

BENTHAM NEWS

GOOD NEWS FOR BENTHAM

By Bill Kennedy (Bentham Development Trust)

Yorkshire Forward (the Regional Development Agency) is taking special interest in Bentham. At a Board meeting of Bentham Development Trust on 11th January, Steve Dann of Yorkshire Forward explained how consultants, Building Design Partnership, have completed an initial feasibility study on our town. The study suggests that the regeneration priorities for Bentham should be:

- * a new industrial estate for light industry,
- * work space for start-up and micro businesses,
- * better public transport access for villages to Bentham,
- * improved indoor recreational facilities, especially for young people, and
- * an environmental facelift for the town centre.



Yorkshire Forward has circulated the report to a wide range of local organisations for comments. The next stage involves setting up a broad regeneration partnership to consider local responses and agree the priorities for Bentham. The partnership will then develop the agreed priority projects and take them forward for implementation.

The partnership will probably include Yorkshire Forward, North Yorkshire County Council, Craven District Council, Bentham Development Trust, Bentham Town Council, Craven Councils, Bentham Traders Association, Bentham Community Centre, Pioneer Projects, and we hope that the farming community, local industry, education and the churches will also take part.

The Trust has worked closely with Yorkshire Forward in preparing the study. We are obviously pleased that Yorkshire Forward recognises the problems and needs of Bentham, and it is encouraging that Yorkshire Forward wants to work with local groups to seek the regeneration of Bentham and improvement in quality of life for all the community. But it will mean hard work, enthusiasm and commitment and a willingness to compromise and be flexible in attitude. This is an excellent opportunity for Benthamers to work with local authorities and other groups, for the benefit of Bentham. Let's make sure we make the most of it.

If you wish to see a copy of the report then ask me or ring Claire Jackson of Yorkshire Forward on 01904 693335. Yorkshire Forward is seeking comments by 13th March.

WOMEN'S INSTITUTES

High Bentham

By Margaret Hayton

Our speaker at the January meeting was Jean Argles, who talked about travel in The Yemen. Jean told us how she had followed the old road from North Yemen across the desert into the Middle East and back, taking in some of the coast road. One problem they found was that you were not allowed to photograph the women. The markets sold spices, honey, coffee, hats along with the vegetables. Honey was very expensive and only used for medicinal purposes. One museum that they visited looked more like a bring and buy sale. Mary Field gave the vote of thanks.

The competition, for a decorated vase, was won jointly by R. Wylie and M. Slater, with J. Jackson being second.

Low Bentham

By Jennifer Watkinson

Early in December members went to "White Walls", Hest Bank for a five course festive meal. Crackers, a present picked out of Santa's sack, and excellent food and service all helped to make this a memorable evening.

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PETER PAN

Bentham's 20th Pantomime

By Margaret Cowling

A new Millennium and Bentham's 20th pantomime are two good reasons for celebration. The last time we presented Peter Pan was in 1985 and we thought it was time to do it again.

There is a new script however, produced by a team of workers with plenty of ideas, jokes and inspiration. Simon Guy will be our youngest Director; he has also written some of the pantomime and will act in it too! Simon is a Drama student at St. Martin's College so our Panto will give him bags of experience.

Like all Bentham Pantomimes, there will be lots of surprises, such as characters you weren't expecting, special effects to startle you and scenery, costumes, music and dancing to take your breath away.

We always try to include anyone who would like to be in our Pantomime, so there will be plenty of children and teenagers as Lost Boys, Red Indians, Pirates etc. You may recognise some old favourites amongst Captain Hook's dastardly crew, so be prepared to hiss and boo, they'll deserve it!

Our ticking crocodile won't, have all the menacing to himself however, so watch out for a famous naturalist and an Australian crocodile wrestler!

Tickets are on sale at Bentham Sports on Station Road, and the Pantomime will run from Wednesday 23rd February until Saturday 26th, during February half-term. Don't miss it!



TOWN COUNCIL REPORT

By Bill Kennedy

The Town Council meeting took place in the Wenningdale Room, with a full attendance of councillors, except for Councillor Woof, who sent his apologies. The meeting started with a one minute's silence in memory of Mr. Bernard Dawber, former Town Councillor and Mayor in 1990.

Prior to commencing the business of the meeting, the Mayor, Mrs. Margaret Hayton, referred to the recent New Year's party in the Town Hall, and the actions of Cllrs Heigh and Marshall, who had personally intervened, without reference to the Mayor or Town Clerk. She pointed out that this was out of order and reminded councillors that any complaints regarding the Town Hall should be referred to the Mayor/Clerk, in keeping with established protocol.

Police Matters

Police Constable Adrian Hayes reported that the incidence of crime in the area in December was relatively low. There was no further information on the two major robberies in Bentham, at the two Main Street banks. He added that there had been an outbreak of thefts of diesel from HGVs recently. With regard to the New Year's party at the Town Hall, the police did not have any problems at the event, but in future would request earlier notification of such bookings.

Highway Matters

The replacements for the damaged section of the Wenning Bridge railings were due to be delivered in January, and it is hoped the erection work will follow soon.

Mount Pleasant parking. A letter from Mr. G.N. Theobald (the optician) confirmed that the adjacent yard was available to customers for parking.

Black Bull car park. The contract to re-surface the car park has been awarded by

Thwaites Brewery PLC to Wenning Surfacing. As the costs had increased from the original quotations, the Town Clerk negotiated again with Thwaites and had the Council costs reduced from 50% to 40%. The cost therefore, to the Town Council is £9,720 plus VAT. After considerable discussion the council agreed to proceed, so in the not too distant future, those gaping potholes and mini lakes should be just a memory.

Town Hall Payphone

The yearly rental of the payphone is £460, but with takings of only £270, there has been a loss of £190. It was agreed that with the introduction and proliferation of mobile phones, there was not the same need for a pay phone and so the contract with British Telecom will be terminated.

School Hill Site

The demolition of the old toilets and clearing of the area has been scheduled to commence in late January, together with the stone cladding of the sub-station, which will also be suitably roofed.

Correspondence

There were several letters from official bodies, on TC business. A letter from a Low Bentham Resident, about the abandoned vehicles/trailers at Low Bentham car park is to be referred to Craven District Council. Another letter, from Mr. & Mrs. Bamford, complained about the New Year party.

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CONSERVATIVES SPEAKER SUPPER

By Stephen Dawson

Bentham Conservatives held their annual Speaker Supper at the Golf Club when 53 members and friends enjoyed a delicious meal. Guest of honour was Robert Goodwill, member of the European Parliament for Yorkshire and the Humber.

Robert, 42, farms near Castle Howard and was elected in June 1999. He was drawn into politics after the Liberal-Democrats won the Rydale by-election in sensational fashion. He saw that the Conservatives needed more local candidates and was eventually selected for a seat in rural Yorkshire. First however, he had to gain experience in Labour held seats in Redcar and Sheffield. He soon learned that ram-raiders had little to do with sheep rustling, and Conservative candidates had to watch out for flying eggs.

On a serious note, Mr. Goodwill confirmed his reputation as a Euro-sceptic by expressing his opposition to the single currency. In some light hearted heckling Ken Houghton (David Curry's constituency secretary) reminded the speaker of the party line. Mr. Goodwill also deplored the £250m cost of moving the Parliament from Brussels to Strasbourg for different sessions, and Labour's lack of interest and knowledge of rural affairs. None of Labour's MEPs had chosen to sit on Europe's Agriculture Committee, at a time when the future for hill farmers and pig farmers was dire.

Mr. Goodwill, a member of the Parliament's delegation to Belarus, Ukraine and Moldova looked forward to the expansion of the European Union into Central and Eastern Europe. Mr. Goodwill can be contacted at Southwood Farm, Terrington, York, YO69 6QB, telephone 01653 648459, fax 648225. PS. The Tories won Ryedale at the General Election.



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CRAVEN DISTRICT COUNCIL MATTERS

By Councillor John Pilkington

Regeneration Initiative

At a recent meeting of the Economic & Development Committee the District Council agreed to support a proposal from Yorkshire Forward that Bentham should be a pilot market town within the Market Towns Initiative. A study carried out last year identified several projects that would be needed to improve the long term economic viability of Bentham. Although the details and the priorities of these projects have yet to be agreed the District Council has now confirmed its support in principle for this important initiative. It is possible that the Council would also be willing to assist in the identification of land suitable for the development of workspaces for small/medium size businesses.

A-Z Guide to District Council

Services.....

All households should have received a new version of the A-Z Guide to replace the first one issued two years ago. If anyone has not received a copy please contact one of your District Councillors or Craven District Council.

.....Best Value Questionnaire

A Questionnaire is attached to the A-Z Guide. At the end of March the District Council has to publish a five year plan showing how it intends to review all the services it provides. Also, every year from now on the Council will have to publish a summary of its performance during the year to show that the residents and businesses in Craven are getting the 'Best Value' for the money the District Council spends - money that comes from Council Tax, Business Rates and government grants. In order to do this the District Council needs to know what you think of the services already provided and what services the residents and businesses in Craven really want. *Please fill in the Questionnaire and post the completed card as soon as*

possible - no stamp is needed. (Note: The section before question 9 has not been numbered - please fill in this section if possible as it will help the Council to decide what services to provide in the future.)

Recent Planning Applications

5.08.332.G: Mr & Mrs P Swales, Bull Copy, Windy Hill, Tatterthorn Road, Bentham.

Detached garage and extension to stables.

5.08.466 D: Mr & Mrs V B Craven, C/o 95 Keighley Road, Lidget, Oakworth, Keighley.

Erection of two detached houses at Lairgill House/Lairgill Lodge, Mount Pleasant, High Bentham.

5.08.559 D: E & M Pendlebury, 228 Manchester Road, Kearsley, Nr Bolton.

Temporary use of building at West End Farm Barns, Cross Lane, Low Bentham, to house a residential caravan during approved barn conversion works.

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WHAT WOULD IT BE LIKE IF THERE WERE NO BENTHAM NEWS?

By Shirley Brown

Shock horror! Bentham without the Bentham News would be unthinkable, wouldn't it?

However, we are only as good as the community we serve, and we can only continue if we get support and help from as widely as possible within the community. At present we have an enthusiastic, good committee, but we are aware that those over 40 years old are over represented on it! We would love to have some younger people join us. The minimum commitment is one meeting lasting one and a half hours on one Wednesday evening a month. Anything you can do over and above this is up to you. If the idea appeals, please have a word with either Bill (62492) or Shirley (61608) or any other committee member. We look forward to hearing from you.

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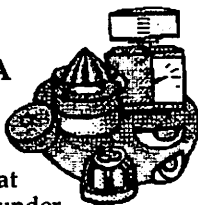
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RECIPES

VARIATION ON A THEME

By the NSPCC



We were sorry to hear that Doreen Park is feeling under the weather. The NSPCC is glad to take up the offer to keep her tradition of recipes in the BN going during February. Get well soon, Doreen.

Bentham Women's Social Services, who work for the NSPCC, have produced a new recipe book for the Millennium. The book is on sale (£3.50) from any committee member, or you can ring Caroline Woof on 62254, or Susan Pilkington on 61757. This new spiral bound, wipe clean version is an asset to any cook or would-be cook, and also makes an ideal gift. All profits are going to the NSPCC. Just to tickle your taste buds, here is a sample of what can be found inside (reproduced by permission of the original contributors).

Tiramisu (Christine Davies)

½ tin (397g) Nestles condensed milk
½ pint strong black coffee, cooled
3 tbsp Marsala wine or brandy
boudoir biscuits or sponge fingers
250g Mascapone cheese
cocoa powder

Beat together the condensed milk and cheese. Add the wine or brandy to the cooled coffee. Dip the sponge fingers into the coffee mixture and lay on the base of an 8" dish. Spread ½ the cheese mixture over the biscuits. Repeat (layer of fingers and cheese mixture). Sieve a fine sprinkling of cocoa powder on top. Chill before serving.

Quaker Oats Biscuits (Hazel Lawson)

½ lb each plain flour and margarine
½lb oats,
1 egg,
½ tsp bicarbonate of soda
6 ozs sugar
1 tsp vinegar, pinch salt

Cream together the margarine and sugar. Dissolve the bicarbonate of soda in the vinegar, and add to the creamed mixture. Add the flour, oats and salt. Mix with the beaten egg. Roll out fairly thick and cut out in shapes required. Bake in a moderate oven, 350F, for approximately 15 minutes.

TWO MUSICAL EVENTS IN MARCH

By Judith Johnson

Advance notice for music lovers with different tastes. St. John's Church, Low Bentham is to be the venue for a Sunday afternoon concert on 5th March at 3.00pm. Three local music teachers will combine to provide music from flutes, guitars and singing. This should be a pleasant and varied concert with refreshments supplied by the local branch of the NSPCC, who will take donations.

Kirkby Lonsdale Brass Band will be visiting Bentham Town Hall on Saturday 11th March at 7.30pm. More details of these events will be in the March Bentham News.

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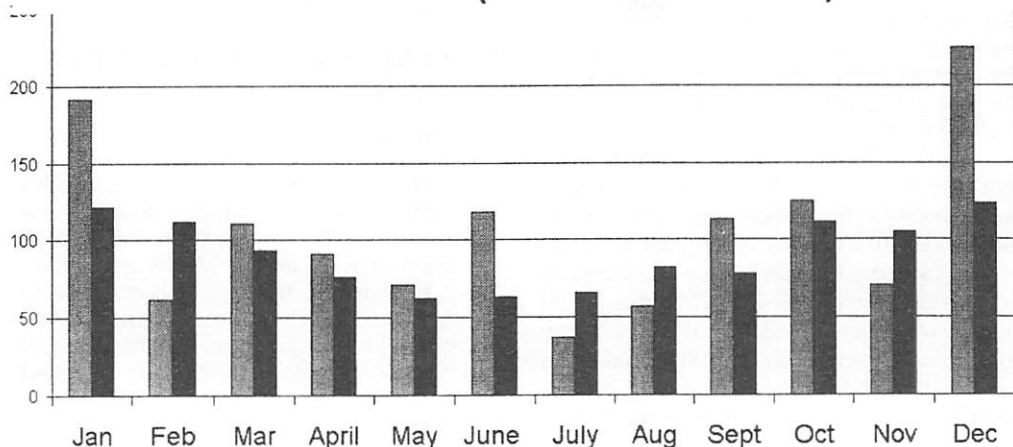


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**ANNUAL
RAINFALL
FOR 1999**

By Judith Johnson

1999 was a little wetter than the ten year average with 1273.3mm compared with 1095.9 which was the average for the ten years 1989 to 1998. The winter months of January and December were very wet with 191.8mm and 224.7mm compared to 121.8mm and 123.6 but the summer months of July and August showed less rain than average. So a wetter winter, but a better summer in 1999.

Phil Leigh has kindly agreed to supply us with weather statistics each quarter, so from now on we will publish a weather/rainfall report at three monthly intervals.



POLICE FILE

By PC Danny Kay

Firstly, a happy New Year to one and all from those of us at Ingleton Police Station.

I am pleased to report that we entered the new Millenium totally unscathed and thankfully bug free, despite all the hype generated in the media throughout 1999.

New Year celebrations in Bentham caused us very few if indeed any, problems. The party organised by Josh and Natasha in the Town Hall was an excellent example of how a large number (400 plus), of people can get together and have a good time without having to resort to violence or acts of criminal damage. Perhaps those local folk involved in disturbances prior to Christmas should take note of this, as sadly once again the problems caused over the holiday period were initiated by local residents.

The press, both locally and nationally, are having a field day reporting on the alleged Post Office robber at Burton in Lonsdale. Please don't plague us with questions about the events as I can assure that we know as much as the press seem to. And please also bear in mind that regardless of what the profession the alleged offender is then he or she is innocent until proven guilty. Having got that off my chest I will move to another favourite topic.....

Parking

The first few parking tickets of the millenium have been issued and there will no doubt be more by the time this article is read.

This year's warning is hereby issued :- Your elected members on Bentham Town Council wish us to carry on with our policy of prosecuting parking offenders in Bentham. All officers at Ingleton are aware of this and we will vigorously carry out the Council's wishes.



COMMUNITY OFFICE CO-ORDINATOR PART TIME

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This period may be extended.

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Closing date for applications, (including C.V.s) is 15th February.

Applications to Trust office please.

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NEWS FROM THE CHURCHES

Churches Together in Benthams

We are sorry that, owing to delays at the publishers, the Millennium Gospels were in most cases delivered a little after the leaflet telling you about them and advertising our Christmas and New Year services. We hope you have all now received a Gospel - there are extra copies at each of the churches if you have not had one, or would like more. Most homes received St. Mark's Gospel, rather than St. Luke's as promised. We had ordered Luke, but we were sent a mixture of the two. We hope that you are happy with whichever you received, and that you have found it stimulating to read.

It is planned to form an Inter-church music group, to play on special occasions, beginning with the Easter Songs of Praise. If you play an instrument and would like to be involved, please contact Judith Johnson (61905).

St John's & St. Margaret's.

For a year now the two Church of England parishes have been under the care of one priest. St. John's was from medieval times the parish church for the whole of Benthams, with its clergy living in a succession of Rectories there. (The finest, designed by the distinguished Victorian architect Norman Shaw, is now the home of Benthams Grammar School.) As the population in High Benthams grew, St. Margaret's Church was built and was at first looked after by curates from St. John's. In 1872 High Benthams became a separate parish, with its own Vicar.

All churches are now coming to terms with the steady reduction in the number of clergy and ministers available. And so St. John's and St. Margaret's are working together to create a constructive relationship, now that they once again share the same parish priest. We have been very fortunate in having the Rev. Brian Levick living here, and that he has been willing to share the leading of worship with Canon

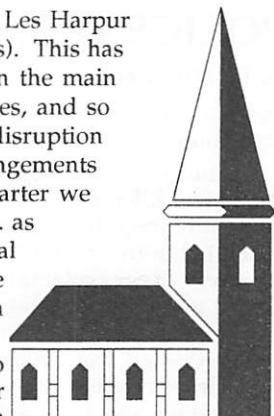
John Bearpark and Les Harpur (Reader at St. John's). This has enabled us to retain the main Sunday service times, and so to avoid too much disruption as the new arrangements bed in. Once a quarter we have a joint service, as also on some special occasions, and these seem to have been well appreciated.

The two churches have their own identities, with their own history and style of worship. We are now used to sharing with churches of other denominations - it sometimes isn't so easy with neighbours of our own. We are confident that we can both gain from our new association, and that gradually we shall learn how best to work together in the mission of the whole Church to our community.

High Benthams Methodist Church

During September and October 1999 many members of the community helped in a survey by High Benthams Methodist Church by filling in a questionnaire. From the answers we hope to be able to find ways to help our church serve the community better. We would like to thank most sincerely those who took time to help us in this way. The results have been analysed and a report summarising the findings has been produced. If anyone who took part would like to know the results, copies are available from church members. The next step is to draw up an action plan to build on our strengths and address our weaknesses. If anyone who was not invited to be part of the survey has any comments to make about the way the church could better serve the community, please contact Martha Bainbridge or Liz Whitfield (61230).

Thank you to all those who shared in the Watchnight Service on New Year's Eve and joined in the community singing in the car park after midnight. It was a special time for those involved as the new Millennium began.



NEWS FROM THE CHURCHES

continued

St. Boniface's

The book of the prophet Jonah is a jolly good read, and quite short too. We are all familiar with his three days in the belly of the whale, but that's only part of the story.



About 400 years before Christ, more or less the time of Alexander the Great, the Lord told Jonah to go and preach to the Ninevites. Jonah did not agree with this. It wasn't the kind of religion he was used to. He had his own ideas about what religion should be, and it didn't include preaching to the Ninevites. "No, they're not one of us" Jonah replied and ran away to sea, as the book tells us "to get away from the Lord".

His three days in the belly of the whale, when his boat capsized in a storm, were an opportunity for reflection. And when, in that lovely biblical language, "the whale spewed him up", he realised there was no getting away from the Lord - he went to preach to the Ninevites.

We all need to reflect, though not necessarily in the belly of a whale, on what God is calling us to do. Are we resisting God's call because we don't agree with the way our church is developing? Are we reluctant to share our worship with others, distrustful of innovations in the church, and of inter-church activity?

Jonah's mistake was to trust his judgement of what the Lord should be doing. Our mistake can be to trust our judgement of what the church, or the churches, should be doing. Jonah's action was to try to get away from the Lord, ours can be to try to get away from the church. The ten day spiritual mission at St. Boniface's from 30th June to 9th July is an open house for members of all churches, but especially welcome will be all who, with Jonah, cry out from the belly of the whale "I will gaze on thy holy temple once again"

FREE BOOKS FOR BABIES

By Nita Dewar (Skipton Library Headquarters)

Bookstart comes to Craven

Bookstart - a scheme giving free books to babies - began in Craven in January. The £6million national Bookstart scheme was initiated by the educational charity Book Trust and sponsored by Sainsbury's. As the scheme is introduced in North Yorkshire, all parents/carers attending their baby's 7-9 month health check, will be given a Bookstart bag by their Health Visitor, containing free books, information on how to get the most out of sharing books with young children, a nursery rhyme place mat and an invitation to join the Library.

Research in Birmingham, where the project started 6 years ago, showed that babies given Bookstart books showed clear advantages in their literacy and numeracy levels by the time they started primary school, and two years after receiving the books, were three times more likely to be interested in reading than those who had not taken part in the scheme.

Bentham Library has lots of books with the "Spot" logo which have been specially selected with babies and young children in mind. It is free to join the Library - you just need to take along something like a gas bill or driving licence which has your name and address on, and you can join straight away. Babies are never too young to join the Library! For more information, contact me on 01756-799997.

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EVENTS IN EARLY FEBRUARY

Fri 4th Bentham News published.

Looking Well, 6.00-9.30pm,
Black Library wargaming Club,
over 11s, and every Friday.

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

Bentham Footpath Group walk,
Feizor/Wharfe Circular, 8 miles,
leader G. Amos 51621. Please
meet at Lairgill/Clapham car
park 9.45/10.00am.

Looking Well coach trip to
Bradford and Bombay Stores.
Please meet at School Hill at
9.30am.

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

Looking Well, 10.30am-12.30pm
Parent and babies group.
7.30-8.30pm Tai Chi Qigong
gentle exercise session. Both
every Monday.

Tue 8th High Bentham Toy Library in
the Youth Centre, 9.30-11.30am.

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

Looking Well, 12.30-1.30pm
Relaxation session. 2.00-3.00pm
Women's Support Group. Both
every Tuesday.

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.

Tue 8th Bright Hour, 2.15pm, Methodist
Schoolroom, Mrs. D. Alden.
Come along and bring a friend.

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

Springfield Bowling Club
Annual General Meeting at the
Methodist Schoolroom, 7.30pm.
All welcome.

Alzheimer's Disease Support
Group 7.30-9.00pm. Social
evening.

Thu 10th Bentham & District Camera
Club slide presentation "An
Australian Adventure" by
Norman Crellin. Low Bentham
Institute at 7.45pm.

Fri 11th Age Concern at the Town Hall.
Jean Fawcett - Looking forward
to spring (Flower Arranging).

Bentham Agricultural Society
Quiz Night at the Town Hall,
7.30pm. Teams of 4 people. £5
per team or £13 to include
Potato Pie supper. Entries close
Wednesday 9th. Enquiries to
Val Lawson 61606.

Sat 12th Bentham & District Pet Rescue
coffee morning in the Town
Hall, 10.00-11.45am. 
Come and bring your
friends.

Mon 14th Looking Well, Cancer Support
Group shared lunch.

Tue 15th Angus Pensioners' Association
in the Town Hall at 2.00pm.
Norman Briggs - Classical
Spain. Slides and commentary
with music.

Wed 16th Bentham Footpath Group
Millennium Walk, Greystonegill
Circular 4 miles, leader A.
Robertson 61285. Meet at
Bentham Bridge 1.30pm.

Fri 18th Age Concern at the Town Hall,
Mrs. Hemingway "Some for
show, Some to blow".

Fri 18th Waste Paper collection at the Legion H^{ut}, 8.30-11.00am. Proceeds to NSPCC.

Sat 19th New Labour coffee morning at the Town Hall, 10.00-12.00noon. 

Mon 21st Burton-in-Lonsdale & District Horticultural Society meeting in the Village Hall 7.30pm. Peter Howarth - "Colour in the Garden".

Tues 22nd High Bentham Toy Library in the Youth Centre, 9.30-11.30am.

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

Bright Hour, at 2.15pm in the Methodist Schoolroom. Mrs. C. Fell.

Wed 23rd Citizen's Advice Bureau at the Surgery, 1.30-3.15pm.

Bentham Theatre Group Pantomime, "Peter Pan", at the Town Hall 7.15pm. Tickets from Bentham Sports - All one price tonight. See page 2.

Thu 24th Bentham Theatre Group Pantomime, "Peter Pan", at the Town Hall 7.15pm. Tickets from Bentham Sports.

Fri 25th Age Concern at the Town Hall. Rodney and Mary Smith, charity workers in Eastern Europe Salvaide Project. Please bring toothpaste or bar of soap for inclusion in parcels for refugees.

Bentham Theatre Group Pantomime, "Peter Pan", at the Town Hall 7.15pm. Tickets from Bentham Sports.

Sat 26th Bentham Footpath Group walk, Along the Lune, Danny Beck to Hornby, 9 miles, leader V. Smith 61100. Please meet at Lairgill 9.30am. Contact the leader regarding transport. This is a Millennium Walk.

Sat 26th Bentham Theatre Group Pantomime, "Peter Pan", at the Town Hall 6.15pm. Tickets from Bentham Sports.

Wesley Guild Family Night, Gayle Choir, Methodist Schoolroom, 7.30pm.

Mon 28th Ewecross Historical Society, in the Town Hall, 7.30pm. Prof. W. Potts - The Robin Hood legend.

Local Events in early March

Wed 1st NSPCC Annual General Meeting at Cloudssbank, Low Bentham at 7.30pm. Everyone welcome.

Thu 2nd High Bentham W. I. at the Town Hall, 7.30pm.

Fri 3rd Age Concern at the Town Hall. Slides and talk on "Trek along the Great Wall of China".

Bentham News Published.

Sat 4th Liberal Democrats coffee morning, 10.00am-12.00 noon at the Town Hall. 

Bentham Footpath Group walk, 15 miles, Clapham Circular including Ingleborough, (Millennium Walk) leader F. Royston, 41725. Please meet at Lairgill/Clapham car park 9.15/9.30am.

Bright Hour, 2.15pm at the Methodist Schoolroom.

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FOOTPATH MATTERS

By Angela Robertson



On Saturday 18th December about 15 Benthams Footpath Group members temporarily escaped the demands of Christmas, avoided the hordes of shoppers in the towns and headed instead for the wide open spaces of the Lune Valley, with the winter sun beaming encouragingly.

The walk was the first stage in a series of walks through the Lune Valley. The Lunesdale Walk (you can pick up a brochure from local tourist information offices) is waymarked throughout its 37 mile length with a yellow arrow and the walk name on a green background.

Bernard Ellershaw was the leader of the 10 mile walk, from the canal bridge at Capernwray to the medieval Loyn Bridge which crosses the river north of Hornby, over to Gressingham. On a bright frosty morning we set off on a walk which was to offer spectacular views, of Morecambe Bay shimmering in the winter sunlight, the snow-capped outline of the mountains of South Cumbria, as well as the Leck and Barbon Fells and the presence of Ingleborough and finally the Trough of Bowland - truly panoramic!

We proceeded from the canal bridge northwards to Priest Hutton, continuing to Henridding, before turning south towards Gunnerthwaite and then Arkholme. Near the river at Arkholme we looked at the tiny church of St. John the Baptist, built in the 14th century, behind which stand the earthworks of a 12th century motte and bailey castle. We climbed to the top of the mound and were rewarded with yet another fine view of the river Lune.

From the ferryman's house at Arkholme we walked back to Loyn Bridge along the bank of the Lune. (Loyn is the old form of the name Lune and is used in the Lancaster city motto "Luck to the Loyne").

This was the end of an uplifting walk, with good company, fresh air and gentle exercise-back to the pressures of Christmas.

EDITORIAL INFORMATION

BENTHAM NEWS is published at Latharna, Lakeber Avenue, High Bentham by an editorial committee consisting of Shirley Brown, Diane Chant, Judith Johnson, Dorothy Pidgeon, Ken Robertson, Jean West, Pam Woof and our co-ordinator, Bill Kennedy, who can be contacted on 62492.

Every effort is made to ensure that information contained in the paper is correct. However Bentham News is an open access paper and views and opinions expressed are not necessarily those of the editorial committee.

Bentham News can be sent anywhere in the UK for an annual subscription of £7.00 or anywhere in the world for £12.

Advertising rates are published on page 23 in this edition. Copy deadline for advertisements is the same as the editorial copy deadline, the 15th of each month.

Bentham News is printed at Pica Design and Print, Low Bentham, Tel: (015242) 61402.

Bentham News Millennium Directory

Following the recent publication and distribution of this free "souvenir" Bentham News Directory, which has been commended, anyone wishing to have extra copies may have them at £1 per copy. This will help to offset printing costs. Please contact the Trust office for your extra copies.

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Sunday, 26 March
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LATEST FROM THE LOOKING WELL

By Alison Jones

We are pleased to announce that we have upgraded our toilet facilities, thanks to grants from Yorkshire Forward and Leader II. This means that we now have a disabled toilet and easier access from the building. We have changed some of our session times this month so check times in the diary section.

News in Focus Exhibition

Stephen Garnett is probably best known as the photographer for the Craven Herald. We are delighted to have this exhibition of his photographs on display in February.

Shadow Puppets

If you have a child under 12 who would like to have a go at making and performing a shadow play, we are holding workshops on Thursday afternoons from 3.45 to 5.30 pm. Children under 10 must be accompanied by an adult.

Qigong Sessions

Tai Chi Qigong are simple chinese exercises that relieve stress and gently exercise the body. Marie Rayner runs sessions on Monday evenings at 7.30 and is starting a second daytime session on Thursday afternoons from 2.00 - 3.00 pm. Come along and try it for yourself.

Activities for Parents with Pre-school Children

Edna Watt

Parents and babies met at a tea party in January at the Looking Well to discuss what provision we would like for our pre-schoolers, toddlers and babies. We agreed that we have excellent play group facilities at the Town Hall in High Bentham (Tuesdays and Wednesdays, 1.00 - 3.00 pm) and the Institute in Low Bentham (Mondays and Thursdays, 9.45 - 11.45 am). It was decided that the Thursday afternoon Mucky

Buckets session at Looking Well would stop and 2 new sessions would start in February:-

MONDAY MORNINGS from 10.30 to 12.30. Session catering for new parents and young babies up to one year (older brothers and sisters are welcome). This will provide an opportunity to relax with your baby and make new friends among other parents in a cosy informal atmosphere.

WEDNESDAY AFTERNOONS from 1.00 to 3.00 pm. This session will provide a space for parents to spend quality time with their younger children while the older children attend playgroup. Activities will include playing on the playmat and in the cave, dancing to live music and painting activities (if requested)

SCHOOL HILL SITE REDEVELOPMENT STARTED

By Bill Kennedy

Work commenced recently at the School Hill site to remove the old toilet, stone clad the sub-station and level the site, in preparation for the new surfacing and installing of a mosaic.

The community committee has had funding offers from the Community Development Fund, North Yorkshire County Council, Craven District Council, Bentham Town Council and the Rural Development programme. The plans, which were displayed locally for two weeks prior to the last public meeting, have been approved. The rest of the work, which will be carried out by a local contractor, should be carried out in the late spring, and it is hoped that the project will be completed by early summer. Progress details, including information about the formal "opening", will appear in the Bentham News,

Maggie Howarth, of Wennington, who has designed, and will install the mosaic, will be constructing it in early March. She has kindly agreed to have an "open" day so that anyone interested can go along to see her work in progress. This will be between 10am and 1pm on Saturday 11th March. Contact me at the Trust office for details.

Dear Bentham News,
Happy new Millennium to everybody, especially the 450 people who Zicada'd their way into the new year with a wonderful party held at the Town Hall. It was an outstanding evening (night, morning) and everyone involved had a truly memorable night.



The Town Hall took on a spectacular transformation, with the sweat, blood and tears of a dedicated crew. Thank you to all the people who worked so very hard and continuously throughout the day, to provide a safe fun and trouble free celebration.

Also a big thank you should go out to most of the Town Council, particularly Margaret Hayton. Ruth and Mick, who thanked us for the mass clean-up, and last but not least, the guests of 11 Zicada, who together had a brilliant time, and left the doormen and police who also supported the event, redundant.

Jane and Tracé Midgley.

BERNARD DAWBER

A tribute by Colin Dawber.

My father was an ordinary working man. To me, and it turns out, to many others, he was also a very special and unique man. His compassion, dignity and love of people will stay with me forever. His quiet courage, his inner strength and self belief was something I only came to recognise fully as I grew older and wiser.

I always believed that my father was born old and wise, a man who sat quietly reading his Guardian with a brew never far away, his beloved books always at his elbow. Poetry, reference, novel, if it was written word he would have it near.

Pops not only read, he wrote. He wrote poetry of all kinds, which was even published; we treasure that book today. He wrote short stories that won prizes of sorts. Gary and I played with one such prize throughout our childhood. He even wrote our very own bedtime story adventure series. The Yobods and their fight against the one-eyed rat King.

His patience with Gary and I throughout our childhood and beyond, was admirable. He gave us the tools to go out into the world and make good, happy lives for ourselves, and amongst those tools he passed on some of the things that made him such a special person. Gary and I are proud to say "I am a son of Bernard Dawber".

Many people will talk of Bernard as the Magistrate, the Councillor, the Union man and the man who fought for others, they will talk of a friend, or someone to turn to, and even, as a man of the people. To Gary and I he was all of those things, but more simply he was "Pops", the man responsible for what we are today.

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INTRODUCING.... FESTIVAL OF MILLENNIUM BUGS MAY 2000

By Alison Jones and Sue Wray

What does the Millennium Bug mean to you? Did you discover that it was the Flu Bug, not the Computer Bug that got you? Have you ever stopped to wonder what it might look like?



Whether you are at school, at work or at home, we invite you to start dreaming up your own "Millennium Bug" to display outdoors in May at Gala time. It is your opportunity to invent the wildest, scariest, biggest, funniest, silliest bug (or virus, bacteria, insect, mini-beast) that takes your fancy.



It will be organised along similar lines to the "birds" theme a few years ago with categories for children, adults and groups, and "bug" entries into the Gala procession.

With funding from the Millennium Festival Fund, the Looking Well will be providing basic materials free of charge and will be running workshops in March and April to help with ideas and techniques.

We hope the spread of these bugs will be infectious with as many people as possible taking part. We hope you will catch the bug and have some fun!

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BENTHAM PEOPLE



Personal Thanks

Mrs. Rhoda Shuttleworth, Reg and Irene, wish to thank all friends, neighbours and relations for their kind messages of sympathy and support on the death of Ted, a much loved husband, father, grandad and great grandad.

Birthdays

Faichney, Happy 2nd birthday "Spencer James", on 14th February. Love from Uncle Tony, Auntie Marina, Amber, Imogen and Ayrton. xx.

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BN COFFEE MORNING THANKS

The Bentham News Committee would like to thank warmly all the people who supported our recent coffee morning. We raised the magnificent sum of just over £300, which included several very generous donations from some of our readers. The committee were helped during the busy morning by Phyllis Tomlinson, Pauline Hill, Peter and Val Marshall, John Hall, John Bainbridge and Keith Wear - thanks go to them because we couldn't have managed without their efforts. Thanks also to Sid Hogg for generously supplying the milk. Raffle winners were: Margaret Hayton, Wayne Dodding, Mrs Jowett, S Hampton, Judith Johnson, Mrs Wilkinson, Mary Lawson, M Dodgson and Hilda King.

Valentines

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MEMORIES OF BENTHAM IN THE 1930s...continued

By Bateman Marshall

This month I am dedicating the whole article to our wonderful TOWN HALL, and making a plea that in November this year we celebrate the Diamond Jubilee of the opening of the new Town Hall. My memories of this building prior to its refurbishment are sketchy, but I do recall that it had a Market Hall with the entrance at the side, where farmers and others brought produce such as eggs, butter, cheese and boiling fowl to sell on stalls. There was also a room with a gallery where the Council used to meet, and I can remember *Richard Turner (senior)* conducting a property sale there.

There was even a skeleton in a cupboard! Yes, Bentham Parish Council really did have a skeleton in its cupboard, although for what purpose I do not know. The fire appliance, such as it was, also lived there, but it was little used and needed replacing.

Mr S W Huck, the owner of the Black Bull, gave a piece of land which was used for the building of an extension to the Town Hall, and the ownership of the Town Hall was vested in the hands of the Parish Council. A grant of £2,200 was received from the National Fitness Council and the contract was let on the 7th February 1938. Obviously the War greatly impeded progress, but with perseverance and patience obstacles were overcome, and the new Town Hall was ceremoniously opened on 9th November 1940.

The late *Charles Ford JP*, chairman of the Council, introduced *G W Rickards, MP* for Skipton, who performed the opening ceremony. Other dignitaries included *Ernest Lockwood*, Clerk to the Council and *A Burrow* (from the District Bank), treasurer. The other members of the Council were *W B Whittaker*, *W J Bruce*, *W H Clune*, *W Davidson*, *T W Dugdale*, *R Guy*, *E Holmes*, *T Knowles*, *J Marshall* and *W L Ross*. In the evening there was a celebrity

concert with some nationally well-known artists, a 40-voice choir conducted by *Jesse Pye*, and one of the accompanists was *Miss Jane Rhodes*, who will be well known to many of you. The following Friday there was a Whist Drive with valuable prizes, and a Ball with dancing to *Parker's* augmented dance band.

From then on uses of the Hall really took off. In particular I remember the well-loved three Bs dances, (High Bentham, Low Bentham and Burton-in-Lonsdale) which were packed to capacity, and which raised money to send parcels to the forces. *Parker's* dance band played for these, with *Kathy* on the piano or accordian, *Reg Ward* on the drums and the irrepressible *Tommy Pearson* on the violin. Dances were held every Friday night, with *Stephen Newhouse* as the MC, and *Harold Jackson*, *W Clune* and *Johnny Bibby* usually on the door. Admission on Saturday night was one shilling (5p), but as Friday night dances usually went on until 2am they cost two shillings and sixpence (12½p).

Sport was also well represented at the new Hall. The Bentham and Wenning badminton clubs both moved here from the old Wenning Hall, and because the Council received such a large grant from the National Fitness Council, the upstairs room was fitted out as a gym with wall bars, climbing ropes, vaulting horses etc. I remember going to Keep Fit classes with *Jim Haigh* as instructor. Our Hall was the envy of many, as it was the finest between Lancaster and Skipton. Young people came here on bicycles from all over Settle, Kirkby Lonsdale and Hornby and as petrol was rationed few cars were seen. It would be *John Prescott's* dream today.

November this year will be the Diamond Jubilee of the opening of the new Town Hall. When I was on the Council I tried unsuccessfully to motivate the members to celebrate its Golden Jubilee in 1990. Can I now urge the Council to put a package together this millennium year to acknowledge the tremendous benefit which this Hall has brought to Bentham over the years, and to celebrate the efforts made 60 years ago by our former Council.

ALL IN A LIFETIME

The story of a Dalesman as told to June Fisher

James Fisher or "Jim" as he likes to be called, was born in Liverpool in 1904, the son of a licensee. In 1906 the family moved to Burton-in-Lonsdale where his parents purchased the "Hen and Chickens" country inn.

Jim's father had a small wrestling and boxing school behind the inn and was challenged to a wrestling match and tragically died of a heart attack during the bout. The family was devastated. His mother, Edith, later remarried and the family emigrated to New South Wales, Australia, in 1912. Jim gives us a detailed account of those early years, and conditions in the outback, and his love of wildlife, nature, flowers and fauna shines through.

Tragedy hit the family again when Jim, at the age of 15, came home and found his mother murdered. Jim grew up fast. He went on to clear scrub, prospect for gold and work on sheep stations before returning to England in 1923.

Britain was in the grips of depression. He tells of the various jobs he did, becoming a Quaker, marriage, the war years, as a fireman and his years with the early mobile library, travelling to the outlying farms and villages of his beloved Yorkshire Dales. The book is steeped in social history spanning nearly a hundred

illustrated and together with Jim's marvellous memory, gives us a unique insight into them.

The following is a quotation from the Religious Society of Friends at Settle. "I am delighted that this fascinating autobiography of James Fisher has been published and commend it to fellow Quakers, to all who love Bentham and to anyone who wishes to read a thrilling story of life in Australia and the Yorkshire Dales".

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ONE HOUR IN BENTHAM

By the Craven Dog Warden

I was in Bentham for one hour on 25th January. The only reason I came to Bentham was to respond to one particular request for service, which only took a couple of minutes. During the rest of the hour I received specific complaints about two residents who have been witnessed not clearing up after their dogs and a further two complaints about dog dirt in the snicket between Goodenber Road and the Medical Centre. Another dog dirt complaint related to another path in Bentham, plus numerous other requests and complaints.

Recently it was printed that Bentham is the dog dirt Capital of the North! I am forming the impression that some residents are quite proud of this image - it would be nice to be proved wrong. I don't think I need to bang on about like a broken record, you've heard it all before (and ignored it), but I've got a couple of things I would like irresponsible dog walkers to bear in mind. First is the Toxocora Worm found in dog faeces which can cause, among other things, eye damage or even worse, permanent blindness. I do know of at least one child affected in your area. The second, as I already mentioned, I have had specific complaints about two irresponsible owners today - how can you be sure it wasn't you? Everyone is supposed to get fifteen minutes

of fame. Will the Lancaster Guardian and the Craven Herald be writing about yours when you've been in court?



Free Craven District Council Poo Bags are available from Low and High Bentham Post Offices, the Development Trust and the Mobile Information Bus.

A new course of beginners' dog training classes starts at Langcliffe Institute on Wednesdays at 11.00am. If you are interested either turn up any Wednesday at 11.00am or contact me on 01756 706345 for more information.

Congratulations to:- Mags Mitton and Jack, Pat Cave and Toby, Pauline Jakubowski and Casper and Peter Woudenberg and Maizie, who have all achieved Bronze Level in the Kennel Club Good Citizen Dog Scheme, run at our training classes as part of the Craven District Council Goiod Dog Campaign.



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CHILDREN'S DAY - 1ST APRIL 2000

By Cliff Murphy

Local Action for Justice and Peace are planning to hold a "Children's Day" at Bentham Town Hall on Saturday morning 1st April, in co-operation with schools in the North Craven area. The event, which will be confined to pupils of middle school age and younger, will take the form of an exhibition of the children's written work and art work together with demonstrations/performances by some of the pupils.

The children will be asked to produce a piece of written work or some art work, giving their idea of the sort of world they want to live in and Local Action for Justice and Peace will mount a parallel exhibition giving some idea of the views of children from the Third World on the same subject.

As well as the exhibition and performances by the children, there will also be a coffee morning. The coffee morning will run from around ten o'clock until noon and the exhibition will be open from around nine thirty until twelve thirty.

Final details have yet to be arranged with the headteachers involved, but, to date, it looks as if eight schools will be submitting entries to the exhibition and four schools will also be bringing pupils to take part on the day.

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As you probably know, we provide copies of the Bentham News each month, on audio tapes, for the benefit of those who have reading difficulties, through impaired vision, etc. We are very grateful to Don Bridgewood, who provides this time consuming service each month, with the assistance of a number of "readers", as well as looking after the distribution of the tapes.

In the near future we hope to do the distribution by mail, in a special container in which the tape can be returned, free of charge. In the meantime, we do have a small problem. We are having to purchase replacement tapes rather more frequently than planned, because not all the tapes we distribute are being returned. If you have any of these tapes, it would be appreciated if you would return them to the Surgery or to the Trust office on Main Street.

GARDENING TIME AGAIN.

By Bill Kennedy



Well, nearly! As days start to lengthen and the postman delivers seed catalogues, it is time to start planning for the growing season. Gardening at this time of year is a delight - curled up in an armchair with the latest catalogue, I browse through the pages with a growing anticipation and ignore the howling wind and driving rain.

In recent years plug plants have become increasingly popular. I prefer to buy them, rather than expensive packets of seeds which may or may not germinate. When the plug plants arrive in April, pricking them out can be a very pleasant form of relaxation after a day at the office.

It won't be too long before our lawns start to grow and grass cutting becomes necessary. If you didn't have your lawnmower serviced last back end, don't join the last minute rush, get it done now.

If you've read this, you'll appreciate that we really need a regular gardening correspondent. Any volunteers?