms or smoke detectors. If a salesman tells you that the item is "endorsed", then beware.

4. Never part with cash for goods that you have not yet received, and don't be pressured into signing contracts.

Always remember that your home is your domain; do not let callers intimidate you no matter how charming or how "marvelous" their deal may be. Always consider asking the caller to return and then invite a friend or relative to be with you at the appointed time.

If anybody would like more advice on this topic please contact me on Ingleton 41217.

And Finally

I met recently with your Town Councillors to review the parking situation in High Bentham. Various ideas and options were looked at in relation to yellow lines and on-street parking. The final decision however is down to the Town Council and they will no doubt inform the public of this at the next meeting.

Any new legislation that may be required will take time to process, so in the mean time please park sensibly and always use the off street car parks whenever possible, they are FREE.

And Finally (Part 2)

If anyone has any ideas or suggestions for future Police File articles then let me know and I will do what I can to put your ideas into print.

EWECROSS HISTORICAL SOCIETY

An expedition is being arranged to Liverpool by coach on Saturday 10th July. £8-£10 depending on numbers. Would anyone like to join us for shopping or to visit St. Gerge's Hall (11.00am)? Please contact Geoff Brown 41331.

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LOCAL EVENTS IN JUNE

Tue 1st Angus Pensioners' Association Annual Summer Outing to Scarborough.

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

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

Bentham Cycling Group ride, 6.30pm, School Hill bus stop. Easy ride with pub visit, leader Les Harpur 62930.

Looking Well 12.30-1.30pm Relaxation session. 2.00-3.00pm WISH Womens support group and both every Tuesday.

Wed 2nd NSPCC monthly meeting at Oxenforth Green, 7.30pm.

Thu 3rd Looking Well Mucky Buckets Play Project, parents and under 4s, and every Thursday.

Fri 4th Looking Well Black Library Fantasy Wargaming Club, 6.00-9.30pm, over 11s, and every Friday.

Sat 5th St. Margaret's coffee morning, in the Town Hall, 10.00am-12.00noon. 

Sun 6th High Bentham Methodist Church. Chapel Anniversary Services, 10.30am & 6.30pm. Speaker Rev. Keith Dixon.

Sun 6th Bentham Footpath Group walk, River Kent, 7 miles, leader A. Staveley 61682. Meet at Lairgill 10.00am.

Mon 7th Town Council meeting in the Town Hall, 7.30pm.

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

Tue 8th Looking Well, Cancer Support Group meeting, 11.00am.

Wed 9th Citizens Advice Bureau at the Health Centre, 1.30-3.15pm.

Alzheimer's Disease Support Group open meeting 7.30pm -9.00pm.

Bentham Cycling Group ride, Lune Valley, leader Peter Edge 21626. Meet School Hill bus stop 6.30pm/New Inn Wray, 7.00pm.

Thu 10th European Parliamentary Elections, Lower Town Hall Polling Station.

Sat 12th Conservative Association coffee morning in the Town Hall, 10.00am-12.00 noon. 

Looking Well, meet the Black Library Fantasy Wargamers, 10.30am-4.30pm.

Tue 15th High Bentham Toy Library in the Youth Club, 9.30-11.30am.

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

Copy deadline for July edition of Bentham News.

Thu 17th Low Bentham W.I at the Victoria Institute, 7.30pm. Beauty evening with Mrs. P. Usher. Everyone welcome.

High Bentham CP School, Auction of Promises, in the School Hall at 7.00pm. See page 8 for more details.

Listing for Local Events

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

Event.....

Venue.....

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

Please complete and return to Bill Kennedy, 1 Lakeber Avenue, or to

Thu 17th Bentham Footpath Group walk, Lowgill circular, 4-5 miles, leader B. Harrison 62462. Meet at Lairgill/Lowgill Church, 6.15/6.30pm.

Bentham Cycling Group ride, Leck, leader Kathy Cartledge 61567. Meet at School Hill bus stop 6.30pm.

Fri 18th Waste paper collection at the Legion Hut, 8.30-11.00am. Proceeds to NSPCC.

Sat 19th Burton Under 5s Play Group coffee morning and annual "Nearly New" sale, Town Hall 10.00am-1.00pm. 

Sun 20th Bentham Footpath Group family ramble - Oakbank circular, 5 miles, leaders A. Dobson & J. Marshall (61210). Meet at Bentham Bridge 1.30pm.

Tue 22nd Bentham Cycling Group ride Lowgill, leader Dave Hugill 734467. Meet at School Hill bus stop 6.30pm.

Wed 23rd Citizens Advice Bureau at the Health Centre, 1.30-3.15pm.

Abbeyfield coffee morning and raffle, at Abbeyfield House, Main Street. 10.00-11.30am.

Sat 26th Bentham Footpath Group walk, Upper Swaledale and Kisdon, 6 miles, leader D. Asquith 62619. Meet at Lairgill 10.00am.

High Bentham Methodist Church coffee morning at the Town Hall, 9.45-11.45 am. 

Dance Routine & Disco, in aid of McMillan Appeal Fund. Town Hall 8.00pm. Tickets £5 from the Byres.

Tue 29th High Bentham Toy Library in the Youth Club, 9.30-11.30am.

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

Wed 30th Bentham Cycling Group ride, Clapham, leader Rachel Murton, 21763. Meet at School Hill bus stop 6.30pm.

Events in early July

Fri 2nd Bentham News published.

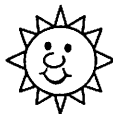
Sat 3rd Low Bentham W.I. coffee morning at the Town Hall, 10.00-11.30am. 

SITUATION VACANT

Tatham Fells C of E Controlled School, Lowgill, Lancaster, LA2 8RA requires a part-time Site Supervisor, 10¼ hours per week. Manual Grade 3+ percentage plusage, required a.s.a.p. Application forms and further details from school, telephone 61441, returnable to school by closing date, 19-6-99.

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A vacancy has arisen at the above refurbished almshouses and applications are invited from people of pensionable age who are residents of Bentham or with close Bentham connections. Application forms and further details can be obtained from the Clerk, Mr. Ian Wood.

Please ring 015242 62656 (evenings) or 01729 823755 (office hours).

SETTLE ROTARY CLUB BOOKSTALL

By Norman Butler, Gruskhholme, Bentham

I am appealing on behalf of Settle Rotary Club for books for its Charity Bookstall. Each Saturday in summer, weather permitting, the Bookstall is held opposite Natwest bank in Settle Market Square.

Over the past five years approximately £15,000 has been collected for local and international charities. Many local school children have been supported in worthwhile projects and attend various courses each year. Recently we sent £500 to help Kosovan refugees. Manorlands Hospice has also benefited.

Our aim is to consider help for any genuine need, but in order to achieve this goal, a ready and constant supply of books is needed. The public's response in the past has always been good. Please give me a ring on Bentham 61420 and I will be delighted to collect your unwanted books.

POST OFFICE NEWS

By Alison Wilken

New Graduated Vehicle Duty Scheme

From 1st June the Government will introduce a two-tier excise duty and as a result licence refunds will be available between 1st and 30th June for vehicles of 1100cc or less, at post offices issuing motor vehicle licences. These start and end of month times are normally extremely busy so it would be advisable to obtain your replacement vehicle licence and refund at other times, preferably mid-month. You can help us speed up the transaction by completing a V10 form before you get to the counter. Please also ensure that you have the following documents:- V901 refund application for small vehicles, a vehicle test certificate if applicable, a valid insurance certificate and your current tax disc, glued to the V901 form. For further information please ask at the counter.

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FOOTPATH MATTERS

By Angela Robertson (61285)



Opened on 1st June 1985, the Ribble Way is a middle distance footpath (about 70 miles) which follows the valley of the River Ribble. Bernard Ellershaw has led members of the Bentham Footpath Group on six walks following the route from the source of the Ribble at Newby Head, towards the sea. The final section will be walked on Sunday 11th July. Each stage has been of about ten miles.

On Sunday 17th April, along with a dozen other members of the group, I drove down the M6 to embark on stage 6 of the walk - between Samlesbury and Ribchester. Last week had been bitterly cold, with punishing night frosts (my magnolia never recovered) and even a flurry of snow. The woolly layers were on, the waterproofs were packed as I prepared for a bracing walk along the banks of the Ribble.

However, the sun shone graciously and layers were peeled off as the walk progressed. As we ate lunch in a sun-trapped copse, filled with the scent of bluebells and the sound of birdsong we appreciated the glory and greenness of a beautiful spring day in England.

Between Ribchester and Preston is a beautiful stretch of the Ribble Valley where the river meanders in a series of large loops between well wooded banks on which stand many old halls. The aristocracy always knew where to build for maximum visual impact.

The walk began at Ribchester, an area steeped in Roman history. We made our way along the footpath through Red Bank Wood, passing by Hothersall Hall and moving through Leece's Wood and King's Wood, meeting up from time to time with the old Roman road. As we walked we saw a deer leaping across the fields and the usual assortment of frisky lambs and their noisy mothers, protesting at the intrusion of a group of walkers.

After Alston Hall the important lunch stop in the delightful Tun Brook Wood, we walked on through woods and meadows until we had to cross under the M6, while the motorway traffic thundered overhead. On the opposite bank was the Tickled Trout Hotel and further downstream there were three fishermen in waders casting their lines.

As we entered the cars parked outside the Shawes Arms pub, huge drops of rain began to fall in earnest, but we were journeying homeward, dry and contented after completing another stage of our Ribble Way Walk.

Help needed

Is there anyone out there who would be interested in helping with conservation work with the B.F.G? Barry Greenwood does an excellent job at the moment, along with a small team of helpers. Their latest effort has been improving the path on the approach to a new footbridge over Bubbles Gill. Barry is seeking an assistant with spare time to reconnoitre needy work and possibly liaise with local landowners. If you can help in any way please contact me.

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ALTON TOWERS

Wednesday, 11 August - £7.50

8 LAKES TOUR

Wednesday, 18 August - £10.00

EDINBURGH

Thursday, 19th August - £6.50

SOUTHPORT FLOWER SHOW

SUNDAYS

Sunday, 20 June - £9.00

DERBYSHIRE WELL

DRESSING

Sunday, 4 July - £8.00

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STAPELEY WATER GARDENS**

Sunday, 11 July - £9.00

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FOR BOOKINGS OR FURTHER INFORMATION TEL: 015242 41330

The Editor, Bentham News

Dear Sir,

The garden at Clearbeck House, Higher Tatham, (signed from Wray and Low Bentham), will be open again under the National Gardens Scheme on Sundays 27th June and 4th July, from 11.30am-5.30pm, or else by private appointment (tel 015242 61029). There will be a plant stall and teas available, all proceeds for charities.

This creative garden extends beyond traditional terraced borders through vistas and secret ways, making it a garden with many charming surprises. These include follies (a walk-through pyramid), sculptures (some for sale), fountains, streams, ponds and a 2 acre wildlife lake. Planting includes herbaceous borders, bog plants, bamboos and grasses. Forty seven species of birds were noted last year. The garden has again been filmed for T.V. twice this year.

Yours sincerely,
Bronwen Osborne.

Dear Bentham News,

When walking our dog we were shocked to see a brown sofa and easy chair in amongst the bluebells, ditched in the stream near Birkwith Wood corner. This is thoughtless pollution of our environment, a desecration of the countryside and the worst possible example of man's attitude to his environment. Somebody took the trouble to load up a van or wagon with the furniture. Having done that surely they should have



taken it to the tip. Although the person who tipped the furniture is clearly the guilty party there is no denying the fact that disposing of unwanted items has become much more difficult since the change of policy by the District Council last April, in fact this sort of event was quite predictable.

Some weeks ago we came across a red mattress, neatly bundled up and dumped in the ditch at Black Wood, about 100 yards after the turning to Wrayton. We rang the Council who made no promise to remove the offending object, simply to go and look at it. The attitude seemed to be that it was the responsibility of the landowner onto whose land it was tipped. This seems very unfair as such a landowner must always be the innocent party and should not be expected to pay for another's sins. It seems from our conversation with the Council that they would only remove the results of fly-tipping from their own land.

We hope something can be done to solve this problem. and in the meantime if you know of someone who has replaced a brown sofa and chair, and owns a Jack Russell terrier kind of dog (judging by the hairs), please tell the Environmental Health Department at Craven District Council. I am sure they would be interested!

Yours sincerely,
David and Judith Johnson.

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BENTHAM PEOPLE



Personal Thanks

The family of **Kathy Brown** would like to say thank you to all her family and many friends for their continued help and support during these last few months. Thank you for your generous donations given on her behalf and for all the many letters received. Thank you to all the doctors and nurses of Bentham Health Centre and the Marie Curie nursing team and also to Canon Bearpark and all at St. Margaret's Church for organising such a beautiful and fitting funeral service.

Thanks

Kathleen Townson would like to express sincere thanks to all relations, friends and neighbours for the lovely flowers and get well greetings received during her stay in hospital. Your very kind thoughts were much appreciated. *(This item was omitted in error last month - sincere apologies to Kathleen Townson)*

Jim Fairclough would like to thank all friends and family for their cards and good wishes during his stay in hospital. Many thanks also to the people who brought Freda down to see me. It was much appreciated. Thanks once more to you all.

John and Joan Robinson wish to thank all relatives, friends and neighbours for their gifts, flowers and cards on their recent Golden Wedding anniversary.

Sharon Ely. I would like to thank all those who expressed concern following my car accident and subsequent treatment over the last 12 months. Your cards and best wishes were excellent medicine and I am on the mend and feeling much better. Also a special thank you to my mum and dad, without whom I would not have come so far so quickly.

Angie. I would like to say a big thank you to Katie Louth, Enid Carter and Helen Jackson for taking part in the Slimming World Sponsored Slim. Together we managed to raise £209.70 for Lancaster Royal Infirmary Baby Care Unit. Well done, all of you! Angie.

Thanks

Arthur and Eva Patrickson wish to thank most sincerely, David and Avril, relatives, ex colleagues and friends for the gifts and cards containing good wishes on the occasion of their 90th birthdays, 5th and 7th May respectively. It was all rather overwhelming. Thank you once again. May we also thank everyone for the good wishes we received on the occasion of our 65th Wedding Anniversary on 1st January 1999, and in particular Dr. P. Nightingale, the Nurses, Home Carers and Office Staff without whose kind and excellent attention during most of 1998, it may not have taken place. How fortunate we are in Bentham to have such a devoted staff at the Surgery.

Douglas Garlick and Eunice wish to thank family and friends for their kind wishes and thoughts during Doug's recent weeks in Lancaster Royal Infirmary. Special thanks to Dr. Story and to Canon John Bearpark.

Bentham Cricket Club would like to say a big thank you to all the traders who contributed raffle prizes for their grand draw which was held in May.

For Sale

Horse manure for composting, 6 bags £2.50 delivered locally. Well rotted manure 60p per bag. 62176.

Trolley Truck, brand new, still unpacked. Load capacity 80kg vertical 100kg horizontal. Cost £25. Accept £18. 62492.

Wanted

Garage space for car not used regularly. needs to be secure and dry, in or near Bentham. Tel 62539.

Dustbins wanted. High Bentham County Primary School music group is in need of dustbins in good condition to use as drums for their summer concert, so if you have any you don't need, please could we have them. Thankyou. Jamie Bloxham.

Piano Lessons

Given by Conservatoire graduate. All levels welcome. Call Ariane, Tel. 62100.

APRIL WEATHER

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

April was generally warmer and wetter than the past two years with warm and sunny weather at the beginning of the month over the Easter weekend and no rain at all from the 24th to the 30th.

The rainfall was 91.4mm (3.6") as compared to the ten year mean of 76.3mm (3.0") with a particularly wet period over the 20th and 21st.

However the most notable feature of the month were the hard frosts from the 14th to the 19th with -6.0 degrees celsius or 22 degrees Fahrenheit recorded on the 14th. There was also more snow than we have had all winter which must have put an end to any fruit blossom-notably damsons.



CHURCHES TOGETHER CELEBRATE THE MILLENNIUM

Saturday 9th - Sunday 17th October

By Judith Johnson

Plans for the celebration week are now well in hand and more details will be available later. Also a leaflet will be delivered through each door.

The churches in the Craven area have been making plans for many months and in addition to the main events some churches have decided to plan something on their own.

There will be an exhibition of history of local churches in the Looking Well, a trail around Clapham and Austwick of Christian sites and a display by Lunesdale and Pendle Artists Group at the Ingleborough Centre. Many local businesses are taking part in a flower festival at St. John's on the theme of Christ in the Workplace and on Friday 15th a group will go by coach to Ripon Cathedral and Fountains Abbey.

For younger people there will be a Puppet Group travelling around the Primary schools and Paula Langdon will be organising something special for Settle High School and Ingleton Middle School.

We hope there will be something of interest for all age groups and that you will come along and join us for this celebration of Christian faith.



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

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VICTORIA INSTITUTE NEWS

By Lin Barrington

New booking arrangements

Jane Pattinson is now the person to contact for bookings of the Victoria Institute in Low Bentham. Phone her on 61061. The Institute is used by many groups (including the recently formed Youth Club, which now meets on Wednesday and Friday evenings) and the cost of hiring it is: £5 per hour for use of the hall and kitchen; £4 per hour for the hall alone; £2.50 per hour for the kitchen/meeting room and £2.50 per hour for the upstairs meeting room. A special rate of £6 applies for a 2-hour children's party using the hall and kitchen.

Institute AGM

At our recent AGM, Ann Hodgson, Kath Stannard and Lin Barrington were re-appointed as Chair, Secretary and Treasurer respectively, and Jane Pattinson is now Bookings Secretary. In her Chairman's Report Ann mentioned progress on several fronts, the most notable being the purchase of the land behind the Institute, which gives us scope in planning the next step forward for the use of the Institute. The Playground Committee has been meeting regularly and has made great progress with its plans.

She mentioned that throughout the year we have been trying to 'revolutionise' the booking system for the hall in order to increase bookings and make things simpler for those involved. There have been one or two hiccups, but we think we're getting there! Due to some vandalism to the Institute earlier in the year, we increased security and put another lock on the door.

Fundraising events held during the year were the Street Market (to be held again this year on August Bank Holiday Monday), Christmas Fayre/Jumble Sale, and a Bingo night. Unfortunately, bad weather caused the summer Barbecue to be cancelled at the last minute - the committee

had to make a quick decision, and advance ticket sales had been very poor - thanks to Gail at the Punch Bowl for all her help.

Ann concluded by thanking everyone for their help in baking, collecting, giving, being there, washing up, making coffee, putting up lights and bunting, taking them down again etc. etc. Without you all we couldn't keep going.

The Future

The Street Market this year is going to be combined with the 'Pow Wow', held for the first time in a marquee at the Punch Bowl last year. We hope that by doing this, we will draw more people into Low Bentham and provide a better variety of things to do when they get here.

As for the Institute building, we hope to get funding to make use of the land we have bought by providing access to it from the Institute and to improve access to the building in general. If you want to know more, ask one of the Committee.

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B.T.A. Annual General Meeting

By Pam Woof

Bentham Traders Association held their AGM but it was poorly attended by members in general. There is a keen following by a few members however and the committee was very pleased to have three new members; Andrew Armstrong, David Lund and Henry Sefton.

Changes in officers

Geoff Langdale continues as chairman. Rosie Skidmore, Emma Edwards, Maxine Halstead and Pam Woof continue in their posts but John Barwise resigned from his duty as treasurer and was thanked for his work over the last 3 years. He stays on as a committee member and David Lund agreed to become the new treasurer. Gill Taylor also resigned from the committee after many years of service.

Coming events

Events planned for the coming months start with a Treasure hunt for members and prospective members on 6th July. Members will be circulated with a questionnaire about the starting of a loyalty card scheme as it will require the majority of traders to take part if the scheme is to work well. There will be an open meeting later in the year to discuss loyalty cards further, when the results are known. More details will be circulated in a newsletter in early June.

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AGE CONCERN NEWS

By Jean Gathergood

After the article in the March edition of the Benthams News, it was hoped that more over 60s would come along to the Drop in & Day Centre. Unfortunately new clients have not been forthcoming and as a result we will be closing the Monday session as from 28th June. Hopefully we can continue with the Friday meeting but we still need more clients.

Rosalie Elliott, our Centre Organiser for the past seven years is having to retire. Thank you "Ros" for all you have achieved. We now urgently require someone with organising skills to take her place. Can you help? If so, please come and see us on a Friday between 9.30am and 2.30pm in the Town Hall.

MILLENNIUM RECIPE BOOK

By S. Adams

It is more than twenty years since Benthams Women's Social Services produced a recipe book in aid of the NSPCC.

This year, to mark the millennium, we are producing a new upmarket book. Gone are the staples and stainable cover, and in comes the new laminated spiral bound version - look for it around Christmas time.

We do however, need your favourite recipes to publish in our book. For a donation of £1 you can have your recipe included, along with your name. This will help offset printing costs (pardon the pun).

Forms can be obtained from Hash Browns, Barwise Bakery, Serendipity or any member of the committee. Thank you for your continued support.

NSPCC

The recent House to House collection held in High and Low Benthams, Burton and Wray raised £1,029.25 for the NSPCC. Many thanks to all who helped and contributed.

HORNBY DRAMA GROUP

By Hilary Strickett

Our 38th Hornby Drama Festival is now over and we would like to thank everyone for their support. This year there were nine entries and some of the societies travelled considerable distances to be with us. The innovation of musical interludes was very popular and we are grateful to the groups which gave us so much entertainment.

As with all festivals there was a great deal of work behind the scenes, and we much appreciate the support given by all who helped with refreshments, worked back stage, sold tickets and displayed our posters.

SPRINGFIELD BOWLING CLUB

By M. Johnson

We were favoured with a fine warm day for the official opening day of the bowling green for the 1999 season, on 24th April.

The winner of the Finale competition was R. Butterfield with 24 points, T. Bates was second with 23 points and H. Lloyd third with 22.

In a round robin competition held after tea, the winners were T. Bates and M. Lawson with runners up K. Pladdy and M. Johnson.

If you are interested in joining please come along or contact me on 61039. You will be very welcome.

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