

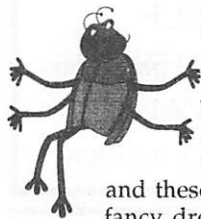
BENTHAM NEWS



**BENTHAM'S
EASTER
EXHIBITION
AND MAY
BANK
HOLIDAY
GALA ARE
EVENTS YOU
SHOULDN'T
MISS!**

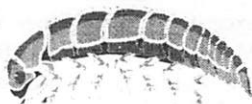
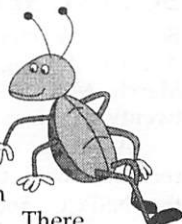
Taken in 1897, on School Hill, this picture depicts Queen Victoria's Diamond Jubilee. It is one of many to feature in Bentham's own local history millennium exhibition to be held in the Town Hall over the Easter bank Holiday. You will be able to read numerous articles and documents about Bentham, view maps and see examples of local pottery etc. There will be refreshments on hand and the opportunity to purchase books about Bentham. Opening times are listed on the diary page, in the flyer and on posters.

REWARD FOR MILLENNIUM BUGS ON GALA PARADE!



This year's Gala is going to be even better than last year, with many exciting and new attractions, as well as the regular favourites. The theme is the Millennium Bug, and these should be a spectacular part of the parade. Every child in fancy dress, hopefully many disguised as "bugs", will receive £1. There will be special prizes for the four classes. See posters around the town in mid April for more details. The Looking Well is organising special "Bug" making workshops (see the diary, page 13). There will also be a "Wild West Show", junior 5 a side football, the Fell Race, Tombola, an all day Craft Fair, and lots, lots more fun for all the family. So why not join in the fun and take part in the parade?

Sue Ray, who is the main organiser, still needs helpers, both before and on the day. Anyone who is willing to lend a hand should contact her please, on 61381.



APRIL 2000

ISSUE 162

WOMEN'S INSTITUTES

Low Bentham

By Jennifer Watkinson

A very informal and pleasant evening was spent when Tricia, from Tricia's Health and Beauty Salon, and her two assistants came to demonstrate their skills. Two members had a relaxing time on the portable bed when they received a full facial. This involved a deep cleanser, steam treatment to open pores, and a face mask applied with a brush. Meanwhile other members were having their nails painted, either with conventional colours or with exotic patterns and colours. Interesting fact sheets about nails and the numerous treatments available at the salon were distributed. The president, Mrs. Christine Jennings, thanked Tricia and her assistants.

The competition winners, for a pretty wine glass, were Mrs. Joan Gilroy, Mrs. Mary Murphy and Mrs. Hilda Lister. The next meeting is on 20th April when Mr. R. Holmes, from Natland, will talk on preparing hanging baskets and pots. New members will be very welcome.

BENTHAM WOMEN'S SOCIAL SERVICES

Bentham Women's Social Services held their Annual Meeting at the Punch Bowl on 1st March. Mrs. Adams, Chairman, welcomed twenty members and friends.

A busy and successful year was recorded with £5,706 having been sent to the NSPCC and donations given to the Guides and the Brownies and vouchers to the Health Visitor for distribution. The Young NSPCC had collected £275 in their blue boxes.

The officers were re-elected en-bloc except for Mrs. Piper who will now assist Mrs. Wheildon with the Young NSPCC. A discussion of events and dates followed, and the evening ended with an excellent buffet supper.

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TOWN COUNCIL REPORT

By David Johnson

All the Cllrs were present including District Cllr Pilkington and County Cllr. Ireton.

Police Report

The police reported a comparatively quiet month. Some parking tickets had been issued and there had been a few public disorder offences. In response to a question about parking in Gas House Lane they confirmed that this is a private road but would draw the attention of the residents to the danger of blocking access for emergency vehicles.

Low Bentham

The Playing Field lease is going ahead. It will be for a period of 21 years. The Council agreed to pay the legal costs.

The Police will consider putting a seven day notice on the caravan, horse box and boat trailer which seem to have taken root on Low Bentham Car Park. The Council decided to advise the District Council against installing a height barrier because of access to the recycling bins. The District Council is to be asked to install a bin for dog waste.

Our Post Offices

A letter was read from our M.P. sharing concern about the future of our Post Offices. He promised to pass on our concerns. Cllr. Pilkington said that the District Council was equally worried and would like to see some sort of support structure for the more vulnerable businesses. Cllr. Ireton said that the County Council had joined the growing chorus of opposition and had approached the District Council about giving the Post Offices discretionary financial support through the rates.

New Cllr. For Low Bentham

There were three applicants for the position following the resignation of Russell Jackson. Felicity Hey was appointed.

Raygill

Two letters of complaint were received about the planning application by Robinson and Mitchell to erect a chimney at Raygill, Dumb Tom's Lane. It appears that this was a late application slipped in at the end of a previous meeting and no one was aware of the implications. The chimney will be eleven metres high and one metre in diameter. Cllr. Pilkington stated that the firm has been advised to withdraw its application so that an environmental impact assessment can be made but it is not bound to comply. The major concern is that we will have another Nightingale Farm on our doorstep. One Cllr. pointed out that nobody has been told what is to be incinerated. The assumption is that it will be animal waste but it could be any kind of waste. The Council resolved to write to Craven District Council saying that in hindsight they have serious reservations about the application and that they would like to be kept informed about the issue.

Hot Air!

There has been a mix up over the metering of gas for the Town Hall. The Gas Company has billed the Council in cubic *feet* but one of their meters is calibrated in cubic *metres*. This has been going on over four years resulting in a sudden demand for £1653! The Gas Company should know how its meters are calibrated and should agree to drop the demand. If the Council has to pay, its finances will be thrown into disarray as the precept has already been decided.

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MEET A MOUSE IN YOUR LIBRARY

By Diane Chant

Bentham Library offers you the chance to connect yourself to the world at the click of a mouse! There is now public access to the Internet for 15, 30 or 60 minute sessions, free of charge for a trial period.

Visit your holiday destinations, check out the latest music and film releases, send messages to far-flung relatives or trace your ancestors - solve a crossword, complete a homework project, e-mail a pal - the choice is almost unlimited. Also, a specially designated CD ROM computer will have a full library service catalogue of more than 900,000 volumes - must be something in there worth reading. Don't know what we are talking about? Come and spend a gentle hour with BBC Webwise computer. This is a taster session which will talk you through Internet access. Completely terrified? Try a "Computers don't bite" session-painless and free. Details from Bentham Library 61388.

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DISTRICT COUNCIL

By Councillor John Pilkington

Best Value Questionnaire

This questionnaire was sent to all households together with the new A-Z Guide to Council Services. Over 40 completed questionnaires were returned by people from the Bentham area. This was the highest return rate in the District. The results are now being analysed and will form an important input into the Council's plans for the next five years. Thank you to all those who completed the form.

Council Tax 2000-20001

The overall Council Tax for residents in Bentham will increase by 5.37 per cent. The Tax for Band D is £794.56. Although the part of the Tax relating to services provided by Craven District Council increased by only 2.09 per cent there were larger increases for North Yorkshire County Council (up by 5.1 per cent) and the Police Authority (up by 9.27 per cent).

Recent Planning Applications

5.08.370.D: Robinson Mitchell Ltd, Over Raygill, Dumb Tom's Lane.

Erection of stainless steel chimney for animal carcass incinerator.

Note: This application has now been withdrawn.

5.08.648: Mr K Capstick and The Rural Buildings, c/o The Rural Heritage Conservation Services, Hill Centre, Cartmel, Cumbria, LA11 7SS.

Adaptation of former buildings and barn at Lane House Farm Barn, Greystone Gill Lane to provide two units of residential accommodation with associated parking and amenity area.

5.08.649: Mr J Slinger, 2 East View, Burton Road, Low Bentham, Lancaster, LA2 7EF.

Formation of vehicular access.

08/2000/35: Mr. Hurtley, Greenbank, Cross Lane, Low Bentham, LA2 7AB.

Construction of two semi-detached

dwelling on land formerly known as "Inglewood", 12 Robin Lane, High Bentham.

08/2000/80: Mr & Mrs Lund, Mill Dam Farm, Mewith Lane, High Bentham.

Conversion of redundant agricultural barn adjacent to Crow Trees Farm to form a single dwelling house.

08/2000/95: Mr & Mrs M Fleming, Fourlands Inn, Low Bentham.

Construction of detached garage for two cars at Greenscroft, Low Bentham.

08/2000/112: M. Armstrong, Summer Hill Stables, Mill Lane, Low Bottom, Low Bentham, Lancaster, LA2 7DF.

Change of use of land from agricultural to garden and retention of pigeon loft and garden shed.

08/2000/193: Mr D Smith, Wyngarth, Low Bentham Road, Low Bentham, Lancaster.

Construction of garage and re-building of back porch.

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QUARTERLY WEATHER REPORT

Compiled by Phil Leigh, long term rainfall figures from Mrs. M. Foster

The new quarterly weather summary will follow the seasons. With spring in sight, the first season to report on is winter, 1st December 1999-29th February 2000.

Many people will recall how wet and mild this winter has been. This is backed up by data taken from an automatic weather station situated close to the centre of High Bentham. Weather readings such as maximum and minimum temperatures, rainfall, wind speed and direction, pressure and humidity are recorded onto a data logger every 5 minutes, day and night. This data will be the basis of the new quarterly weather summaries.

The average winter monthly rainfall for the last decade was 126.2mm, while this winter has produced 185mm, almost 60mm per month higher! No wonder the level of the Wenning has shot up with every significant rainfall event due to waterlogged fields. However this is only the 2nd wettest winter since 1987 in Bentham, the wettest being in 1995 (205mm) which was followed by one of our warmest and driest spring and summers in recent years. It will be interesting to see if this year follows the same pattern! The wettest month was December (249mm) which is the record since 1987, though because of different rain gauge siting to Mrs. Foster, an extra 25mm was recorded. This is due to rain often falling at different rates in locations which are close together. Most rain fell on 6th December when 50mm was recorded. There were only 14 dry days during the period.

With all this rainfall, it is no surprise that the dominant wind direction was westerly. The maximum wind gust was 64mph on 3rd December while the mean winter speed was 7.4mph. This winter has been mild with an average temperature of 3.3C. The highest maximum was 11.3c on 3rd February and a lowest minimum of -7.6C on 20th December. 34 days had frost, with the majority in December and January. In summary, wet, windy and mild.

SPONSORED WALK

By Bernard Williams

Bentham and District Arthritis Campaign

Michael Wright has again expressed his wish to support the above ARC Fund by walking from Bentham-Settle-Austwick-Ingleton-Bentham; the exact route is to be confirmed at a later date. Anyone wishing to accompany Michael for part of the way should please ring 62147. The provisional date is Saturday 20th May. Refreshments will be provided at various stages. Sponsorship forms will be available at our coffee morning on 29th April. Please give Michael your support.

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RECIPES

By Doreen Park

The first great Christian festival of the year 2000 is Easter, the end of Lent. The traditional dishes are lamb - symbolic of spring and sacrifice, eggs - symbolic of renewal of life and almonds - the earliest of the blossoming trees.

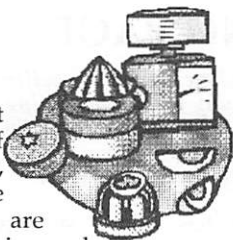
Lamb & Mushrooms

- 1 oz butter
- ½ shoulder of lamb, boned. Ask your butcher to do it for you and also ask for the bones
- 1 onion, skinned and chopped
- 8 ozs flat mushrooms
- stock
- juice of ½ lemon
- 1 tablespoon arrowroot
- 1 tablespoon chopped parsley

First make a stock by boiling the bones. If you want to you can use 2 lamb stock cubes instead. Melt the butter in a saucepan. Add the meat and brown quickly on all sides, for 10 minutes. Add the onion and arrange the whole mushrooms around the meat. Pour in sufficient stock to just cover the meat. Cover the pan and simmer gently for one hour or until the meat is cooked. Remove the meat to a heated serving dish and arrange the mushrooms around it. Add the lemon juice to the liquid in the pan and thicken with the arrowroot. Stir in the chopped parsley and pour over the meat.

Easter Trifle

- 8 sponge finger or two trifle sponge cakes
- 8 ozs almond macaroons
- ¼ pint sherry or madeira
- ¾ pint of milk
- 3 eggs
- 3 ozs sugar
- juice of ½ lemon
- ½ pint double or whipping cream
- 1 oz flaked almonds, toasted



Break the sponge fingers and macaroons into small pieces and mix them well together. Pour half the sherry over them and leave to soak. Meanwhile bring the milk almost to boiling point and then pour on to the eggs, beaten with 2 ozs of sugar. return to the pan and thicken over a low heat, stirring continuously.

Put ½ the biscuit mixture into a serving bowl. Pour the custard over this and then put in the remaining biscuits and mix, together with the lemon juice and the rest of the sherry and sugar. Whip the cream, adding the sherry mixture a little at a time so that the liquid is absorbed by the cream, which should get thick and light as a syllabub. When well mixed, spoon over the top of the trifle. Scatter with almond flakes and serve it very cold.



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GARDENING PAGE

We are fortunate to have two keen gardeners who are willing to provide topical gardening notes. If you have any useful gardening tips, please write and let us pass them on for the benefit of our other readers.



By Dot Hughes

What a wonderful time of year it is with spring emerging, the new buds developing and we can look forward to summer. I will start with soil. Should you manure or fertilize? Manure is used to improve the texture of the soil and make the structure good enough to support a healthy crop. Well rotted animal manure, garden compost including household waste, also well rotted, makes good manure.

Fertilizers are to ensure that plants get sufficient nutrients for efficient growth. There are a number of nutrients that are necessary for healthy plant growth, but the three main ones are nitrogen for leaf growth, phosphates for root development and potash for flower development. There are numerous foods on the market for specific requirements, e.g. for roses, tomatoes etc, but for a general base fertilizer I would use Growmore, which is an old favourite.

Daffodils are flowering everywhere now and I love to see the wild, dainty ones in the fields, (where they should stay!). Look at your own now. Will they need dividing later on? Make a mental note, if all you are getting is leaves and no flowers, they will need some attention. Do not tie leaves in knots, they look unsightly and do not help the bulbs develop. Always deadhead and top dress with fertilizer to help next years growth. This also applies to other bulbs - tulips etc. If you are arranging daffodils with other flowers in a vase always soak them for 24 hours separately as this will remove the sticky toxic sap.

Now a note on pruning spring flowering shrubs such as forsythia and flowering currant; trim after flowering, cutting back old flowering stems to new side shoots or side branches. Lavatera, eucalyptus and buddleia should be pruned back hard now.

By Barbara Harrison

It has rained so much recently that our garden is sodden and difficult to work. But frogs enjoy the rain and, as usual, have filled the shallow end of the pond with frog-spawn. The curlews have arrived and their plaintive cries fill the air. Blue tits, chaffinches and robins are all seeking mates and blackbirds are busy building their nests.

Less welcome visitors are the slugs. Unseen armies of them arrive by night to feast on the emerging shoots of unsuspecting perennials. Passers-by may well wonder what is happening by torchlight late at night in our garden as we pick off the slugs from those vulnerable plants.

Giving us much pleasure at this time of year is the contorted hazel with its bare twisted branches and tasselled catkins. Selected branches of magnolia stellata, cornus mas and amelanchier canadensis have been picked and brought into the warmth of the house where we can watch the blossoms unfurl.

The overcrowded snowdrop clumps have been lifted, split and replanted so that we can enjoy twice as many next year. As perennial plants appear we will divide those that need rejuvenating and move those which are in the wrong places. A new hedge line is in position and a well prepared trench has been planted up with bare rooted beech hedging.

Early potatoes, onion sets and shallots are in the ground. Vegetable seeds and flower seeds have been sown in pots in the greenhouse and will be planted out when the danger of frost has passed, which for us means the first week of June. Gardening in the north of England means seven months of winter and five months of summer!



POLICE FILE

By PC Danny Kay

Firstly an apology for the lack of a Police File in the last BN. I realise what a disappointment it must have been for all of my regular readers who eagerly await my monthly contribution.....

Anyway on with this month's "bits and pieces".

Firstly the public order situation and hot on the heels of the fracas at the Homing Society's annual bash, we had a minor upset at the Panto Group's party. We are taking bets on when we will get a call to a rowdy WI meeting or perhaps to quell an over enthusiastic debate at the Camera club!

However on a more serious note, there has been an increase in incidents of disorder mostly on weekend evenings, usually fuelled by alcohol, and all the recent offenders have been young males. We will take strong positive action to clamp down on any acts of disorder on the streets of Benthams. You have been warned.

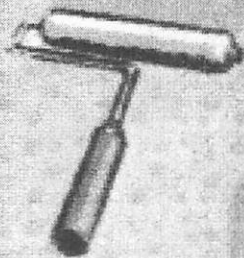
My colleague Adrian Hayes is keen to get some Neighbourhood Watch schemes running in Low Benthams. If anybody would like further information on how the schemes are run then contact Adrian at Ingleton Police station and he will arrange a

suitable time for a home visit to explain the workings of the scheme.

We presently have 7 NW schemes running in High Benthams and have in the past had some useful assistance from their members. If you would like to know more then please ring on 41217.

I was challenged on the streets a few weeks ago by an irate local resident demanding to know why we had stopped and checked out a car late at night when we knew it was local. The vehicle in question was being driven by a relative of the "angry" man and at the time it was stopped it had a defective light.

After the usual barrage of "have you nothing better to do?" and "you should be out catching proper criminals", I then replied that we would continue to stop any vehicle, local or not, in order to draw the driver's attention to defects or to warn them regarding their manner of driving. But the most important point in respect of local vehicles out and about late at night is that the driver might not be the owner. If the "angry" man's relative's car had just been stolen and we had stopped it and caught the offender then dare I suggest that his comments would not have been so caustic? A point worth considering I am sure.



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DO YOU KNOW WHAT IS IN YOUR LIBRARY?

By Judith Johnson

Have you looked through Bentham's Local History Resource Unit in the library? Inside are lots of photographs and articles about Bentham in the last century.

An important new addition is a photographic record of all the houses, barns and bridges in the parishes of High and Low Bentham. There are 1200 photographs including your house as it now stands. Already there are alterations such as new houses appearing and the original houses soon fade into the memory.

This important Millennium initiative was formally presented to the library on February 26th. It is the culmination of 18 months work which has been carried out by members of the Camera Club and other photographers and organised and catalogued by David Johnson.

The project has been funded by grants from the North Craven Heritage Trust and Bentham Camera Club. David is presently trying to attract further grants to transfer the survey onto CD. He has already been awarded £394 from the North Yorkshire Small Project Fund, £250 from Craven District Council Community Chest and needs a further £350 to complete the project.

He has also organised, with help from the Millennium Committee and numerous individuals, a big three day local history display, advertised in this month's flyer. There will be a huge display of photographs and other artifacts such as pottery, tools, pictures, maps and adverts and even an old marmalade-making machine lent by High Bentham W.I!! Please come at Easter and make use of this unique opportunity to learn about your town.

"BUG" MAKING HOLIDAY WORKSHOPS AT LOOKING WELL

Mon 24 - Sat 29 April 2.00-4.30pm.
2.00-4.30pm. Children must be
accompanied by an adult.

BIBBY'S OF INGLETON

COACH EXCURSIONS

Sunday, 16 April

SNOWDONIA

incl. Beddgelert .. £11.00

Tuesday, 18 April

TRAFFORD CENTRE

MANCHESTER .. £7.50

Thursday, 20 April

YORK .. £8.00

Thursday, 27 April

CHESTER .. £8.50

Saturday, 29 April

HARROGATE

SPRING FLOWER SHOW .. £7.00

Sunday, 30 April

COUNTRY RUN .. £5.70

Sunday, 7 May

HAM & EGG TEA

Kearton Guest House, Thwaite .. £11.75

Sunday, 14 May

REDCAR & WHITBY .. £8.50

Sunday, 21 May

CHESHIRE LANES .. £8.00

Wednesday, 24 May

SHIRLEY BASSEY, BLACKPOOL .. £45

Saturday, 22 July

RHS FLOWER SHOW

TATTON PARK .. £22.00 (incl admission)

Sunday, 27 August

THE MILLENNIUM CAVALCADE OF
STEAM

Shildon, C. Durham .. £35.00 (incl
admission)

RING 015242 41330. Book & pay by credit
card, or book at Bentham Town Hall on
Wednesdays 10.00am - 12.00 noon.

Dear Bentham News,
**Re Bentham Development
 Trust**

I have recently become a member of the Board of the above Trust and have therefore become involved in the comings and goings of the Trust office.

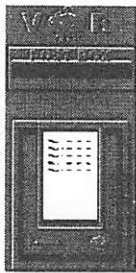
It is a busy thoroughfare of folk any day you care to drop in. There are people coming to use the community office to type minutes, prepare c.v's etc and to use the internet and e-mail facilities. Others come to check the situations vacant board, regularly updated, in the hall, and many come in for various types of information, from the two project managers, who also jointly manage the Tourist Information Centre.

Speaking on behalf of the School Hill project committee, I can only say that without the specialist help and know-how of Bill Kennedy, we would have been unable to think about going ahead. We have now got the grant funding and are at present going out to tender - all the other work has been completed.

If you need help with funding or want to find out about the possibility of getting a grant, (not individuals) call in and talk to Lin or Bill.

The community office facilities are there for use by members of the community as well as for groups/organisations; that is what they are there for and help or training may also be available, so please make use of them.

Wendy Dowbiggin.



Dear Friends,

Please can you help me to raise money for Cancer Care in our area? Last year Tooby's, along with the help of our staff, family and friends, raised £1,500 and we would like to double that amount this year. With support from everyone I know that we can do it.

The first event will be a bring and buy stall at Tooby's, Bentham, on Wednesday 19th April, hopefully outside if the weather is suitable. Any items for the Bring and Buy can be left at Tooby's on Main Street, Bentham - toys, books, nearly new, plants, toiletries or anything else you think would sell. Also, we will be having a produce stall, so we would be grateful for any baking, jam or pickles, on the day.

I have also booked the Ingleton Community Centre for Saturday 7th October for a full day of fund raising. If anyone would like to help in any way I would be very grateful.

Thanking you,

Linda Tooby.

Dear Editor,

Further to the letter from Pam Woof in the March edition of the Bentham News regarding the photograph on the Millennium Directory, I can assure your readers that this is *not* trick photography, nor is it even digital manipulation.

The effect of Ingleborough dominating Bentham was achieved by the use of a long telephoto lens of 4 times the standard focal length. This, like binoculars, results in everything appearing to be only 1/4 of the real distance away. The distortion of distance is often noticed on television films of motor racing or athletic events in which competitors appear much closer together than they actually are.

The photo was taken from the high point of the field to the south of the Wenning between the sharp bend in the river and the footpath to Low Botton.

Yours sincerely,

Peter Marshall,

Low Bentham.

GARDEN THYME

**Do you need help with
 your garden? A bed
 weeded, dug over or
 planted out?**

**Telephone
 015242-62230**

EVENTS IN EARLY APRIL

Sat 1st Local Action for Justice and Peace "The World in our Hands" - Children's Day in the Town Hall. Exhibition from 9.30am-12.30 pm. Coffee from 10.00am-12.00 noon. See page 4.

Sun 2nd Tea in the Old School, Lowgill, to celebrate the opening of Tatham Fells Primary School in 1875. Tea will be served after the Mother's Day Service which starts at 2.15pm. All pupils, staff and friends past and present are welcome.

Mon 3rd Town Council meeting at the Town Hall, 7.30pm.

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

Tue 4th Bentham Child Health Clinic at the Surgery, 2.00-4.00pm.

Bentham Toy Library at the Youth Centre, 9.30-11.30am.

Looking Well 12.30-1.30pm Relaxation session. 2.00-3.00 Women's support group. Both every Tuesday.

Bright Hour, 2.15pm, Methodist Schoolroom, Mrs. J. Park.

Rounders fans meeting at 7.30pm Black Bull.

LETS meeting at Looking Well, 7.30pm. See page 18.

Wed 5th C.A.B. at Bentham Surgery, 1.30pm-3.15pm.

Looking Well, 1.30-3.30pm Mucky Buckets parents and under 3's play session, and every Wednesday.

NSPCC monthly meeting at Oxenforth Green, 7.30pm.

Thu 6th NSPCC house to house collection starts today, continues for 2 weeks.

Looking Well, 2.00-3.00pm. Tai Chi Qigong gentle exercise session, and every Thursday.

Bentham Footpath Group Walk Clifford Hall Circular, (Millennium Walk) 5 miles, leader J. Clapham, 62326. Meet at Horse & Farrier 1.30pm.

Fri 7th Age Concern, Town Hall, Mrs Christine Thistlethwaite - Comical poetry in dialect.

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

Ingleton & Area F.W.C. Easter Bingo at Clapham Village Hall, 7.30pm. Proceeds to British Heart Foundation.

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

Music & Fashion Evening, 7.30pm at Hornby Village Institute. Tickets £5 from Lamb's Garage, Hornby, 015242 22450 and Foxy Lady Fashions, Kirkby Lonsdale, 015242 71259. Proceeds to support the fight against Motor Neurone Disease.

Burton-in-Lonsdale Bowling Club jumble sale and coffee morning in the village hall from 10.00am-12.00noon.

Mon 10th Burton under Fives Paddiwacks Sale, Burton-in-Lonsdale Village Hall 8.00pm.

Listing for Local Events

Please supply details of day, date, event, venue, contact and telephone number to Bentham Sports by 15th April, for inclusion in May Diary.

- Tue 11th Bentham Footpath Group quarterly members meeting, Town Hall, 7.00pm.
- Wed 12th Looking Well, Alzheimer's Support Group, 7.30-9.00pm.
- Fri 14th Low Bentham Play Group, Easter Bingo, 7.30pm at Low Bentham Institute.
Age Concern, Town Hall, Mr. L. Grant, Bradford - Slides on Colditz and The Pied Piper.
- Sat 15th Tourist Information Centre coffee morning in the Town Hall, 10.00-11.30 am. Your support will be appreciated. 
Copy deadline for May BN.
- Mon 17th Burton-in-Lonsdale and District Horticultural Society meeting in the village hall, 7.30pm - Peter Foley - Herbaceous Plants.
- Tue 18th Angus Pensioners' Association AGM, followed by Whist Drive, 2.00pm, Town Hall.
Bright Hour in the Methodist Schoolroom, 2.15pm. Bring & Buy stall. Speaker Rev. K. Dixon.
Bentham Child Health Clinic at the Surgery, 2.00-4.00pm.
Bentham Toy Library at the Youth Centre, 9.30-11.30am.
- Wed 19th CAB at Bentham Surgery, 1.30pm-3.15pm.
Looking Well 7.30pm - Bentham & District Archeological Society. See page 21.
- Thu 20th Low Bentham W.I. at the Victoria Institute, 7.30pm. Mr. R. Holmes - "Hints and preparing hanging baskets & pots".
Waste Paper Collection at the Legion Hut 8.30-11.00am. Proceeds to NSPCC. Note - Not Friday.
- Fri 21st Delivery of items for History Exhibition, 2.00-4.00pm.
- Sat 22nd High Bentham W.I. coffee morning, Town Hall 
10.00-12.00noon.
Local History Exhibition in the Town Hall, 10.00am-4.00pm.
- Sun 23rd Local History Exhibition at Town Hall, 1.00-5.00pm.
- Mon 24th Local History Exhibition, Town Hall, 10.00am-3.00pm.
Bentham Footpath Group walk, Slaidburn and Easington Fell, 9 miles, leader J. Pilkington 61757. Meet at Lairgill/Slaidburn car park, 10.00/10.30am.
Looking Well, 2.0-4.30pm, Bug making workshop, and all week.
- Fri 28th Bentham News published.
Age Concern. Panel game, "Call my bluff", Town Hall.
- Sat 29th Arthritis and Rheumatism Council coffee morning in the Town Hall, 10.00-11.30am. 
Bentham Footpath Group walk, Hawes circular, 10-11 miles, leader T. Burnett, 41304. Meet at Lairgill/Ingleborough C. Centre 9.30/9.45am.

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FOOTPATH MATTERS

By Maureen Ellis



Spring has been in the air for the last few walks of the Benthams Footpath Group and they have been both exciting and soothing expeditions to near and far. The image in my mind has to be woods and water. Verena Smith constructed a linear walk starting at Denny Beck along the fast flowing Lune past its confluence with the Wenning and onto Loynes Bridge to regain the southern bank of the Lune and walk back into historic Hornby. It was interesting to contemplate the castle and church and note that Hornby Institute has a very active programme of events to suit all tastes.

Frank Royston led one of the longer walks, a Clapham Circular to include Ingleborough. This proved very popular as eleven walkers turned up.

In warm sunshine we started a week later from Appleby and knew immediately that we were in different geological country where the houses are built from sandstone and the road into the town is flanked by iron containing rock. As we started south along the river Eden, spring was in the air; white violets and coppiced hazel with yellow tags of catkins and swelling leaf buds. The group of eight all seemed to want to savour the unique buildings we were passing and we made a short deviation up the road to look at Great Ormside Hall and Church. Bird life was plentiful with a pair of long tailed tits and buzzards wheeling overhead. An ash tree was spilling its purple anther clusters while the black leaf buds remained tight black coils. Turning east we passed Tile Clay ponds in the fields adjoining Flatt Farm, the shallow waters filling the clay diggings of the past. More meandering waters wound beneath us as we walked along Haff Beck to gain the village of the same name and where our sharp eyed leader, Barry Greenwood, spotted the local sandstone quarry. As we returned, Appleby Castle was prominent in the distance.

Everybody's thoughts will be especially with Joyce Connolly when Tom's walk, "Bolton-by-Bowland" takes place. We all wish her a speedy recovery and return to health and the footpath group; with her determination, sunny disposition and Tom's help, we are confident it won't be too long.



Benthams & District Camera Club

By Peter Marshall

We have had another enjoyable year, but yet again have to report a fall in the number of members. Despite this, the Annual Trophies produced some good work which was judged by Norman Butler. The results are as follows:-

Clifford Benthams Trophy (themes), N. Crellin - Illston Cup (monochrome), D. Johnson - Humphries Cup (set of slides), N. Crellin - Fisher Trophy (single slide), D. Johnson - Humphries Trophy (large prints), V. Marshall - Humphries Trophy (small prints), D. Johnson - Clapham Trophy (overall points), D. Johnson.

At the Annual General Meeting, all the Officers were re-elected for the coming year. For further details please contact the Chairman, Peter Marshall, telephone 62512.

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OUR JOURNEY THROUGH BENTHAM IN THE 1930s CONTINUES IN STATION ROAD.

By Bateman Marshall

* The *District Bank* used to be where the NatWest bank is now. *Tom Wells* was the manager and he retired to live in 'Cheshams', Mount Pleasant, and was succeeded by *Kit Wilcock*, another great personality and pillar of the community. After him came *Arthur Burrow* and then *Chris Gorst* (*Pat Jackson's father*).

* *Mulliners* had a plumbing business before *Thomas Cowgill* came to Bentham and occupied the present site, so this premises has been a plumbers for a very long time.

* At the entrance to *Geo Angus factory* there were four houses, *Mr and Mrs Bush* (*Harold's parents*) lived in one, *Mr and Mrs Williams* (*Bernard's parents*) lived in another, the *Seggars* lived in the third and the other is still occupied by *Ruth King*. The factory had its own railway siding so its comings and goings were not as evident as they are today.

* Just outside *Angus's* was the *Wenning Private Hotel* which was run by the *Townson family* until around 1950. It was very handy for the railway and useful for *Geo Angus*. When the *Townsons* gave up, *Peggy Reid* took over. *Tom Townson* was an interesting man because he was not only a well-known postman but also a cow dentist...and his role as dentist fitted in well with his postal

deliveries round the farms. All the farmers used his services, which today seem to be unnecessary because farmers now worm their cattle and the cattle therefore don't seem to have problems with their teeth anymore! What a pity this would not work with humans.

* *The Wenning Hall* or *Parish Hall* as it was sometimes called, was a *Tin Tabernacle* of some considerable size, and was situated on the right hand side of the entrance to the railway station. It was built when the *Wenning Hotel* was the *vicarage*. At that time there was a split in the church and we had two Sunday schools connected to *St Margaret's*. When the *Hotel* was sold off, the *Hall* was sold with it and it became Bentham's main community centre. Badminton was played there, dances were held there and the local amateur dramatic society put its plays on there. It had a gallery at the back and a stage at the front. It fell into disuse when the *Town Hall* was reopened in 1940. *Angus's* tenanted it and used it for storage until around 1948, when it was burnt down.

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HONDA



AGE CONCERN URGENTLY NEEDS HELPERS

By Jean Gathergood

We are looking forward to the spring and some warmer weather, so that we can begin our weekly trips out and about again. We have some wonderful volunteers who make these trips possible. But we are still in urgent need of drivers, escorts and additional help in the kitchen on Fridays. If you can help us as a volunteer, then please come along and meet us on any Friday between 9.30am and 2.30pm in the Town Hall.

Our programme until June is very varied and includes - Felicity Hey describing her "Trek along the Great Wall of China", Rev Gill Hall talking on "Becoming a Woman Priest", and Nick Henderson speaking on his experience at Corio Raptor entitled "Hospital for Sick Birds".

HISTORY OF BENTHAM

By Peter Marshall

At a recent committee meeting of the Ewecross Historical Society, it was felt that an extended history of Bentham should be published to incorporate much of the additional information which has come to light recently - most of which will be on view at the Millennium Exhibition over Easter weekend. One way of achieving this object could be to have a co-ordinator together with several authors compiling their own specialised sections, such as religion, shops, transport, schools, etc. and the Society would be pleased to hear from anyone who would be interested in joining in this project. Subject to sufficient interest, a planning meeting will be held at which the format and financing of such a book can be discussed. If you wish to be involved, please contact David Johnson at the Exhibition or telephone the secretary, Jean Butler (61420) or me (vice-chairman) 62512.

BODY TALK SPRING CLASSES 2000 FROM SUNDAY 19 MARCH



Monday - Bentham Town Hall

7.00-8.00pm SUPER STEP (A difficult fun workout)
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Wednesday - Burton Village Hall

6.30-7.30pm BODY PUMP (Toning & aerobic exercises with weights)
7.30-8.30pm POWER HOUR (Circuits to suit all)

Thursday - Burton Village Hall

2.00-3.00pm TEA & TONE (Something for the more mature age group)

Sunday - Bentham Town Hall

7.30-8.30pm BODY PUMP (Toning & aerobic exercises with weights)

Please check availability of all classes. All equipment provided.

All classes £3 unwaged and students £2.

To book Step ring Heather in advance on (015242) 63196 and leave your Tel. No.

PET RESCUE REPORT FOR 1999

By Val Marshall (Secretary)



Bentham & District Pet Rescue has had another hectic year, not only caring for cats, but also nineteen people were directed to Animal Concern's sanctuary and many of them found their future companions. We had only one dog, but three apparent strays were re-united with their owners.

Our calls for help were up on last year, 243 against 135 in 1998. Also the number of cats was well up, 85 cats and kittens against 67 in the previous year. Most of these passed through Brooklands pens, including three litters of kittens found dumped at the roadside at only 3 weeks old, necessitating hand feeding, and a young tom cat thrown from a car, which came to us with a badly damaged jaw. Eighteen were ferals, trapped near the railway, and they have been returned after neutering and several are now fed regularly. Kittens have been tamed and homed and our fame is spreading as people who visited the area were advised to call and get kittens from us because ours are vetted and healthy. Homes as far away as St. Andrews, London and Hartlepool have been found and the new owners all keep in touch, so we know the kittens are well cared for. Our oldest cat, rescued this year, will be 20 in April; she found a superb home with our locum doctor, who specialises in geriatric patients, obviously including felines. We have had a varied selection of other animals including 2 mice, a hamster and over a dozen rabbits and guinea pigs, all of which were cared for by Betty in Ingleton. Two hedgehogs were sent to specialist Don Holyrod, and a bat which went to the North West Bat Group became a mother soon after being cared for.

We are lucky that once again the Lancashire branch of the RSPCA has given us financial help with the neutering of the feral cats but three of the old toms unfortunately had AIDS. Following assistance from Bentham Development Trust, we were also successful in our

application to the Jean Sainsbury Trust, which gave us a donation towards our running costs. A further local donation enabled us to equip our pens with heated pads for the cats in the winter. We now have at Brooklands facilities to cope with five or six cats, including a new pen which can be used as an isolation unit, if required. I would like to thank most sincerely our Committee and the new support group members for all their time and effort, raising the money which is so vital to the work we do. Our thanks go also to the members of the public who help by supplying blankets, cat food, bric-a-brac and tombola prizes and who come along and support our activities. We also appreciate the service given to us by Dalehead Veterinary Group, even when we give them very short notice of our needs.

At our AGM, Peter Phillips was elected Chairman, and Carol Howard and David Johnson joined the executive committee. Val Marshall (Secretary) and Peter Marshall (Treasurer), together with committee members Florence Metcalfe, Betty Sherlock and Lin Barrington, were re-elected. Grateful thanks were expressed to our retiring Chairman, David Johnson, and committee members Phyllis Tomlinson and Ailsa Taylor.

We have an unusual opportunity for someone to join a *Pet Share*. This requires a loving, kind person to look after a Labrador and Jack Russell (both 8 year old spayed bitches) for 3 days each week. All bills Vet's bills and food will be paid for by the owner of these dogs. If you can help, please phone me on 62512.

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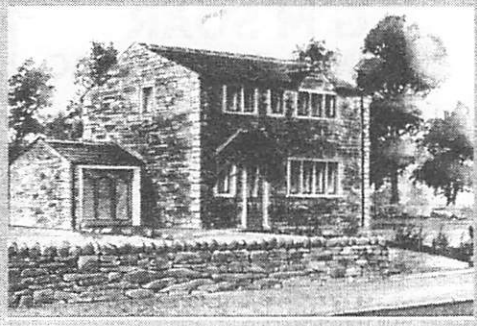
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LETS TRADE!

By Lin Barrington

LETS stands for Local Exchange Trading System, and our Ingleborough and District LET System has over 40 members who exchange goods and services. Each member has a cheque book and can trade with any other LETS member. So if for example I wanted to learn to play the guitar, I could pay for my tuition in Ingles (our currency) and the person who taught me would then have some Ingles to buy something from another LETS member.

If you are already a member, or if you are interested in the idea and would like to find out more, come to the Looking Well on Tuesday 4th April at 7.30pm and join in.

INGLETON MIDDLE SCHOOL OPEN DAY

By Mr. Leeming.

The open day will take place on Thursday 6th April. People from the local area are invited to see our pupils working at any time during the day, 9.15am until 3.45pm. There will be displays in every classroom, corridor and in the Hall. They show every aspect of school life but particularly our European links with schools in Italy, Austria, France and Sweden. You can observe normal lessons; you can also see live performances and demonstrations by children in all three year groups. Whether you attended Ingleton Middle School as a pupil or not, you are most welcome to join us for the day or just part of the day.

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BENTHAM PEOPLE

Personal Thanks

Cyril Tomlinson and family would like to thank all relatives, friends and neighbours for their kind messages of sympathy following the sad loss of Margaret. Also for the flowers, cards and good wishes received during her short illness, they were greatly appreciated. Special thanks to Doctors and Staff at Bentham Surgery, to Joe Morphet for the funeral arrangements, to Canon Bearpark for the meaningful service, and for the donations received in Margaret's memory, for Bentham Surgery. A much loved wife, mother and Nanna, she will be sadly missed.

Mike and Dot from the Coach House wish to thank all friends and staff for their support at the sad loss of Mike's father, Tommy, especially Bentham Surgery and all the Home Care girls without whose help we would not have been able to manage. We would also like to thank the Dominoe School, "Lord Westy and Bucko", who made Tommy's last days happy ones. Thank you.

Thanks

We would like to thank everybody who was involved in helping our son on the morning of his accident. Thank you. Mr. & Mrs. Carroll.

Congratulations

To Dick and Elsie for their Golden Wedding. Love from Mae and David.



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Duck eggs, £1.20 dozen. B. Park 61445.

Wanted

Has anyone got any garden tools they could donate to the Looking Well please?

CHRISTIAN AID LENT LUNCH

By Rose Pierce

Many thanks to all who attended the Lent Lunch on Wednesday 15th March, especially to the shopkeepers and shop workers who so willingly support this event each year with donations or buying the lunch. Their help is much appreciated by the Christian Aid Charity. All the money raised goes to aid those in situations such as Mozambique. The amount raised this year was £400.

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POST OFFICE CAMPAIGN

By Alison Wilken

Thanks to all who signed the petition forms opposing the worrying DSS proposals to withdraw the present personal payment arrangements from 2003. The government has now issued a statement saying that pensions and allowances will continue to be available in cash at post offices, but there is still a lot of detail to be worked out and until it has been, the viability of the present post office network remains under threat.

T.V. Licences. From 1st November any person over the age of 75 will be entitled to a free TV licence for their principal residence. In the meantime, customers who will be eligible for the free licences need to ensure that they renew their current licences when they expire. A system involving rebates and simple eligibility tests is being devised to ensure that no one loses out and that the new concession is phased in smoothly. Details should be available from post offices by the time you read this.

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MON 24TH APRIL
MANCHESTER UNITED V
CHELSEA.



A NEW SOCIETY IS BORN

By Bill Roy (Tel: 62470)

The inaugural meeting of the Bentham and District Archaeological Society took place on 15th March. It was attended by over twenty people, two of whom came from Giggleswick and the rest from Bentham. Bill Roy gave an introductory talk about what the proposed society could provide, from talks to field work, and also suggested what people in the society could do in the way of archaeology, and what they might expect from such activity. He also stressed that any member of the society, even the frail or handicapped, should be able to enjoy archaeology with the support of other members. There was unanimous support for the forming of the society, and three of those present, (Bill Duncan, Kerry Burns and Aaron Robshaw), were co-opted onto a provisional committee to oversee its setting up and initial running. It was also decided to look into the possibility of the society having a junior section.

Mr David Coles (a PhD student at the University of Bradford) is to be the first speaker at the meeting on Wednesday 19th April, and he will give a talk introducing the wealth and width of world archaeology. The next speaker will be Mr Chris Salisbury (an independent archaeologist from Kents Bank in Cumbria) on 17th May, and he will talk on the archaeology of Northern England during and after the last Ice Age.

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LOOKING WELL NEWS

Looking Well is open every weekday from 10.30 - 4.30pm (except Thursday mornings) and some evenings. See the diary dates for the activities taking place. If you would like to help, and could spare a couple of hours a week, let us know!

Make a bug! Bugs are beginning to hatch out all over the place. Rumour has it that the odd bug has been seen in Settle and Skipton too. If you want ideas or help making one to display outside your home, we have a week of workshops from Easter Monday to Saturday 29th April from 2.00 - 4.30pm (Friday from 2.30pm). Children must be accompanied by an adult.

Exhibitions. Artist Lou Andrews worked with 23 children from Ryelands in Lancaster last summer designing a set of health and safety posters. These are on display from 10th-30th April. They will be followed in May by an extraordinary glimpse into the microscopic world of bacteria and virusesdon't miss it!



ANCHOR STAYING PUT - CRAVEN

Offers elderly people in Craven advice and help with house repairs or adaptations. Call at Bentham Development Trust office 1st Wednesday each month 11.00am-1.00pm or Tel: 01756 - 797181.

KIRKBY LONSDALE BRASS BAND CONCERT

By Judith Johnson

On Saturday March 11th Kirkby Lonsdale Brass Band gave a splendid concert to a large and enthusiastic audience. Their conductor, Allan Greenwood led them through marches, film music and "golden oldies".

David Jones was the compere for the evening and also told the audience about two forthcoming concerts both at Queen Elizabeth's School in Kirkby Lonsdale. April 14th will be a joint concert with friends from the Australian band Narrabri who are on tour. Kirkby's band have a connection with Australia through their principle euphonium player.

On May 6th there will be a special concert featuring the first ever performance of a piece commissioned by the Band and written especially for them by foremost composer, Goff Richards, who will conduct this premier.

To return to the concert in Bentham. Kirkby Band played a very lively and tuneful piece near the end of their programme which is the test piece for the Area Band Contests in Darlington on the 19th of March and we wish them well and hope that they will soon return to play for us again in Bentham.

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WINTER FUEL PAYMENTS FOR ALL OVER 60'S

*"Extract from "Care & Repair England"
Newsletter*

The Government has agreed to pay winter fuel payments to all people over 60 years old.

Until now the payments have been linked to receipt of social security benefits - principally Retirement pension. The European Court of Justice has ruled that this was sex discrimination as men do not qualify for a Retirement Pension until 65, five years later than women.

Following the ruling the Government has agreed to extend the payments this year to 1.5 million extra people aged between 60 and 65 and to backdate payments to 1997 when the winter fuel payments were introduced.

Entitlement to winter fuel payments will now be based on age alone and not on any qualifying benefit. Initially the qualifying age will be 60. It will, however, move in line with the phased equalisation of State Retirement Pension. It will start to rise in 2010 and reach 65 in 2020.

The Government will have to implement a claims process for the new beneficiaries, as there are no up to date records of potential claimants. An advertising campaign will be initiated to give further information when people will be invited to make claims.

JUNIOR GOLF REPORT

By Andy Chappell

Sunday 5th March saw the 7th and final round of the Junior Winter League when Lisa Stephenson came out on top with 22 points followed by William Davis with 19. This meant that Lisa also won the winter league overall with 150 points from Andrew Earnshaw with 131. William Davis won the 2nd division for players above 30 handicap with 110 points and Charles Durnian was second. The first five overall also gained the initial points towards the Junior Golfer of the year award, which will run until the end of the year. Points will be awarded for the first five finishes in all Junior competitions. This is a new trophy generously donated by the Oakroyd Bakery. The Junior Committee would like to thank Peter Hudson of Oakroyd Bakery for his support of the Junior Section.

Anyone who is interested in sponsorship of junior competitions, or membership should please contact me, Andy Chappell, on Bentham 62274.

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NEW ONE WAY SYSTEM

By I. W. Street

In the copy of a document diverted recently to the Bentham News, plans are disclosed for a new "One way" traffic system in Bentham. Vehicles travelling into High Bentham from Low Bentham will have to turn left at Goodenber Road, then travel along Lakeber Drive to Robin Lane, and back down to the Main Street. This means that the stretch of Main Street between Robin Lane and Goodenber Road will only have traffic travelling in one direction.

This plan should eliminate the traffic snarl ups on Main Street, and with traffic calming measures introduced on Main Street, should help to reduce speed through the busiest part of the town.

However, car parking on Goodenber Road, Lakeber Drive and Robin Lane will be limited to one side of the road only, because of the increase in through traffic, including large, heavy articulated vehicles. Work to strengthen the road surfaces to cope with the increased traffic is expected to commence in the late summer or early autumn this year (unfortunately the costs will mean an increase in Council Tax!), and the new system is due to be operational from 1st April 2001.

BENTHAM NEWS ACCOUNTS

The certified statement of accounts for the year ended 31st December 1999 was recently presented to the committee. The result for the year was satisfactory in that income from advertising was only £450 short of covering all costs and this without recourse to the Town Council for funding (£500 in previous years).

Depreciation on the computer equipment of £686 contributed to the net loss of £484. The Balance Sheet at the year end showed healthy reserves which should allow for additional expenditure on upgrading the motherboard and CPU in the current year.

Copies of the accounts are available from Ken Robertson, (61285).

DOG POO LANE!

By P.U. Scuper

It has been decided that the footpath between the car park, down the side of the Coach House to Main Street, is to be called Dog Poo Lane. This is in tribute to those dog walkers who regard it as their own private dog loo, determined to leave great steaming piles of faeces for the rest of the community to tramp through, jeopardising the health of the community, particularly the children, and ignoring the possibility of a £1,000 fine.

The newly formed "Dogwalkers Ignore Risks To Society" group, DIRTs for short, is believed to be prepared to "name and shame" those responsible, at the monthly council meeting. The Town Clerk has asked that they make sure they wipe their shoes before entering the Town Hall!

In the interests of the community as a whole, anyone seeing dogwalkers failing to remove their dog's dirt, should report the dogwalker to the dog warden on 01756-706 345 because the sooner someone is heavily fined, the sooner we have a chance of healthier, cleaner streets.

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