

BENTHAM NEWS

BENTHAM'S MAJOR MILLENNIUM PROJECT, THE SCHOOL HILL SITE DEVELOPMENT, NEARS COMPLETION

By Bill Kennedy (Member of the School Hill Site Community Committee)

As many of you will have seen, the work of enhancing the School Hill site has been continuing, and should be complete before the next issue of the Bentham News. So it is probably a good time to recount why and how the idea started to become a reality.

Several people had seen the potential for years, including Jim Hodson, the landscape architect, who developed the plans for this work. But it was the Millennium which triggered the action, leading to the project taking place. Our Town Council convened a public meeting to get ideas from the community for Millennium projects. The School Hill site development was suggested at this meeting, together with the idea of a mosaic, and the idea was supported by the overwhelming majority of those attending.

So a community committee was formed at this open meeting, to develop the School Hill amenity area idea. The relocation of the public toilets (a Council initiative) was also being discussed at this time, and as we know, that project was completed last year.

Subsequently, at a further well attended public meeting, on 15th February 1999, plans for the site, including a detailed plan of the mosaic, were approved and it was agreed that the substation should be suitably "clad". The site plans including those of the mosaic were then put on public display for two weeks, to give everyone the opportunity to see the proposals.

Another public meeting was held to give members of the public the opportunity to express their opinions about the proposals in the plans. Eventually, where there was any difference of opinion as to what should be done, the majority opinion was accepted. At this meeting there was discussion about detail in the mosaic,

disabled access on the site, school involvement, the bus shelter and trees. It was agreed that trees would be removed to help reduce maintenance and the risk of schoolchildren slipping on wet leaves.

The committee then proceeded to apply for funding and planning permission. The funding bids were successful and planning permission was granted, so tender documents were issued and contractors appointed. At this stage a few people approached the committee, expressing concern particularly about the maple tree, and the committee agreed to save this if possible. Recently, with the contractors on site, it became apparent that because of the way the levels are being changed, and also because of the location of underground cables, the tree would have to be removed. The committee reluctantly agreed to this, but will ensure that a "millennium" tree will be planted in one of the planting areas on the site. Local firms have kindly agreed to sponsor some parts of the project.

Work on site is due for completion during the second half of June and an official opening is being organised for mid July, probably 14th. So please keep this date free, as we hope to make this an evening of Millennium celebration for the community, with Kirkby Lonsdale Brass Band, the school choir, hopefully a team of Morris Dancers, and a barbecue, etc. More details will appear in next month's BN.

The School Hill project will transform the rather drab old toilet site into a pleasing amenity area, with well planned planting areas, and new seats and paving; creating a wonderful setting for the magnificent, colourful mosaic, by Maggie Howarth of Wennington, which depicts various aspects of Bentham life at the turn of the Millennium.

WOMENS' INSTITUTES

Low Bentham

By Jennifer Watkinson

President, Mrs. Christine Jennings, introduced and welcomed Mr. Ronnie Holmes from Natland, who told us about his long life as a nursery man and gave numerous hints, whilst he prepared several hanging baskets and tubs for the summer. Using ordinary garden moss to line the basket, a sheet of polythene, water retention crystals and a slow release fertiliser, he put in about twenty four plants, building it up like a bird's nest. He made up troughs too, using small conifers, geraniums and pansies, and a novel tower filled with Bizzie Lizzies.

Eleven members attended the Low Gill monthly meeting to watch and listen to Granny Alice as she used her sewing machine to make an apron with a beautiful butterfly appliqued on the pocket. After a lovely supper the apron was raffled and won by Jennifer Watkinson. Eight members had an interesting day out when they attended the Millennium Trust day at Hawes.

Competition winners, for an arrangement in an eggcup, were:- Mrs. Mary Murphy, Mrs. Helen Lister and Mrs. Sylvia Brennand.

The next meeting, which is a "members night" is on 15th June at the Town Hall, High Bentham, when there will be a "weekenders evening".

High Bentham

By Margaret Hayton

Our seventh birthday meeting was in May. Mrs. Audrey Shallcross was standing in for the President who was on holiday. There was no speaker as this was the Resolutions meeting. Mrs. Sheila Brown reported on the Easter Saturday coffee morning, which was a huge success, raising the sum of £290.40 less expenses. Mrs. Joan Jackson reported on the W.I. visit to Chirnsides at Lancaster, where some of the ladies became models for the day. Mrs. Margaret Hayton and Miss Wendy Dowbiggin, who had been to the Resolutions meeting at Grimsagh, gave their reports on the resolution, which members voted on. They then enjoyed tea or coffee and a slice of birthday cake. Each member was given a raffle ticket for a ticket to Holker Hall Festival; the winner was Wendy Dowbiggin. The competition winner for a hand made birthday card was Dorothy Rose. The meeting on 1st June, will be a "gardener's question time" with Alan Bradshaw and is an open meeting.

LOWGILL SHEEPDOG TRIALS & SPORTS

Saturday 10th June in New Barn
Pasture, Lowgill.
Trials to run all day.
Open Fancy Dress 1.00pm.
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MAY'S TOWN COUNCIL MEETING

By David Johnson

All the Cllrs. attended except Cllr. Woof. District Cllr. Pilkington and County Cllr. Ireton were present. The meeting started with the appointment of Cllr. West as Mayor and Cllr. Stannard as Deputy Mayor. The business then progressed to the appointment of various Cllrs. to Committees. Several belong to a number of committees and obviously work very hard on our behalf.

Police

There were no police present but correspondence was read about 'Country Watch', an initiative asking us to observe and record details of suspicious vehicles or people. Many are now concerned about the growth of rural crime and hope to use the eyes and ears of the public to combat it. It will be a non-confrontational role and training and guidance are available and details are available from our local police.

Highways

Bentham is on the minor works programme for traffic calming schemes this financial year. Some Cllrs. wondered if Angus could provide signs indicating the best route to the factory for heavy vehicles. Drivers are often confused and accidentally find their way onto minor roads or into residential areas. The Cllrs. are to hold a meeting with the Highway Authority. It was suggested that a representative from Angus and the Business Park be asked to attend.

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The lease for Low Bentham Playing Field has been discussed and amendments have been suggested. The lease is to be redrafted by the solicitors. The Cllrs. were very complimentary about the Goodenber Road recreation ground. It has drawn favourable comments from visitors and is well used.

The Town Hall Gas Bill

The dispute with Business Gas has taken an unexpected turn with the demand falling from £2800 to £333.45!! There has been no explanation for this change of heart. The opinion seemed to be that the bill should now be paid but that the TC should continue to press for an explanation

The Bank Holiday Weekends.

Cllr. Heigh thought the Easter Weekend had been memorable. She mentioned the Palm Sunday and Good Friday Services and the very popular local history exhibition. Bentham will be busy over Whitsuntide with between 3000 and 4000 bikers expected to attend the meeting at the Auction.

Cooperation from the Coop

The Clerk wrote to the Coop about the untidy state of the plot behind the shop. In reply they stated that there were no plans to develop the land but action would be taken to tidy it up. Some Cllrs. thought it would make a useful addition to our parking facilities.

Plans For The Future

We may stand a chance of getting a mobile dental service. It was agreed that tentative moves be made to explore the possibility of erecting a toposcope near the big stone. The project cannot really be considered until the major projects at School Hill, the Cemetery and the Black Bull Car Park are finished.

Local Government Democracy?

Both the District and County Cllrs. reported that the Government is pushing for 'cabinet' style government at both levels. This could create an element of secrecy and elitism and put the power to make decisions into the hands of a small number of Cllrs. with no knowledge of Craven and even less of Bentham.

AWARENESS IS THE KEY FOR OSTEOPOROSIS

Marie Colyer - Chartered Physiotherapist

Heather Guy and I attended the National Osteoporosis Society's public meeting in May to find out the latest information and advice on this "silent epidemic". Osteoporosis affects 1 in 3 post menopausal women and 1 in 12 men - it results in bones becoming so porous that there is a high risk of breaking them following the simplest knock or fall.

Osteoporosis risk can be decreased from an early age. Peak bone mass is reached in your thirties and the greater your bone mass, the lower your risk of developing osteoporosis (this is the reason why men are at lower risk than women anyway). Ways of increasing your bone mass include:

- Eating a healthy diet including vitamin D and calcium rich foods such as milk and dairy products (low fat varieties contain equal calcium as full fat).
- Weight bearing exercise 3 times a week for a minimum of 20 minutes, examples include brisk walking, aerobics, weight training and jogging.
- Give up smoking as this can affect bone growth.
- Drink alcohol within the recommended limits.
- Hormone Replacement Therapy (HRT) after the menopause - this has been shown to reduce your risk of fractures by 50%.



**National
Osteoporosis
Society**

There are certain high risk groups that can be helped by early diagnosis and treatment if appropriate. Risk factors include:

- Early menopause (before 45 years old).
- Early hysterectomy (before 50 years old).
- Long term use of high dose oral steroids.
- Irregular or infrequent periods possibly through over-exercising or over-dieting.
- Family history of osteoporosis or fractures.

If you feel you are at risk from osteoporosis it is important that you discuss your concerns with your doctor and decide the most appropriate way to assess the risk. If you are diagnosed with osteoporosis there are options for treatment, the most common and effective of which appears to be HRT.

In summary, boosting bone mass at an early age can be a key to preventing osteoporosis as you get older, but if you are at risk, early diagnosis means early treatment and this can decrease your risk of fractures and long term disability.

If you would like any further information about the talk or the National Osteoporosis Society please contact Marie Colyer or Heather Guy at the Bentham Physiotherapy Clinic, 62216.

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CRAVEN DISTRICT COUNCIL MATTERS

By Councillor John Pilkington

District Council Elections

Bentham Ward John Pilkington (Liberal Democrat) 513 Gerald Titterington (Conservative) 216

Turnout 32.1 per cent

Ingleborough Ward David Ireton (Independent) 768 Simon Rushton (Conservative) 115

Turnout 37.5 per cent Independent gain from Conservative

Elsewhere in Craven there was another Independent gain from the Conservatives, an Independent gain from Liberal Democrats and two Conservative gains from Independents. The composition of the Council is now 18 Conservatives, 12 Independents and 4 Liberal Democrats.

New Committee Structure

The District Council has a new Committee structure. The Government is urging Councils to adopt a structure similar to Central Government with a Cabinet and a Leader or an elected Mayor, and a Scrutiny Committee. At the moment these are only guidelines. The Bill to make the new structures mandatory is going through the normal parliamentary process. There has been opposition from the House of Lords to the proposed changes and many Councils are waiting for the outcome before making significant changes. At Craven the Council has tried to take a 'middle course' and is retaining the normal Committee structure but has set up a Review Committee which will take on the scrutiny function. If the government's proposal become law in the next few months, the District Council will have to restructure from May next year.

Recent Planning Applications

08/2000/342: Marie Rayner, 2 Nookdales, Ingleton, Carnforth, LA6 3DS Change of use from Butcher's Shop to Shop and Chiropody/Complementary Therapy clinic at Station Road, High Bentham.

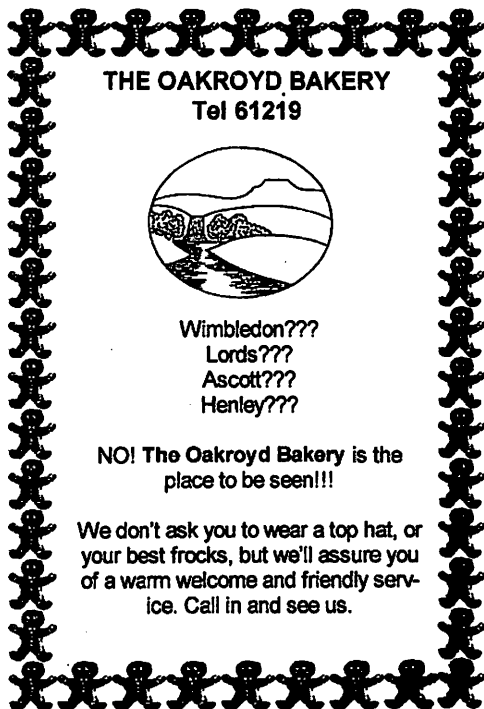
FARMING MATTERS!

BN would really like to include news and views about farming, just as we include regular features about walking, cooking, WI, police, gardening etc. Would anyone out there like to be our farming contributor? You can do this anonymously if you wish. You could either write an item for the paper yourself, or have a chat with one of the committee who would write it up for you. Why not give it a try? Please ring either Bill (62492) or Shirley (61608) to talk it over.

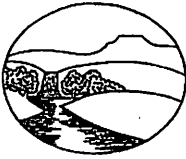
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AMAZING SIGHTS AT INGLETON MIDDLE SCHOOL

By Chris Leeming (Deputy Head)

The first week of April was a most unusual week at the school. Every corridor, every room, every area and the school hall was decorated with posters and pamphlets, and photographs filled every noticeboard. Children all over the school were rehearsing pieces of dialogue or were practising scripts. The school was buzzing with excitement. The reason?

This was the culmination of a three year long project which linked schools in Sweden, Italy, France and Austria, with Ingleton being the co-ordinator. Sixteen teachers from our link towns looked at our displays, enjoyed our performances, and were amazed at the high standard of work on show in the school.

On Thursday evening, a staff-pupil play about a Time-Travelling Doctor helping a group of children find the missing stars from the European flag, made the packed house clap and cheer in a standing ovation. The visiting teachers left after a day sightseeing in the Dales, and a dance at the Ingleborough Centre. All in all it was an excellent example of European co-operation at its best. Politicians may talk about the new Europe, but Ingleton Middle School has actually **done it!**

"COME AND SEE..."

By Ken Durkin



Next month, as part of the Jubilee Year 2000 celebrations, St Boniface RC Church, Robin Lane, will be hosting a Mission, "Come and See..."

It opens on Saturday 24 June and closes on Sunday 1 July. Each evening at 7.30 pm in church there will be a celebration of a particular theme. Monday celebrates Friendship, Tuesday Justice and Peace, Wednesday is a Family Evening, Thursday celebrates the theme of Prayer, and Friday is a service of Reconciliation & Healing. On Saturday after the usual Mass there will be a barbecue. On Sunday afternoon there will be a family walk. The regular weekday Masses will be held in various homes of parishioners.

Canon John Bearpark and Rev Norman Price have both offered their support for Mission Week, and everyone is welcome.

The Mission will be led by Rev Paul J Daley of the Catholic Missionary Society. Fr Paul was born in Lancaster and is a priest of Diocese of Salford. He has been a member of the Catholic Missionary Society for six years. The CMS is a team of priests and lay-people involved in leading Missions in parishes and schools throughout England and Wales. He studied for the priesthood in Rome and was ordained in 1990. He has four years experience in a parish, combining duties as a curate with a High School and Hospice Chaplaincies.

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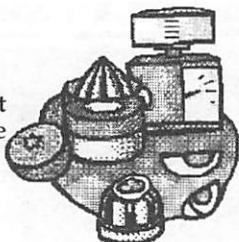
RECIPES

By Doreen Park

As promised last month, this is for the kids in the kitchen.

Chocolate Nests.

Makes 8.



- 8 Jus Rol medium vol-au-vent cases
- 1 egg white
- 2 x 55 gms individual pots of chocolate mousse
- 1 chocolate flake bar
- mini choc egg to decorate, or sweet of your own choice

Set the oven to 200C/425F/gasmark 7/fan oven 200C. Place the frozen vol-au-vents on a baking sheet. Put the egg white in a small bowl and whisk with a fork. Using a pastry brush or a new paint brush, carefully brush the vol-au-vent rims only, with egg white. Bake for 13-15 minutes until puffed up and golden brown.

Remove from the oven, using oven gloves, and cool on a baking sheet for 5 minutes. Transfer to a wire rack until cold. Remove the vol-au-vent centres with a teaspoon. Spoon the mousse into the centre of each vol-au-vent. Break the flake into small pieces and arrange on top, with a sweet of your choice. Eat straight away or keep in a cool place for up to one hour before serving.

This one is for the big 'uns in the kitchen.

Chocolate & almond tart. Serves 8.

340 gm block Jus Rol short crust pastry, thawed

50 gms, (2ozs) ground almonds

1 oz caster sugar

For the filling

150 gm pack of plain chocolate broken into squares

100 gms (4ozs) unsalted butter

3 large eggs

100 gms caster sugar

1 oz flaked almonds

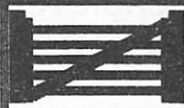
Mix the ground almonds and sugar, flatten the pastry and sprinkle with almond mixture. Fold over and knead lightly, then wrap in film and chill for 10 minutes.

Pre-heat the oven to 200C/400F/Gasmark 6, fan oven 180C. Roll out pastry and use a 9" loose bottom flan tin or dish. Bake blind (for anyone new to this, put a piece of greaseproof paper on the base with a handful of dried peas) for 15 minutes. Remove paper and peas for the final 5 minutes. Remove from oven and reduce heat to 180C/350F/gasmark 4/fan oven 160C. Melt the chocolate and butter in a bowl over a pan of hot water, or in a microwave, until smooth. Whisk the eggs and sugar until pale and fluffy. Fold in the chocolate and pour carefully into prepared flan case. Sprinkle with almonds and bake for 20 minutes until the top has formed a crust. Cool thoroughly and serve with creme fraiche or double cream.

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WELCOME TO 'SLIPPED DISC'

By Shirley Brown

Since 7th April, a very pleasant addition to our High Street has been 'Slipped Disc'; no, not a chiropractor but a shop selling DVDs, CDs and singles, and renting videos and console system games. There are also blank cases for videos and CDs, hard and soft wear for the games, and if that's not enough, then anything that isn't on display can be ordered and delivered within 48 hours.

This is a genuine family business. The Robshaw family has lived in Bentham since January 1990 when they moved here from Wakefield where they had lived for 18 years. Alan has had warm memories of Yorkshire since he was evacuated from London to Wakefield during the War, and although he returned to London at the age of 21, he is now firmly established as a Northerner. Alan has always been interested in music, and has managed music shops in London back in the old days of vinyl LPs. Alan is also a time-served joiner, and with experience of shop-fitting he still does decorating and joinery when not in the shop. In fact he says that opening the shop was a good opportunity to get out of the building trade. His wife, Ann, works with him, and their daughter, Clair, who lives in Derby helps out when she's visiting. Also active in the business is younger son, Stephen, who has based his 'Dales Anglers' business at the back of the shop. He does a lively mail order trade as well as selling all fishing accessories over the counter. To complete the family picture, there are plans to include elder son, Aaron, soon.

On the day I met the Robshaws, they had already recruited 367 members, and were clearly getting a lot of local support from young and old. Operating a savings plan, a free present wrapping service and a policy of not renting to anyone under the recommended age (they'll ring parents to



check if necessary), this business already feels good and should prove very successful. Alan and Ann (pictured above) would like to thank Joe Winn, manager of Barclays Bank for his help and support, and (nearly) all the traders who have been so encouraging, especially Mick and Liz Brown.

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LOOKING WELL HAS EXPANDED

By Shirley Brown

When I called at Looking Well the other day to find out what was going on, the place was buzzing - which was really appropriate in this festival of the Millennium Bug! In fact there was much talk about bugs. Bugs of all kinds - the millennium computer bug, the love bug virus that recently invaded the world's computer systems, and the flu bug that ruined many people's Christmases. The theme was that bugs are all around us - in machines, over and underground, bugs are a part of our lives. They take many shapes and forms and cannot be eliminated, so we have to find ways of living with them. This rather neatly illustrates what Looking Well is about - because it's a charitable arts based community project to promote people's health and well-being. It's about healthy living and healthy attitudes to life. Working on the Millennium Bug Festival has been part of this, and it will reach its climax at May Bank Holiday Gala. It is a one-off celebration made possible by a grant from the Millennium Festival Fund, is not meant to be an annual event, and, *"We're not in competition with Wray!"*, said Nikki Johnson who works at Looking Well.

Although 150 people regularly use Looking Well every week, and there are many others who either visit the exhibitions or casually drop in, there are still many in Bentham who ask, *'What goes on at the Looking Well?' A simple answer would be, 'Why not call in and find out?'*, because you would absolutely be assured of a warm welcome. However this article, and maybe future items in Bentham News, will attempt to let you in on one of Bentham's best kept secrets, that in the heart of the town there is a vibrant, inclusive project that everyone can share in. From small and unfunded beginnings, Looking Well has now created part-time, paid employment for 4 people. They recently received the SmithKline Beecham 'IMPACT' Award for excellence in community health. Nikki Johnson (*"I felt so important"*), Maureen Magoolagan (*"I was*

honoured to be asked to go and never thought I'd have the chance to have such a great experience") and Alison Jones, Projects Manager, went to the ceremony in London to receive the £25,000. This award enables the project both to continue and to expand.

Looking Well is now able to add the rental of the cottage next door to the property they already rent from Bernard Armstrong. The cottage will provide a quiet domestic setting for people to use for meetings. There will also be small treatment rooms available for complementary therapies or counselling, and people wanting to make use of these rooms should get in touch with Alison (Tel: 62672) or Nikki to find out more. There are basic kitchen facilities as experience has shown that communal cooking and providing good, simple food is an important part of what is offered here. It is hoped that the Children's Harvest Garden, which has been created on land in Lakeber Drive kindly donated for 2 years by Milepeal, will provide some of the food for the kitchen. Anyone wishing to find out more and join in the celebrations should come along at 11am on Wednesday 7th June to the Looking Well Cottage where our new Mayor, Jean West, will officiate at the Grand Opening.

People may have noticed that work has also started on 'The Old Dairy', 32 Main Street. (Who said, *"About time too!"*?) This will become the Looking Well office - watch this space.



Niomi Johnson standing by Sheila Houghton's "Virus"

MOBILE DENTAL SURGERY FOR BENTHAM?

By Lin Barrington

You may have seen in recent Bentham News Town Council reports that efforts are being made to get a dental practice in Bentham: in the Trust office we hear tales of how difficult it is to get to Settle, Lancaster and so on for appointments, particularly for those of us relying on public transport.

Mr. Wright of Ashfield Dental Surgery in Settle, who is a representative for NHS dentists in our area, recently came to speak at a Town Council meeting and outlined the high costs involved in setting up a new surgery in Bentham and the shortage of NHS dentists. One possibility he mentioned was a mobile dental surgery, which could visit on a regular basis.

Clearly, having our own dentist based in Bentham would be preferable to a mobile unit, but the possibility of getting a permanent dentist in Bentham seems remote at present. It seems that there is a good chance that a mobile dental surgery will be starting up for this area, and if we want it to visit Bentham we have to say so now.

If you would like the mobile surgery to visit us regularly, please write to Emma Thomas, Chief Executive, Craven Primary Care Group, Skipton General Hospital, Keighley Road, Skipton BD23 2RJ. If you don't want to write a letter, come in to the Bentham Trust office and sign our petition during the first two weeks of June.

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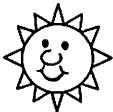
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WEBSITE UPDATE

By Bill Kennedy

The group working on the website has been developing business pages based on the Bentham News Millennium Directory. Traders can have their own pages, accessible by links, from the "directory", and these pages can be updated when necessary. A demonstration of this part of the development was given by the group to traders at a meeting in the Town Hall on Monday 15th May. There is still a lot of work to be done on the development of the site before it is anywhere near complete. The members of the group are doing this in their own time on a voluntary basis.

Eventually it is hoped that many aspects of life in Bentham will be included, promoting Bentham for the benefit of locals as well as worldwide on the web site. When the development has reached a satisfactory stage, there will probably be a full scale demonstration arranged at the Town Hall, for anyone interested.

BURTON-IN-LONSDALE GALA

**SAT. 10th JUNE 2pm at the
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POLICE FILE

By PC Danny Kay

A couple of results for you this month:- We are pleased to announce that in March this year a person was arrested for possession of controlled drugs with intent to supply others.

The arrested person is a resident of High Bentham and he has made one court appearance so far on various drug related charges. We made the arrest acting on information supplied to us by a member of the public and wish to thank them for that. The arrest confirmed to us that there is a drug problem in Bentham, thankfully not on the scale experienced by other communities but it is here and I would urge everyone to report their suspicions to us promptly and help us to eliminate the drug problem from our community.

Secondly I am also pleased to announce that 2 people were arrested by us at the beginning of May for offences in relation to the theft of diesel fuel. I cannot report on the outcome at this time for various reasons, but I can say that neither person is local or has any local connections.

A few other bits and pieces :- I was contacted recently by a concerned parent in respect of road safety advice for a novice motorcyclist. We will be very happy to offer whatever advice we can in relation to any aspect of road safety, please do not hesitate to contact us on 41217.

Summer is fast approaching. Those of you going away on holiday are urged to inform us of when your house will be

un-occupied, and give us details of who will be looking after your property. We do not guarantee a security patrol for your house but it makes us aware of empty properties and we can pay extra attention.

The debate relating to the state of rural policing continues to make national headlines. A Chief Constable of one of the rural forces has gone on record saying that "the golden age of policing will never return". This was expanded to mean that there will never again be a bobby on the street corner walking his beat nor will there be village police stations.

I have made my opinions known in relation to this topic but I would be interested to hear from individuals as to what you feel about this. Do you want the bobby walking his beat and if so why do you think this is better than the bobby driving his car from place to place? Given that we only have a certain number of officers to cover our area and that we will certainly never get any increase, how would you deploy us on a day to day basis.

I ask the question above as I am frequently told by members of the public that "you should be doing this, that, or the other". This is your chance to find a better way of deploying 8 police officers and 1 Sergeant throughout a large area to the maximum efficiency given the constraints that we must work to. Please get in touch with me on 41217 or talk to me when I am out and about, or for those of you at the cutting edge of technology email me at danny@dkay999.freemove.co.uk This is your chance to have a say. Don't say you weren't asked!

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BENTHAM & DISTRICT PET RESCUE

By Val Marshall

We have had great excitement in the last few weeks as a very pregnant cat was brought in to us. She has now produced four beautiful babies and a week later they are all healthy and strong, despite the mother having had an internal infection and nearly dying. Thanks to Dalehead Vets she is now well and fit again. It was great fun feeding such tiny babies and helping mum to look after them. I am amazed at the strong maternal instincts cats have and despite being so ill she had to wash and look after them when I had fed them. It was wonderful to watch and, thankfully, she was soon able to take over the night duty! It is no wonder that feral cats look so weak and ill when they have kittens and have to hunt for food, even when they are ill themselves.

We have stopped trapping the ferals for the summer, unless we can get the kittens as well. These we can tame and rehome. At present we have a beautiful 6 month old spayed black and white girl (the last of our ferals of the winter), but she is still frightened of people she doesn't know. If anyone could give her a quiet home, she could live out in a barn or outhouse quite happily; please do contact me.

Has anyone lost a long-haired elderly neutered very loving black cat? If so, he is with us and is wanting a home again. He is having veterinary treatment at present and we will pay for any more treatment needed.

Earlier this month, Kath and Bruce from the Punch Bowl Inn in Burton-in-Lonsdale held a most successful coffee morning and book sale for us, earning £219. They also raffled a lovely hooked rug with animals all over it, designed and made by Margaret Benson of High Bentham, which brought in £70 of the total. A most generous and appreciated gift from Margaret.

I think the night Isabel Carr's cat got stuck behind a wardrobe must have been a full moon, as Alison Leak, who helps us, found her cat perched on the baffle of their

fireplace in the bedroom, having fallen 20 feet down the chimney at 4 a.m. If the cat had fallen off this ledge, she would have landed behind the bricked up fireplace in the living room. Fortunately the cat was retrieved covered in soot and, apart from hurt pride, three baths later was none the worse - which is more than can be said for the house and its occupants! Oh! The joys of owning a pet - but wouldn't life be dull without them!

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LOCAL EVENTS IN JUNE

Thu 1st Angus Pensioners' Association annual summer outing, Hawick and Moffat.

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

Fri 2nd Looking Well 6.00-9.30pm, Black Library Wargaming Club, over 11's, and every Friday.

Age Concern, Nick Henderson - hospital for sick birds.

Men's tennis match at Playing Field Courts v Slyne, 6.30pm.

Sat 3rd St. Margaret's coffee morning in the Town Hall Ballroom, 10.00am-12.00noon. 

Bentham Footpath Group walk, Spark Bridge, (South Lakes), 7 miles, leader D. Asquith 62619. Meet at Lairgill 9.30am.

Sun 4th High Bentham Methodist Church, Chapel Anniversary Services, 10.30am & 6.30pm. Speaker Rev. David Emison.

Mon 5th Looking Well 10.30am-12.30pm Baby Buckets, parents and Babies group, and every Monday.

Town Council meeting at The Town Hall, 7.30pm.

Tue 6th Looking Well 12.30-1.30pm, relaxation session. 2.00-3.00pm, Womens support group. Both every Tuesday.

High Bentham Methodist Church Spring Event - an evening of music with the Shepherds' Choir. 7.30. Supper to follow.

Wed 7th Looking Well 11.00am, opening of Looking Well Cottage by the Mayor. All welcome. 1.30-3.30 pm Mucky Buckets, parents and under 3's play session, and every Wednesday. 7.15pm Talk by Beth Tyers "Flower Essences for Health".

NSPCC monthly meeting at Lingfield, Robin Lane, 7.30pm.

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

Coffee & Chat at High Bentham Methodist Schoolroom, all welcome, 10.00-11.30am, and every Wednesday.

Thu 8th Sole to Soul: Chiropody Plus, 9 Station Road.

Fri 9th Age Concern, Monica Heidiman - talk and demonstration on spinning.

Sat 10th Burton-in-Lonsdale Gala, at the Recreation Field, 2.00pm. Many attractions, see ad on page 11.

Conservative Association coffee morning, Town Hall, 10.00am-12.00 noon. 

Lowgill Sheepdog Trials & Sports, New Barn Pasture, Lowgill. See ad. on page 2.

Mon 12th Looking Well 12.30-2.00 Cancer Support Group, shared lunch.

Tue 13th Bentham Child Health Clinic at the Surgery, 2.00-4.00pm.

Wed 14th Looking Well 7.30-9.0pm, Alzheimer's Support Group meeting.

Listing for Local Events

Day

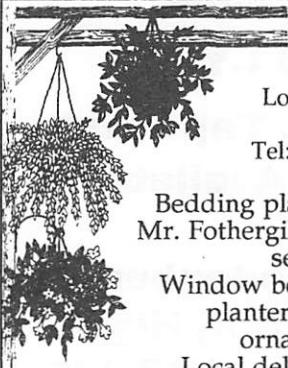
Date

Event

Venue

Please complete and return to Bill Kennedy, 62492, or hand in at Bentham Sports.

- Thu 15th** **Copy deadline for July edition of Benthams News.**
Benthams Footpath Group walk, Chapel-le-Dale, 4-5 miles, leader A. Robertson 61285. Meet at Lairgill 6.30pm.
- Fri 16th** **Age Concern, Card Bingo.**
Waste paper collection at the Legion Hut, 8.30-11.00am. Proceeds to NSPCC.
Low Benthams W.I. "A weekenders fashion show" at the Town Hall, High Benthams, 7.30pm. See page 2.
- Sat 17th** **Settle & District Blind Association coffee morning in the Town Hall, 10.00am-12.00noon.** 
- Wed 21st** **High Benthams Primary School PTA Family Quiz Night, with supper, 6.30-8.30pm in the Town Hall Ballroom, teams or individuals, contact Mrs. Sedgwick 62329 or 51663.**
Abbeyfield House, Benthams, coffee morning and raffle, 10.0am-11.30am.
Citizens Advice Bureau at the Surgery, 1.30-3.15pm.
- Fri 23rd** **Age Concern - Margaret Cressey - Hearing Dogs for the Deaf.**
Mens tennis match at Playing Field Courts, 6.30pm, v Lancaster.
All Saints Parish Church, Burton-in-Lonsdale, Millennium Festival of Crafts & Flowers, 11.00am-7.00pm.
- Sat 24th** **All Saints Church - Millennium Festival, 11.00am-7.00pm; concert of local artists and young musicians 7.00pm.**
Methodist Church coffee morning in the Town Hall, 10.00-11.45am. 
- Sat 24th** **Ingleton Waterfalls Human Chain, Joining hands for Children in need. Details from 41701.**
Grand Opera Gala at Christchurch, Skipton, 7.30pm. Settle Orchestra, Langcliffe Singers, Elizabethan Singers, from Blackburn. Soloists.
- Sun 25th** **All Saints Parish Church services 11.00am & 6.30pm.**
Benthams Footpath Group walk, family ramble, Ingleborough, 7 miles, leaders A. Dobson 61210 & J. Marshall. Meet at Lairgill/Ingleton car park, 10.30/10.45 am.
- Mon 26th** **All Saints Parish Church, Festival weekend continues 11.00am-7.00pm.**
- Tue 27th** **NSPCC Craven Branch Garden Party at Clearbeck House, Tatham, from 2.00pm. Raffle, cake and plant stall.**
Child Health Clinic at the Surgery, 2.00-4.00pm.
- Wed 28th** **3.30-7.00pm, "2000 - Make a Difference". Environment fair at Settle High School. All welcome.**
- Fri 30th** **Benthams News published.**
Age Concern, A Holiday in Russia, slides and talk.



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CHURCHES TOGETHER IN BENTHAM

By Judith Johnson

While I was on holiday visiting an Aunt in Cornwall she mentioned that her Church was part of a local Churches Together Group. There are many such small groups of Churches throughout the country just like our own local one in Bentham.

The Bentham group consists of St. Margaret's, St. John's, The Methodist Church and St. Boniface Roman Catholic Church. We have been together now for three years and have regular meetings where we plan events.

Sometimes these are special services for everyone such as Songs of Praise at Easter and Harvest, Christmas, the Civic Service and the Festival of Light in Autumn. Recently we had a New Year Family party and we are planning something special for Harvest in conjunction with the Looking Well.

The Church Lounge Tent at Bentham Show has become a regular feature and is organised through our Churches Together Group as is the carol singing at Bentham's Late Night Shopping evening in December.

Although the Churches Together Group has no income it can arrange events which are paid for by equal contributions from each church. At Christmas we bought and distributed a gospel to every household in Bentham to mark the Millennium.

In October 1999 we joined with nine other local churches to celebrate the millennium. Celebrate 99 will be remembered by many as a good example of cooperation which produced a memorable week of quizzes, concerts discussions, an exhibition and the week culminating in a joint service at Ingleton Community Centre.

The Churches Together Group hopes to bring Christianity more into the community and make it more accessible. We achieved this with our open air services on Palm Sunday and Good Friday and also by the publication of the Churches Together page in the Bentham News.

BENTHAM GOLF CLUB JUNIOR SECTION

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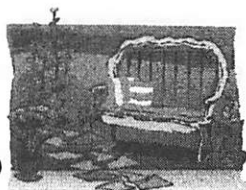
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THE DATED BUILDINGS OF BENTHAM

Over 130 date stones from the Bentham area are shown in the book. Purchase your copy of this new publication written by Emmeline Garnett and Margaret Green-Hughes at Bentham Town Hall on Wednesday 14th June 2000, between 10.00am and 1.00pm.

OPEN GARDENS NEWS

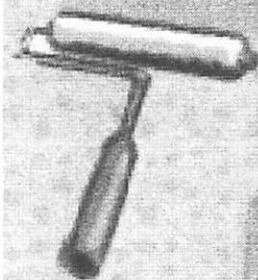
By S. Adams (NSPCC)



Plans are under way for the open garden event on 1st and 2nd July. Thanks to all those who have agreed to let us use their gardens for this fund raising occasion.

We have lost one or two gardens, but happily we also have some new ones. A full list of the gardens taking part will be available later in the month, when we hope to have details in Hash Browns, Fishers, Tooby's and the Tourist Information Centre. All these places have agreed to sell our tickets/programmes, which will be available after the middle of June. A full list of gardens, along with a more detailed map will be on display in Logo Labels window - watch that space! Programmes may also be bought at any of the participating gardens during the two days of the event.

It is not too late to offer your garden, if you contact 61182 or 62254 up to the end of the first week in June. Thank you all again for your continued support. The proceeds are in aid of the NSPCC and Christian Aid.



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BENTHAM IN THE 1930s contd

By Bateman Marshall

We are nearing the end of this series of reminiscences, and have now reached Wenning Avenue.

* Down Wenning Avenue was Wenning Silks, a busy mill which employed more people than Angus factory in the 1930s.

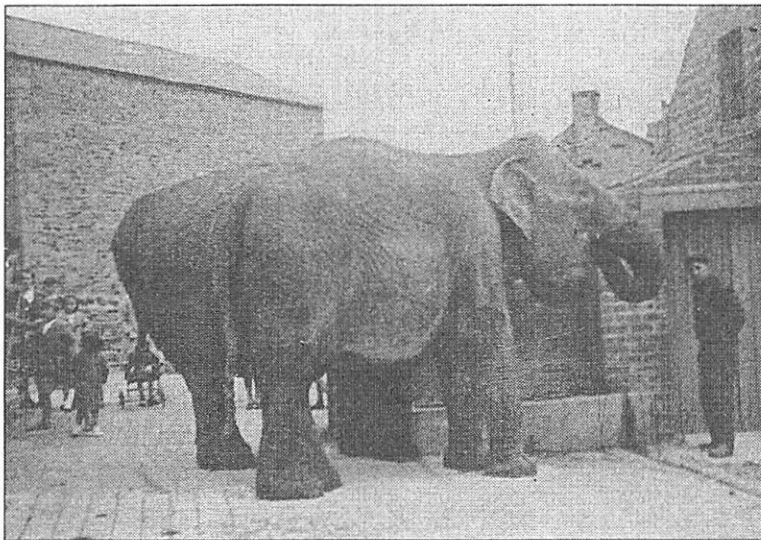
* At the corner of Mayfield Road there was a grocers and general store. This made a grand total of seven grocery shops in High Bentham and three in Low Bentham.

* Thackets Tar works was where Africa Link is now, and there was a pipe under the playing field to carry tar from the station to the Tar works.

* May 29th- Oak Bob Day - on this day you had to wear an oak leaf on your way to school or else you would be stung with a nettle. Whatever happened to this custom? And what happened to May Gosling on the 1st May - how many of you remember that? On All Fools Day, 1st April, you were supposed to send somebody somewhere, and on 1st May you made them look at something that wasn't there! And do the names Ums Tim, Johnny Colman, Nitty Whiskers Rates, Jumble Jenny and White Horse Whisky bring back memories to any of you?

* At least one circus used to visit Bentham each year, and there were some well-known circus names amongst them, such as Fossets and Roberts. They almost always stayed in the Horse and Farrier field. I well remember one circus where everything, including all

the wagons, was pulled by horses - there were 80 horses. The trouble was that there wasn't enough grazing for them all, so some grazed the road-sides and father put some in his field. As there was no water in the Horse and Farrier field, the horses would all come across into our farmyard to drink at the cattle trough. And it was not just horses, my photograph of elephants drinking in the yard is reproduced here. Circus people had a hard life. The circus only stayed one night. They'd arrive at lunch time, set up shop, erect the Big Top, give an afternoon performance around 5pm, another about 7pm, and by 11pm they'd pulled everything down and packed up ready to move off early next day.



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RAILWAY'S SESQUICENTENARY

By Jack Warbrick

150 years ago this month the last rail was laid to complete the line between Wennington and Clapham and make travel possible from Morecambe and Lancaster to Leeds and Bradford.

The occasion will be marked in a number of ways: the present train operator (Northern Spirit) will, we hope, provide some special travel offers; local councils are being invited to decorate their stations; schoolchildren in the area have been asked to paint railway pictures for display; and there will be a commemorative model railway exhibition at The Platform in Morecambe's former Promenade Station on 24th and 25th June. Hopefully all these efforts will promote interest in our railway line for it is something we ought to cherish and use.

There was certainly no lack of interest on the part of local communities in 1850. Like those French towns which recently

fought not to be left off the new high-speed cross-channel railway, towns like Benthams did not want to miss the opportunity, and the railway company, the so called "little" North Western, was keen to complete the east-west link. So keen were they, in fact, that while the Wennington-Clapham stretch of the line was being built, they introduced a horse-bus service connecting those two stations to enable people to make the full through journey, from Morecambe or Lancaster to Leeds. An early example of what is now called "bustitution"!

In 1966 the line suffered a blow under the notorious Beeching Plan when the Lune Valley stretch from Wennington to Lancaster via Hornby, Caton and Halton, was axed and trains were rerouted via Carnforth. In 1989 there were further threats to the line when extensive work required at Wennington Tunnel threw up the possibility of closure as a solution. The Lancaster and Skipton Rail User Group was formed at that time to campaign for the line, which stayed open but with a reduced service.

Continued on page 20.

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FOOTPATH MATTERS

By Maureen Ellis

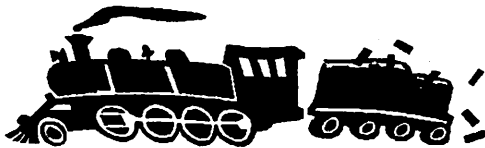
At the beginning of the year 2000, there were 71 paid up members of the Bentham Footpath Group (BFG). So far this year there have been two quarterly meetings when conservation work, a core consideration of active walkers, has been discussed. A problem is that we need more members to help with the actual work, and also to negotiate with landowners.

Waymarking has been another matter for discussion. The relevant authorities will only approve specially designated people to put up signs. Behind the scenes Bernard Ellershaw and Frank Royston have surveyed 79 footpaths around Bentham to find out where there are problems. This is a massive undertaking and one which those of us who just join the walks should really appreciate. Lack of funds for major repairs, such as the dangerous bridge over the river in Kingsdale, are often a problem.

Diversion of Footpaths is another problem area for discussion. Property development often leads to diversion of footpaths, and some of these changes do not go through the proper channels. When people buy a property adjacent to a right of way, it is a form of alienation and rejection of others to immediately try and distance everybody else. Such actions do not help the increasing polarisations in this country. There are several notable examples of traditional footpaths going right past isolated houses, where the owners have accepted a healthy link with the relatively few people that walk past.

On another positive note, the BFG has been approached by a representative of the Parkfoot Caravan Site, to liaise and share information about local footpaths. A small group from the committee will meet with caravanners' representatives to further this healthy link.

The next quarterly meeting is on Thursday July 13th at 7pm at the Town Hall. It is a members' open meeting, and all are encouraged to attend to share views and suggestions so that the group can continue to develop new ideas.



RAILWAYS....Continued from page 19

Since then LASRUG has worked to improve services, which have increased again in recent years.

There is now a distinct possibility that the present service of 5 trains per day each way will, after the next franchising round, be increased to 8, with connections to and from Windermere. If that is achieved, it would mean a better service than the line has enjoyed for decades, with a train that could be used as a commuter train, reaching Lancaster by about 8.30am and Morecambe before 9.00am, and a train returning from Leeds at about 6.15pm, allowing for more extensive day trips eastwards. We hope to bring you that good news shortly. Meanwhile, look out for and enjoy the celebrations. And don't go off the rails!

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GARDENING PAGE

By Barbara Harrison

By Dot Hughes



What a wonderful month May has been! Warm sunny days with scarcely a cloud in the sky and only the gentlest of breezes to ruffle the blossoms on the fruit trees. We hold our breath - is this really happening to us here in the north of England? Earlier in the month the damson, plum and cherry blossoms were spectacular, and latterly, the apple blossom has stolen the show. We look forward to a bumper harvest.

The soft fruit is doing well; strawberries flowering prolifically and the blackcurrants and gooseberries have both set fruit. In the vegetable garden potatoes, onions, shallots, garlic and brassicas have all got off to a good start - although a drop of rain would not come amiss!

The beech hedging has burst into leaf and, as the old leaves were pushed off by the new, it almost looked like autumn had returned. Hostas have survived the winter with the minimum of slug damage and their leaves are starting to unfurl; between them the purple alliums reach for the sky.

By the pond the gunnera is growing rapidly, providing shelter for the toads which are busy depositing spawn on the bog bean; at the shallow end of the pond hundreds of tadpoles are growing apace.

The big question is "will we go frostless into June?" Can we put out our hanging baskets, pot up our tubs and plant out half hardy annuals? Or should we err on the side of caution and wait? Let's just say that our cold frames are looking decidedly empty.

The plants in the garden, baskets, pots and tubs will be growing well now and having had an excellent early May, it has been a hard job to resist planting up too early. Having gone to all the trouble of doing the job let us not forget to deal with the "pests".

Slugs and snails have been waiting in the wings for a few tender morsels; they seem to get up very early and go to bed very late. No self-respecting slug would cross the road to eat the calendula (marigold) but they are very fond of hostas and a lot of summer bedding plants. There is a variety of products on the market to deal with this problem, pellets for scattering generally, a creme which can be squirted around the tops and sides of containers, and copper faced slug and snail tape. You stick this around containers and apparently it emits a small electric charge which repels the slugs and snails.

Some people drink beer while others leave it outside in shallow containers and presumably the snails die of alcoholic poisoning! A few folk will put salt on their tails but my favourite, although I have never brought myself to do it, is the old granny one, collecting snails rather like kebabs, using a long hat-pin! This last method might suit those of us who are frightened of the ill effects of chemicals on birds and pets.

Greenfly are rampant now so they will need treating regularly; there always seem to be many more greenfly than ladybirds.

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COFFEE AND CHAT

By Liz Whitfield



Beginning on Wednesday 7th June, High Bentham Methodist Schoolroom will be open from 10.00-11.30am every Wednesday for coffee and biscuits. Take a break from shopping, shelter from the rain, meet old friends and new; just drop in. There will be no charge but donations will be accepted, which will then be passed on to local charities.

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HELLO BENTHAM 14-17 YEAR OLDS

Craven YMCA has opened its Cellar Bar – called the Craven Cavern, in Skipton. The Cavern is an alcohol/drug free bar for 14-17 year olds and is open on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Fridays from 7.00-10.00 pm. We serve refreshments and provide music and videos in a friendly, relaxing environment. The Cellar is run by friendly, approachable youth workers who are there should you need advice and information (in confidence) or just to have a chat and a moan about your day!

We are providing a mini bus service (Free!!) every Wednesday evening, picking up at Bentham Auction Mart at 6.45pm and leaving at 9.00pm. to return to Bentham. This started on Wednesday 24th May. So if you are 14-17 years and fancy something different, why not take advantage of what we have to offer? For further information contact Julie or Terry on 01756 799595.

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BENTHAM PEOPLE

Thanks

Doreen and Bill Park would like to thank everyone who sent Doreen cards and letters during her stay in L.R.I. Special thanks to Margaret and Enoch Ashton, Frank and Margaret Bosman for transport, the members of High Bentham Methodist Church for prayers, especially the Rev. Norman Price for his visits.

From Jean Kaulbarsh (Hodgson). Special thanks to my family and friends for the beautiful flowers, cards and presents. Special thanks to Rosa and Betty and Dr. Clu for his devoted attention, and his colleagues in Intensive Care, and also to the staff of Ward 10, Victoria Hospital, Blackpool.

Mr. G. Titterington wishes to thank all volunteers who helped during the recent elections in the High and Low Bentham Ward, for District Councillor, particularly his agent, Mr. G. Hurtle, and not forgetting all the constituents who voted for him.

The NSPCC wishes to thank all who collected and contributed during the recent house to house collection, in High and Low Bentham, Burton-in-Lonsdale and Wray. A record £1085.38 was raised.

Age Concern thanks everyone for their support at the coffee morning, especially Sid Hogg for supplying the milk. More than £300 was raised.

For Sale

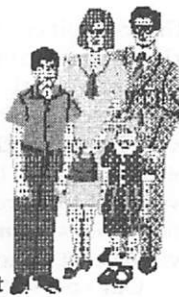
Horse manure for composting, 10 bags £4 delivered locally, 62176.

Wanted

Donations of electric cooker, fridge and large pans and utensils to stock Looking Well Cottage kitchen. Please contact Alison on 62672.

Lost

Lost in May. Spectacles, strong steel chrome frames, bi-focal lenses. Reward if found. Please call 015242 62457.



Writers Block

Creative writing workshop. Explore poetry, prose, dialogue. Barton Road Community Centre, Lancaster, Saturday 10th June, 10.00am-4.00pm. £15 (£10). Enquiries to 01524 792297.

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BENTHAM ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

By Bill Roy

At the May meeting the speaker was Mr. Chris Salisbury, an independent archaeologist from Kents Bank, Cumbria. His main field of research is human evolutionary processes and the Palaeolithic and Mesolithic of Northern England. His talk centred on the occupation of the northwest of England during and after the last Ice Age. The exhibit he brought along which intrigued members most was "Geoffrey", a Bronze Age human skull, thought to be female (he explained that the name came from the digger who found it and not that she was an early guest on the Jerry Springer show).

Members also signed up for the excavation training which is to take place with the grace of Mr. Andrew Easterby at his Ravensclose Farm, Wennington, on the last two weekends of this month. This is a forerunner of the Society's first dig. The initial dig will take place at the derelict cottage known as Dawsons Close, Bentham, thanks to the kind permission of the owner, Mr. John Sedgewick, and the tenant, Mr. Christopher French.

This dig is planned to start on 17th June and run for two weeks, and although we will never be excavating deeper than one metre, it is hoped that the finds unearthed will be able to add to the understanding of country life in the region over the past several hundred years. Members will encounter the full spectrum of open site excavation processes, which will include surveying, troweling, cleaning and recording of finds, and of course, ants, flies, wasps and anything else that is unpleasant about a dig!

Chris Salisbury was so impressed by the training schedule initiated by the society that he issued an open invitation to members of the society to take part in his excavations at Gleaston, Cumbria, (a site of archaeologically national importance) this summer.

The committee was pleased to welcome visitors from our neighbouring archaeological society, Ingleborough Archaeological and History Society, and we were pleased with their feedback at the end of the meeting. Ideas of joint co-operation were put forward. These will be discussed more fully at committee level and members will be kept up to date with progress.

Our next speaker will be Mr. Ian White, an ex-Benthamite, who is a postgraduate researcher at the University of Bradford, and a cave archaeologist.

Finally may the committee reiterate that the society is open to people of all ages, and that all are welcome, irrespective of any form of disability (flies and ants don't care who they bite). If you are interested please contact either Bill Duncan (Chairman), 62005 or Bill Roy on 62470.

RAFFLE PRESENTATION AT SPAR

By Mrs. A. Carter

Mrs. Julie Mountain, Customer Advisor for Video Box Office, based in Peterborough, visited the Bentham Spar on Tuesday 16th May and presented Mrs. D. Tickner with a Phillips 710DVD Player.

Mrs. A. Carter, Manager, and Mrs. J. Houghton, Assistant Manager, were also present to congratulate Mrs. Tickner, on behalf of Bentham Spar.

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THE BRADFORD BIG WALK

By Len Moody

On Friday 23rd June, its 20th day, the Big Walk, organised by the Christian Diocese of Bradford (Anglican), will be taking place in the western part of the diocese. The outline timetable for the day is:

10.00 Depart St. Oswald's, Thornton-in-Lonsdale

13.00 Depart All Saint's, Burton-in-Lonsdale

16.00 Depart St John's, Low Bentham

17.00 Depart St Margaret's, High Bentham

20.30 Arrive St James', Clapham.

Each parish named is responsible for organising and leading in its own area. It is expected that those taking part may include walkers undertaking the whole walk or a substantial part of it, and local walkers, walking all or part of the walk in their area.

Such an event, as an act of witness for the Millennium, has not been attempted before. The organisation involved is considerable, and weather conditions will be critical. However, this will be a great opportunity for residents and visitors to improve their knowledge of the area in intimate detail. Walkers should make their own arrangements for getting to each starting point, and for getting home when they have done their bit.

The routes expected to be followed in the Bentham area are follows:

From St John's (1600) through the village centre, along the main road (with a good footpath) to High Bentham as far as the Black Bull, site of the former Cross, and along Station Road to St. Margaret's.

From St Margaret's (1700) through well maintained field paths, passing a series of ancient, and active farmsteads, including Ridding Lane, Linghaw, Waterscale, Meregill, Old Butt, Upper Hardacre, High Hazel Hall Farm, to Clapham Station, and then up to the centre of Clapham, across the Making Footbridge, up the Green to Clapham Cross and on up to St James' Church.

JUNIOR GOLF REPORT

By A. Chappell

Bentham girls again lead the way in Lancashire girls' events. Esther Coates and Lisa Stephenson were both second in their handicap divisions at Royal Lytham and St. Annes golf club recently.

They were both again in the prizes at the next meeting at Southport and Ainsdale golf club. Esther won the prize for best gross score and Lisa won the stableford event with 46 points. These two results have seen Lisa cut her handicap by 10 shots, from 40 to 30. The Oakroyd Bakery Junior Golfer of the Year table is now as follows:-

Lisa Stephenson - 22; William Davis - 10; James Preston - 9; Andrew Earnshaw - 8; Robert Coates - 8; Tom Earnshaw - 7.

The junior committee would like to thank the mothers who organised the bingo night which raised over £200 for junior funds. The next social function will be a car treasure hunt on Friday 23rd June. Look out for the posters for more details.

Anita Corless

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HISTORY OF THE BENTHAMS' EXHIBITION

By Peter Phillips

I was privileged to help out recently at the History Exhibition held at the Town Hall over the Easter weekend.

Organised through the Millennium Committee, the enthusiastic response of local people was rewarded by the interest shown by the many people who attended, some coming two or more times to find out a little more of their Town's history.

The weather was very good and an estimated twelve hundred or so came through the doors to view what I thought a quite exceptional exhibition. Certainly all the people to whom I spoke were full of praise and said how much they enjoyed it.

The amount of information available was quite astonishing. Of particular interest to local people were the old school and sports team photographs and I noticed many names being added to the blank spaces underneath as faces from many years ago were recognised. The oral histories were being listened to as people had tea and biscuits and everyone spent time looking through the albums of photos to find their own house or farm.

For me as an "incomer" (only three and a half years here!), things of particularly interest were; the histories of Angus Fire and the Mills; the old maps compared with the new, showing the growth of the Benthams, and listening to the oral histories.

As was stated in the Bentham News, it is intended to record all the photos on compact disc. The voluntary contributions at the door added to the grants already received have covered the cost. There would have been a surplus had it not been for the dreaded V.A.T.!!

Thanks must go to the organisers, to David Johnson who provided much of the material, Margaret Hayton and all people who helped and brought documents, photos and mementoes, which helped to add a bit more to our knowledge of the town in which we live. If the exhibition whetted your appetite to delve further into our history you may like to know that much of the material on display is held at Bentham Library in the Local History Unit. It is on reference for you to use.

MEALS ON WHEELS

The contact number for Meals on Wheels in the Millennium Directory is wrong. Please amend it to 61083 in your copy of the Directory.

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TRANSPORT SURVEY

By Giles Bond

You may remember the transport survey distributed with the March Bentham News. The aim of the survey was to establish the transport needs of Bentham people. Most of the survey work has been completed but a few groups have yet to be consulted. When this is done the final report will be prepared. It will use evidence from the survey to advocate the setting up of new community based transport services, which aim to benefit those in the community who are currently experiencing difficulties in accessing services and facilities.

Returns show that 18% of people rarely or never have a car available to them. 66% of these people would like to have the opportunity to travel to fairly local places which are difficult or impossible to travel to by public transport. Such difficulties include accessing the dentist in Settle and getting back from after school activities.

The survey has also caused some local people to make important points about the effect that new transport schemes may have on Bentham traders and existing transport operators. So when planning new services, their effect on the local economy will be carefully considered, and where possible local operators will be given the opportunity to run the services.

A public meeting will be held in the Town Hall at 7.30pm on Wednesday 28th June, when the results of the survey will be given in more detail. The meeting will also act as the final consultation with local people before a draft version of the report is

written. If you wish to highlight any issues relating to this survey, please attend the meeting. The final report will be submitted to Craven District Transport Partnership, which has access to £250,000 to help local communities develop community based transport schemes.

RESIDENTS OF LOW BENTHAM

By Gill Ware

Have you heard of "The Friends of Low Bentham Primary School"? Did you know that this charity exists to support your local primary school? So what do we do? We raise funds to provide extras such as a wild life area, play equipment and celebrations. But we are a small school - only 31 families. We need you. If you have a spare hour or two and would like to help, then please call and have a chat with one of our committee members listed here. Gill Ware - 61925; Wendy Tomlinson - 61969; Doth Edmondson - 62197; Michaela Houldsworth - 62919; Karen Allsopp - 61764.

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For small advertisements or notices on the Bentham People Page, Personal Thanks, Thanks, Birthdays etc, 10p per word. For Sale, Wanted, Situations Vacant etc. 20p per word.

To place an advertisement in the Bentham News contact Bill Kennedy on 62492.



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Have you ever wanted to put something in BN and not been sure how to do it?

The aim of the BN is to serve the community. BN is only as good as its contents, and we are committed to ensuring that as many of our readers as possible are represented in its pages. Sometimes we make mistakes. We would ask anyone who is not happy about something we've done to let us know. If we don't know we can't explain or put it right. So to clarify the situation, and to inform you about some new procedures we are putting in place, here are some facts:

Who?

Anyone can put something in BN.

What?

Nothing libellous or malicious will get in.

How long?

We reserve the right to edit items, and where possible will check back with contributors if the changes are substantial.

What if I don't want my name in print?

We will withhold names on request, but names must accompany any items for inclusion.

How much?

It's free, unless it's an advertisement or a notice on the People Page. For advertising rates see the box on this page.

Where?

The collecting point is Bentham Sports Shop in Station Road. Items handed in here will go into a BN file, and to ensure that both you and we can check what has been collected, you will be asked to sign in your contribution. If you submit something in any other way, either by phone or by handing it to a committee member there is a possibility that it will slip through the net.

When?

The deadline for each BN is the 15th of the previous month. Late entries may be accepted at the discretion of the editorial committee, and where space allows.