



A WONDERFUL WEEKEND FOR GARDEN ENTHUSIASTS

BENTHAM'S OPEN GARDENS 1ST & 2ND JULY

By Sue Adams

Bentham's Open Gardens weekend, 1st and 2nd July, (proceeds to NSPCC and Christian Aid), is here. We thank all the gardeners for their support, and hope for a fine weekend. The following listed gardens will be open from 1.00pm - 6.00pm unless otherwise stated.

◆ 1. Mr. & Mrs. Brayshaw, 48 Lakeber Avenue, High Bentham.

◆ 2. Mr. & Mrs. Tomlinson, 15 Lakeber Avenue, High Bentham.

◆ 3. Mr. & Mrs. T. Close, 10 Lakeber Avenue, High Bentham.

◆ 4. Mr. & Mrs. A. Leak, 32 Lakeber Drive, High Bentham.

◆ 5. Mr. & Mrs. J. Wylie, Chez Tor, 38 Robin Lane, High Bentham. Stall, Saturday only.

◆ 6. Mr. & Mrs. Jessop, Hilary Mount, Robin Lane, High Bentham. Sunday only.

◆ 7. Mr. & Mrs B. Preston, Esthwaite, Police Yard, Main Street, High Bentham. 5pm close Saturday. Stall.

◆ 8. Mr. & Mrs. Atkinson, Parkinson Farm, Main Street, High Bentham. Refreshments, Plant Stall.

◆ 9. Mr. & Mrs. Oldfield, 77 Main Street, High Bentham. Refreshments.

◆ 10. Mr. & Mrs. T. Davis, Moneybent, Station Road, High Bentham.

◆ 11. Mr. & Mrs. W. Joel, 24 Station Road, High Bentham. 5pm close Sunday.

◆ 12. Mrs. Moorby, 8 Hillcroft, High Bentham.

◆ 13. Mrs. A. Lynn, 8 Springfield Crescent, High Bentham.

◆ 14. Mr. & Mrs. Harrison, 24 Pye Busk Close, High Bentham.

◆ 15. Mr. D. St. Pierre, Tennant House, Clapham Road, High Bentham. WC available.

◆ 16. Mr. & Mrs. B. Smith, Millers Green, Mewith, (Lifts available from Parkinson Farm, No 8, please ask) Refreshments.

◆ 17. Mr. & Mrs. J. Fletcher, Branstone Beck, Lane Foot, High Bentham.

◆ 18. Mrs. B. Parkinson, Branstone Beck House, Lane Foot, High Bentham. Stall.

◆ 19. Mr. & Mrs. W. Foster, Hazelwood, Summerhill, High Bentham. Sunday only.

◆ 20. Mrs. Frankland, Tamara, Low Bentham Road.

◆ 21. Mrs. M. Andrews, Greystones, Low Bentham Road.

The Houses in Low Bentham Nos 22-26 are open on Sunday only.

◆ 22. Mr. & Mrs. Winnery, 12 Greenfoot, Low Bentham. Close 4.30pm.

◆ 23. Mr. & Mrs D. Johnson, Hollygill, Doctors Hill, Low Bentham.

◆ 24. Mr. & Mrs. S Hogg, Yew Tree Drive, Doctors Hill, Low Bentham. Ice Cream. Close 5pm.

◆ 25. Mr. & Mrs. D. Stephenson, Calf Cop Farm, Burton Road, Low Bentham.

◆ 26. Calf Cop Meeting House, Burton Road, Low Bentham. (By kind permission of the Society of Friends)

LOW BENTHAM W.I.

By Jennifer Watkinson

Bob Kitchen, from Butlers Cheese Making Company, was welcomed by the president, Mrs. Christine Jennings, when he came to give a very interesting and amusing talk about the magic of cheese making. He brought with him his mobile cheese making equipment, which he used to turn a gallon of milk into a pound of cheese. Whilst he was working he explained the different cultures used to make different regional cheeses, the packaging and shelf life of cheese. There is 85% waste in the process, but the whey is used in the production of biscuits. The competition winners for a cheese knife were; 1st - Mrs. Sylvia Brennand, 2nd - Mrs. Jennifer Watkinson and 3rd - Mrs. Joan Gilroy.

Resolutions were discussed with most members supporting them. Mrs. Sylvia Brennand was our delegate at the well publicised meeting at Wembley, where further discussion took place.

Two teams of four had great fun trying to solve the tantalizing clues when they participated in the annual treasure hunt which this year was hosted by Giggleswick W.I.

At the recent coffee morning £200 was raised. The next meeting will be on the 20th July when Mr. W.R. Mitchell will talk on "Dales Folk".

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JUNE TOWN COUNCIL REPORT

By David Johnson

All the Cllrs. attended except Cllr. Woof. District Cllr. Pilkington attended but County Cllr. Ireton was absent.

There was no police presence but a copy of their service plan for 2000-2001 was available. They plan to target illegal parking, speeding and vehicle related crime.

Low Bentham News

The lease has been signed for Low Bentham Playing Field. Low Bentham W. I. wrote to request lighting in Low Bentham Car Park. The new parking restrictions have forced the ladies to use the Car Park but they find it uncomfortably dark in winter. The request was received sympathetically but Cllr. Pilkington thought the District Council would probably not wish to install lights because the lease will expire shortly.

The W.I. also asked if the recycling bank could be sited at the other end of the car park to create more parking in the illuminated area. Cllr. Pilkington said he thought they were placed there because, otherwise, they would restrict access to land at the other end of the car park.

Area Matters

The reports revealed plans for Funding Group Meetings to offer advice about sources of finance for projects by voluntary bodies. Bearing in mind future traffic calming plans the Council will try to persuade an official to attend a Council meeting prior to the review. If you would

use the mobile dentist scheme you must use the mobile dentist scheme you must write and make your views known. See Lin at the Trust Office for help.

What A Mess!

The entire Council was dissatisfied with the implementation of a community service order to eradicate graffiti from under Wenning Bridge. They thought it was poorly supervised and ineffective. They were also irritated by graffiti appearing in the archways leading to the car park. They are also becoming impatient with Yorkshire Water's excavation near the car park entrance on Grasmere Drive. (If it remains much longer it could acquire listed hole status!)

The Mayor and the entire Council aimed a well-deserved broadside at those who hired Bentham Town Hall on 13th May. They had left an appalling mess making it very difficult for the Blood Donors to start at 9.00 a.m. the following day.

As there has been no response to the Clerk's letter (and bill covering additional cleaning) the Cllrs. resolved to write to the hirer threatening legal steps if there was no response within a week. The Cllrs also decided to re-examine their letting policy in the light of this event.

Well Done Bentham!

Three major projects, which have been the subject of considerable Council, Trust and community effort for several years, are all coming to fruition.

The cemetery improvements are making good progress, the School Hill project is nearing completion with an opening ceremony in July and finally the Black Bull Car Park is about finished. Everybody agreed the latter was a major improvement. As the ground level has been raised the Cllrs. felt they should write to the Auction Mart Company and Thwaites about the danger of children climbing onto the Auction Mart roof. The eaves are now only a couple of feet from the ground.

Finally, Cllr. Heigh congratulated everyone who had organised, worked and helped with the Gala. It had been a great success.

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BENTHAM IN THE 1930s

By Bateman Marshall

THE FAIR, with the same families then as now, came twice a year to the Horse and Farrier field, once for the June Hiring Fair and once for Bentham Show. It had dodgems, was bigger and much better supported than now - everybody went. For the Hiring Fair on 22nd June, the place was full of Irishmen, and we locked the barn doors to stop them sleeping in the barns. Drink flowed that day and we used to rush back from school to look for any fights. They hired themselves out to farmers for the month for £10 and their keep, and if the weather was poor the hay-time month came and went without any hay being housed, and then the farmer would have to negotiate another month. At the same time the lanes and spare bits of grass were the home of the gypsies and their numerous horses. I have seen 90 horses stood around School Hill. There were some rough characters around, but they were also entertaining.

TENNIS: In the 1930s Bentham supported five grass tennis courts which were all cut by hand as there were no power mowers. There was the Quaker court down Low Bentham Road, St Margaret's in front of the vicarage, another against the bowling green, one at Moulterbeck Farm and a private court behind Felstead. The hard court at the top of Goodenber Road came into being about the end of the 1930s. The summers must have been better in those days.

LOTS OF FIRSTS: John Wildman (Bernard's father's) shop was the first to install an electric fridge, before that he brought ice from Lancaster twice weekly to keep his meat fresh in summer. He also installed the first fluorescent light in Bentham. My father put the first bottled milk on the streets of Bentham. He also put the first pneumatic tyres on a horse-drawn cart, put electricity in the farm buildings and installed drinking bowls for the cattle.

Previously they were let out twice daily to drink at a trough.

BENTHAM SHOW was held, as it is now, on the first Saturday in September. Cattle were driven to the show field, and, apart from Dairy Shorthorns being replaced by Friesians, little has really changed. FARMING has been transformed since the 1930s when most farms kept a bit of everything, hens, pigs, turkeys, geese, sheep and cattle. The following farms and smallholdings, which, pre-war, provided a living for their occupants and often some staff too, are no longer being farmed as separate units: Todhill, Moulterbeck, High Bottom, Low Bottom, Belle Vue, Coal Pit Close, Kirkbeck, Punch Bowl, Home Farm, West End, Town End, Green Head, Calf Cop, Fourlands, Ellergill, Longlands, Sandy Hill, The Grange, Seat Hall, both Hill Tops, Bigber, Streakbers, Thorner and now Ghyll Head. These were our immediate neighbours, but a similar picture would emerge if I were to list farms in the whole Bentham area. I myself was forced to diversify in the 1960s. By today's standards, farming in the 1930s was very primitive. Everything was done by hand, cows milked, loose hay carried in armfuls, muck wheeled away by barrow and put in a heap, then loaded on to a horse cart, set out in heaps in the field 7 yards apart each way, then spread by fork. It was a great relief when the cows went out to grass in the spring. Hay time was equally stressful, although the grass was cut by machines, usually pulled by two horses. Weather forecasting was almost non-existent, and many is the time I remember father and perhaps 6 or more helpers spending most of the day shaking and turning hay and getting it ready for carting, when down came the rain. It all had to be done again days later. The arrival of the Milk Marketing Board in the 1930s was a tremendous help to many small farmers as it assured them of a market. Many gave up
(continued on page 8)

CRAVEN DISTRICT COUNCIL MATTERS

By Councillor John Pilkington

Council Housing - Review of management

As part of the Best Value programme for 2000 the Council is reviewing the management of all its Council houses. Government requires Councils to review options for ownership of its houses. A stock condition survey in 1997 identified that about £10 million needs to be spent in the next ten years to bring them up to standard. For many years the Council tried to get the right balance between affordable rent rises and the amount that could be spent on repairs and improvements. In more recent years, however, the Government has set guidelines on how much rent can be increased, and that has limited the amount that has been spent on major repairs and improvements. With a shortfall of £480,000 a year something has to be done to make sure that the necessary work is carried out.

From April next year the method by which the Council funds major repairs and improvements, will be changed by the Government. Although the exact details are not yet known, it is likely that Craven will benefit from the change. Even so, there is still likely to be a shortfall of over £300,000 a year. A report by housing consultants Chapman Hendy Associates, suggests that if the Council transferred the houses to a new landlord, such as a Housing Association, all the repairs could be done and the rents remain affordable. A newsletter has been sent to all council tenants, explaining the situation. There will be a special meeting of the Policy & Resources Committee at Gargrave on July 10th and a Special Council Meeting in Skipton Town Hall on July 19th. At these meetings the Council will have to decide whether to begin a process which may lead to the transfer of the houses to another landlord or find some other method of raising the money required for improvements and repairs. Transfer to another landlord cannot take place without the agreement of a majority of tenants and a ballot would have to be held. Before such

a ballot, the Council would appoint an independent advisor for tenants who would make sure that the issues were properly explained and understood.

For the last ten years there has been under funding by Central Government, not just in Craven, but throughout the country. Last year the Council paid out £2,036,377 in rent rebates to Council tenants but only received £661,517 from the Government - a shortfall of £1,374,860. Since 1990 the total shortfall has been over £7 million. Housing Associations and private landlords are not affected in this way because there is a slightly different system for paying Housing Benefit to their tenants.

Recent Planning Applications

15/2000/397 Mr & Mrs C Briscoe, 4 Waterside Potteries, Burton-in-Lonsdale, Carnforth, LA6.3 Proposed extension to provide ancillary accommodation.

08/2000/428 Bentham Playing Fields Association, c/o Mr J Guy, 9 Goodenber Crescent, High Bentham. Renewal of extant planning permission (decision no. 5/8/577) for proposed new storage, changing, washing and toilet facilities; re-siting of existing double garage; and extension of existing car park at Wenning Avenue.

08/200447 Mr & Mrs A Braddon, 26 Pye Busk Close, High Bentham, LA2 7BG. Extension to form study, enlarge bedroom, and add new porch/entrance, with internal alterations and new lean-to garden store.

08/2000/457 Mr & Mrs P Swales, Bull Copy, Tatterthorn Road, High Bentham, LA2 7AJ. Three additional windows - one to roadside elevation and two to south west elevation.

08/2000/472 Mrs Conking, 3 Moonsacre, Low Bentham Road, High Bentham, LA2 7BP. Construction of conservatory.

08/2000/474 Mr & Mrs G Parker, c/o Greenbank, Summerhill, High Bentham, LA2 7LT. Construction of extension and new dwelling attached at 2 Hillside Road, Low Bentham.

08/2000/488 Mr P Nicholson, Summerfield House, Kirkby Lonsdale, LA6 2HP. Construction of conservatory at Battersby's farm, Mewith, High Bentham.

MICHAEL WRIGHT ON A.R.C. SPONSORED WALK

By Bernard Williams

Michael Wright, Michael Marshall and Len Moody took part in the Arthritis & Rheumatism Council sponsored walk recently. I am happy to report that Michael Wright completed the course. Michael Marshall's effort took him as far as Austwick (18 miles) and Len Moody retired early so that he could complete his Christian Aid collection (or that is what he said!).

Although the walk was originally considered to be 25/26 miles, we believe that Michael Wright covered at least 30 miles. My calculation and timing was way out. Sorry Michael.

Many thanks to all who helped in any way, to those who manned the refreshment stages and to those who pledged money towards this charity. The amount received will be announced at a later date.

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KIDS STRESSING YOU OUT?

By Rachel Frost

Come and see what's to do at Low Bentham Playgroup. We have ways to help you unwind as you play with your children in a relaxed and stimulating setting.

Art, music, games and toys are all on offer, plus a chance to get to know other mums - there is always someone around who's been there and understands the stresses and strains of looking after kids. We have grandparents who join us, and more would be very welcome, as are dads, childminders, aunts and everyone else who looks after children. We are a very friendly group!

Many happy memories can be gained by involvement with your local playgroup, so don't sit at home going mad, come out and enjoy yourself. Sessions run from 9.45-11.45am on Mondays and Thursdays at the Victoria Institute. For further details contact Rachel on 62788. See you there!

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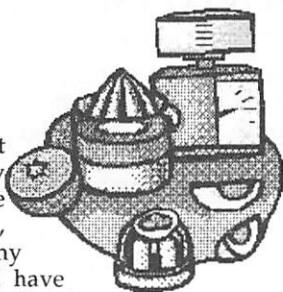
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RECIPE PAGE

By Doreen Park

Having quite a lot of time on my hands at the moment, recovering from my knee operation, I have been going through some of the old recipe books given to me by the ladies of the Sue Ryder shop, and here are two that appealed to me.



SPICY BACON CHOPS IN CIDER

- 4 bacon chops, without rind
- 4ozs mushrooms
- ½ oz sultanas
- 2ozs demerara sugar
- 1 level teaspoon dry mustard
- ¼ level teaspoon grated nutmeg
- ¼ level teaspoon ground cinnamon
- 1 level tablespoon cornflour
- ¼ pint dry cider
- Bay leaf

Put the chops side by side in a large ovenproof dish. Cover with the mushrooms and sprinkle the sultanas over. Mix the sugar, mustard, spices and cornflour together and stir into the cider until smooth. Pour this liquid over the chops and add the bay leaf. Cover the dish and bake at 180C, 350F, gas mark 4, for 30 minutes.

FROIZE or FRAISE

This is a very old English recipe. It is said that the name comes from the sound made by the frying onions and bacon - a FRIZZLE!! This amount is enough for one large pancake - but you can make as many as you like!

For the Pancake Batter:

- 4ozs plain flour
- Salt
- 1 egg - beaten
- ½ pint mixed milk and water

Sift the flour and salt into a bowl. Make a hollow in the middle and pour in the beaten egg. Gradually add the milk/water mix, stirring all the time.

- Onion - skinned and chopped small
- Bacon rashers, rind removed and diced
- Apple - peeled, cored and sliced
- Bacon fat or lard for frying

Fry (or 'frizzle') the onions and bacon in a little bacon fat or lard. Then add the apple and cook until all the ingredients are soft. Pour the pancake batter over and continue to cook until the underside is brown. Then turn the pancake over to cook the other side. This can be served flat or rolled up.

As a postscript, I would like to express my very grateful thanks to all the ladies who have arrived at my door bearing apple pies, cakes, scones etc. during my period of immobility. Bill also adds his thanks!!

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SCAD TRANSPORT SERVICE

By David Carter

In April 1999 SCAD launched its transport service in the North Craven area. Since then, people with problems travelling by public transport have been enabled to regain some independence. We have a new Renault Master, purchased with Lottery Funding, for use in Settle, Ingleton and Bentham. Our mini-buses are also fully accessible to wheelchair users, to those with mental health problems or learning difficulties. We know how isolated people with mobility problems can feel. Our aim is to provide the facility to travel freely to the shops, to the theatre or cinema, to group activities or further afield. We will happily bring one of our mini-buses to your home, if you wish to see how it operates or if you would like further information, please ring David Carter on 01756 791522, or write to SCAD Transport, 46-48 Newmarket Street, Skipton, BD23 2JB.

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BENTHAM IN THE 30's

(Continued from page 4)

butter making and sold their milk. GERMAN SPY PLANE? I remember an air circus coming to Slinger's Holme. They charged 5 shillings (25p) for a ride in a Tiger Moth. And I wonder how many of you remember the German airship Hindenburg passing over Bentham prewar? Some people said it was on a spying mission to photograph Geo Angus factory just before the war. A final memory: the royal train stopped at Bentham station in the early 1930s and all the children went down to see Queen Mary, who got out onto the platform to greet them.

Author's note: As this is my last article in this series, may I thank you all for bearing with me over the last months, and I hope I've stirred a few memories.

Editor's note: We would like to thank Bateman for this series of articles, which have been extremely popular with many of our readers.

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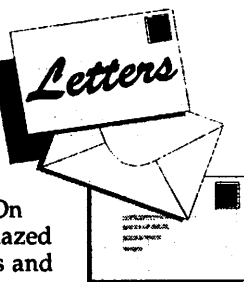
Dear Editor,

When my daughters and I left "Wild Wales" for Bentham (on what shall forever be called) "Bug Weekend", we did not know what was in store for us! On arrival we were amazed by the numerous bugs and viruses on display; we were impressed by the amount of sincere participation; we admired the creativity of children and adults, all working together.

What a super day! The sun shone and we were all spellbound by the many Bentham Bugs and Buglets. Compliments to the Beavers for their mums' wonderful cakes, and to all the people involved in the festivities. A special mention for the Pet Rescue stall is merited and also to Corio Raptor. We greatly enjoyed seeing the owls, hearing all about them and how they were rescued. These people work tirelessly to save birds of prey and rely on days such as this for their fund-raising. Good luck to them!

So, we'd just like to say "thank you all for bewitching us with Bugs in Bentham and thanks to the Gala organisers". It was great.

Yours faithfully,
Elaine Thomas.



Surely a diverted accessible path is better than the traditional deterrent of chest high nettles and a bull in the field, however acceptable that is to traditionalists.

Yours sincerely,
Marie Jackson.

Dear Editor,

To the driver who killed our cat on the Ireby Road, Burton-in-Lonsdale, on Wednesday 31st May last, the maximum speed limit along this road up to the end of the houses is 30mph.

For those who cannot respect this, just think the next time you ignore this fact, it could be a child, not an animal, that appears in front of you, and who, unlike you, does not understand the dangers of the road. Obviously if it were a child that you had killed, you would get your just punishment and we might get the powers that be to actually sit up and take action to slow down bad drivers.

P. Roberts.

Dear Editor,

I was surprised to read Mrs. Ellis's Footpath Matters and her naive comments regarding diverting footpaths. Householders trying to protect their own privacy and more importantly security, should not be castigated as enemies of society. Rural policing is a political hot potato, with newspapers eager to inform the rest of the public how threatened people feel in more isolated places. Bona fide walkers are not the only people interested in access adjacent to, and even via, other people's homes. As to polarisation of society, what are these poles? Haves versus have nots? New socialists versus old conservatives?

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HOME-MAIDS UNLIMITED

By Shirley Brown

The half page ad in last month's Bentham News attracted a lot of interest, so I was curious to find out more about the ideas behind Home-Maids Unlimited, a new business for Bentham, launched in May 2000. The business idea came out of a conversation between two friends discussing which household tasks each either liked or disliked. They discovered, not surprisingly, that people hate some jobs more than others, and that between them they had all the skills required to run a very successful home; cleaning, cooking, ironing, washing, shopping and so on. So, why not use these skills to help others who for various reasons can't do it all for themselves?

The business partners are Wendy Lee and Sue Lloyd. Wendy has, until this new venture, been a joint partner with her sister at the Sun Dial in Low Bentham. She will continue doing some relief work there but is putting all her energies into this new business venture. Sue has also owned a pub, in Rochdale, but left there in September 1997, because after 12 years she felt she'd "had enough". Both Wendy and Sue feel that their pub experience has taught them many lessons which they feel will be valuable for the new business, in particular the vital importance of good, reliable, trustworthy staff, who work to high standards.

Wendy and Sue have got certificates of basic hygiene, have taken out public liability insurance and have checked

regulations with the public health department. What interested me particularly was that they also have a confidentiality contract with their clients. An awareness of the importance of privacy is often underrated but seems to be a vital component of a service as personal as this.

Home-Maids Unlimited describes itself as an all-in-one home service concept, with the slogan 'we make time for all our clients'. If you are too busy, too tired, are recovering from illness, are incapacitated by an injury, value your leisure time, then Wendy and Sue might be able to help. They will cook, clean, wash, iron, shop, make beds, walk dogs...the list is endless. And if there's additional cooking required, then Wendy's other company 'On-Site Catering' could also help out. They provide their own cleaning materials, will work in private homes or commercial properties, will come on the spur of the moment or planned well ahead and will do jobs on a one-off basis or as a regular commitment. Another of their ideas is to offer gift tokens, because 'A Spring-Clean' or 'A Month's Ironing', for example, could make an unusual and welcome present for someone you care about.

Wendy and Sue feel strongly that their service is often a necessity and not a luxury or a self-indulgence. They are proud to be offering not just a wide range of services but also a guarantee of high standards. This career move for two local women could be good news for our community. They are optimistic, enthusiastic and confident of success, and we wish them well.



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150 YEARS OF BENTHAM'S RAILWAY

By John Bearpark

Timetable Changes

Major engineering works are taking place at Leeds Station. Four new platforms are being built, a new roof, and a new footbridge with escalators to replace that awful subway. Two new tracks are being provided at the western approaches (i.e. from Bentham). Taken together, these improvements will mean a much pleasanter station to use, and more reliable train running. However, while the work is under way there will be some disruption to services, and from 23rd July this will mean changes to the times of certain trains from Bentham in the Leeds direction.

Times from Bentham to Leeds at present are:

Mondays to Fridays - 7.40, 11.07, 13.39, 17.33, 19.52.

Saturdays - 8.41, 11.07, 13.39, 17.33, 19.52.

Sundays - 13.12, 15.20, 18.23, 20.39.

From 23rd July the times will be:

Mondays to Fridays - 7.40, 10.56, 13.59, 17.33, 19.52.

Saturdays - 8.34, 10.56, 13.59, 17.33, 19.52.

Sundays - 13.12, 15.20, 18.23, 20.39.

Times from Bentham to Lancaster are as follows:

Mondays to Fridays - 6.11, 9.33, 11.33, 15.33, 18.06.

Saturdays - 7.18, 9.33, 11.33, 15.33, 18.06.

Sundays - 9.47 (9.52 till July 16) 12.11, 16.16, 18.16.

These times apply until 23rd September - we will let you know of changes then.

Anniversary Celebrations

We are grateful to the children of local schools for their lovely pictures, to the Looking Well for captions and to Tom Guy and Bernard Wildman for letting us display the pictures in their windows. Thanks to the Town Council for agreeing to decorate the station, to Low Bentham Gala for the loan of bunting, and to Tim Stannard for putting it up. LASRUG has commissioned Gill Barron to design a memorial plaque. It should be in place soon.

ANIMAL RESCUE DRAMA AT GROVE HILL

When John Hewitt's family went to buy a hamster from Lancaster market for his 10th birthday, they didn't realise quite what an exciting time they were going to have. The hamster was put safely into a cardboard box in the car for the return journey to Bentham. The family stopped off to do some shopping on the way home. When they got back to the car, the hamster was nowhere to be found. It had chewed its way out of the box, and there was a strange scratching sound coming from behind the dashboard. Where exactly was it? Would it chew through the wiring? Was it safe? And more to the point, were the people safe? The family drove anxiously to Grove Hill Garage, where Phil Wright helped by four mechanics set to work. After a half hour's search, involving taking off the dashboard and the driver's side door, they eventually recovered the adventurous little animal, unharmed. John now has two hamsters, and he's called them 'Lost' and 'Found'.

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BENTHAM.NET IS ONLINE!

By Ian Harrison

Bentham has finally got its own community website! Taking a few months in development, a team including Andrew Armstrong from Tooby's Ltd, Bill Kennedy, Danny Kay and me, Ian Harrison, has put together a site that is hopefully going to be of interest to local people across a wide age range, and also, people farther away.

The website uses new technologies to help make it more interactive. An example is the Classifieds page; from here you can add any item that you wish to sell or simply browse through what other people have on offer. On the page, there is a list of names, phone numbers and the items wanted or for sale. Whatever you add, you can guarantee that you'll have more than just Bentham News readers browsing the site! Another element of the site is the chat rooms and message boards - so get online and have a gossip.

One of the most useful additions to the site is the free WebMail facility, enabling anybody to log on and register to get a free email address, looking something like yourname@bentham.every1.net.

Some pages need more content, so if you feel you can add something to them, just email enquiry@bentham.net with your suggestions or ideas. There is also a fully listed Business Directory, which is searchable by name, keyword or categories - if your business isn't listed, you can add it to the directory very simply by filling in the online form.

We intend to include pages for prospective visitors, such as an accommodation list, details of local attractions, things to do, etc. So the site will continue to be developed for some time, and will be regularly updated.

If anyone has any requests for more pages regarding sports or other interests, please email us with your ideas.

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Bentham, 8-9pm Saturday 22nd July

For more information contact:
Clifford Murphy 61990, Rose Pierce
61592 or Stephen Dawson 62242.

Come and join us!

Local Action for Justice & Peace
SCIAF - CAFOD - JUBILEE 2000
CHRISTIAN AID

LOCAL LADY T.T. RACER

Kate Parkinson, who has recently competed at the Isle of Man T.T. Races, would like to say a very big thank you to the local people and businesses that helped make it possible for her to get there. Racing on a Demon Vinto 250 Honda, provided by Paul Bied Motorsport, Kate was the only female competing in the race, finishing 18th out of 42 starters. She also much appreciates the help from Bernard Armstrong, Phil Wright-Grove Hill Garage, Tony Harrison-Car Sales, Ian Holt-Tatham Tyre Services, Steve Wray-Byres/Horse & Farrier and Steve Jackson.

**OPEN GARDENS AT
AUSTWICK**

On Saturday 8th and Sunday 9th
July there will be twelve different gardens
open each day (24 in all) in Austwick
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POLICE FILE

By PC Danny Kay

The first of this month's bits and pieces is another "well done" to the organizers of the Bikers Weekend. Despite the inclement weather, which may have reduced the numbers, we still had a large influx of people and machines into Bentham and once again I am pleased to report that there was absolutely no problem from a Police point of view with the event.

I am aware of a noise related complaint that was passed to Craven District Council, but surely one incident over the whole weekend is not a serious matter.

The local press publicised heavily the assault on a local youth at the beginning of June. Local gossip has identified the offender but as I have said many times before, without the evidence the Police cannot take any action. It is fine to sit in the pub at night and relate to all and sundry how "X" gave "Y" a good hiding, but would it not be far more commendable to be a bit more public spirited and come to the Police and give us a statement in relation to the incident?

Also publicised recently has been the continuance of diesel thefts locally. Following the arrests reported last month and the recent events, we have identified 2 separate teams of criminals who are thought to be responsible for similar crimes throughout the region. The problem is a serious one and our CID is now involved in trying to eliminate the problem. I will keep you updated on the matter as it progresses.

I will say however that at this time no local is suspected of having any involvement, despite numerous rumours to the contrary.

In the last edition I carried out a bit of market research, giving you the public the chance to tell us how to organize ourselves so that we can serve you in the most efficient manner. I am not sure how many copies of BN are published and distributed but I would like to offer my sincere thanks to the

ONE person who replied. I think I can safely deduce from my results that we are doing things right and that the standard of police cover that you receive in Bentham is just right. I intend to hold another review in 12 months time !!!!

And finally.....At long last the Bentham community website should be up and running by the time we go to press. It has been a stop start operation but with some new blood on the team I think we are there. There will be a Police file on the website which I hope to keep updated on a fairly regular basis.

COLLEGE OF THE DALES IN BENTHAM

May 23rd 2000 was the day when education and training in the Yorkshire Dales took on a whole new meaning. For this is the day when four key players in the community banded together to form a partnership for the benefit of the people they serve.

The partnership, formed between Craven College, Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority, North Yorkshire Community Education Service and North Yorkshire County Library, will be referred to as the College of the Dales, offering education both for both work and leisure in these rural areas.

Through its network of libraries and mobiles North Yorkshire County Library will work to meet the community's learning, information and technology needs, providing isolated rural areas with internet facilities and CD Rom library catalogues at all its branches.

Craven College centre at Millers Court is at the heart of the new initiative, making education and training available to the community, offering courses in a wide range of subjects relating to work and leisure. Call at the Library or at Millers Court to find out what College of the Dales will could mean to you.

LOCAL EVENTS IN JULY

Sat 1st Bentham Footpath Group walk, Dunsop Bridge area, 8 miles, leader P. Parrott, 01200 423125, Meet Lairgill/Dunsop Car Park 9.30/10.15am.

New Labour coffee morning in the Town Hall, 10.0am-12.00 noon. 

Open Gardens in Bentham in aid of NSPCC and Christian Aid. See front page.

Sun 2nd Open Gardens in Bentham in aid of NSPCC and Christian Aid. See front page.

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

Looking Well, 10.30am-12.30pm Baby Buckets, parents and babies group, and every Monday.

Tue 4th Looking Well, 12.30-1.30pm, Relaxation session. 2.00-3.0 pm Women's support group. Both every Tuesday.

Wed 5th Looking Well, 1.00-3.30pm Mucky Buckets, parents and under 3's play session, and every Wednesday.

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

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

Wed 5th Coffee & Chat at High Bentham Methodist Schoolroom, 10.00-11.30am, and every Wednesday.

Thu 6th Looking Well, 2.00-3.00pm Tai Chi Qigong gentle exercise session, and every Thursday.

Fri 7th Age Concern, Weekenders Fashion Show, Canadian Designer Wear, "Everything in a suitcase".

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

Sat 8th Samaritan's coffee morning, Town Hall, 10.00am-12.00noon. 

Spectacles collection till 15th. Please bring your unwanted spectacles, for use in the third world countries; there will be a collection box in Fishers Outfitters for the whole week.

Bentham Grammar School Garden Fete, 11.00am-3.00pm. Old scholars very welcome.

Open gardens at Austwick, 11.00am-5.00pm. See page 14.

Sun 9th Open gardens at Austwick, 11.00am-5.00pm. See page 14.

Mon 10th Looking Well, 12.30-2.00pm Cancer Support Group shared lunch.

Tue 11th High Bentham Playgroup Open Day. (See page 24).

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

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

Wed 12th Alzheimer's Disease Support Group at the Looking Well, 7.30-9.00pm, Janet & Michael Collins, "Healing".

Thu 13th Bentham Footpath Group quarterly meeting at the Town Hall, 7.00pm. See page 24.

Listing for Local Events

Day

Date

Event

Venue

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

Fri 14th Official opening of the School Hill Amenity Area at 7.00pm. Kirkby Lonsdale Brass Band, High Bentham CP School Choir, etc. See page 32 for details.

Fri 14th Age Concern, P.C. McIntosh with Saffron, "Drugs Dog work in the community".

Men's tennis Match v N. Lonsdale at the Playing Fields courts, 6.30pm.

Sat 15th Copy deadline for August BN.

Craven AFC coffee morning in the Town Hall, 10.00am-12.00noon. 

Sun 16th Bentham Footpath Group walk, Ingleton to Chapel-le-Dale, 10 miles, leader F. Royston 417825. Meet at Lairgill/Ingleton Car Park 9.30/10.00am.

Wed 19th Citizen's Advice Bureau at the Surgery, 1.30-3.15pm.

Thu 20th Low Bentham W.I. meeting at Victoria Institute, 7.30pm. (See page 2).

Bentham Footpath Group walk, River Wenning, 4 miles, leader S. Hodgson 61045. Meet at Bentham Bridge 6.30pm.

Fri 21st Waste paper Collection at the Legion Hut, 8.30-11.00am. proceeds to NSPCC.

Age Concern, Anne Scargill-"Double Dutch".

Sat 22nd Tatham Village Hall coffee morning in the Town Hall, 10.00am-12.00noon. 

Tue 25th Bentham Child Health Clinic at the Surgery, 2.00-4.00pm.

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

Bentham & District Pet Rescue Book Sale next door to Bamford's, 10.00am-4.00pm.

Wed 26th Bible Society coffee morning in the Methodist Schoolroom, 10.00-11.30am. Bric-a-brac and cake stall. All welcome. 

Bentham & District Pet Rescue Book Sale next door to Bamford's, 10.00am-4.00pm.

Fri 28th Bentham News published.

Age Concern - Card Bingo.

Sat 29th Sally House coffee morning in the Town Hall, 10.00am-12.00noon. 

Bentham Footpath Group walk, Victoria Cave and Stainforth, (Grid Ref. 823651), 7 miles, leader G. Amos. Meet at Lairgill/Langcliffe Car Park, 10.00/10.30am.

Dalehead Veterinary Group

2 Oak Cottages, Main Street, High Bentham, Lancaster LA2 7LE,
Telephone 01729 823538 (Settle)

Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays & Fridays,
4-5pm.

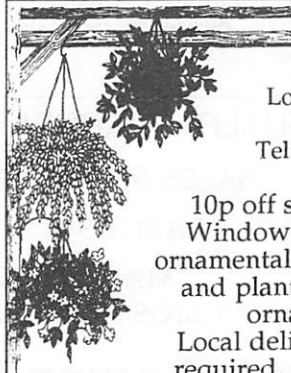
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ALZHEIMER'S SOCIETY ACTIVITIES

By Sue Clements

During July there are several events taking place for the Alzheimer's Society, which you may be interested in supporting.

July 2nd-8th is National Alzheimer's Awareness Week. There will be a display and information table at the Looking Well Centre in Bentham during this week, with many informative fact-sheets about confusion, short term memory loss and dementia. There will also be information about locally available services to support all family members who are coping with the difficulties that memory loss can cause.

On Wednesday 12 July the usual monthly meeting will be held at the Looking Well from 7.30-9.00pm. Janet and Michael Collins from Bentham will be discussing "Healing". Everyone interested is very welcome.

The coffee morning will be on Saturday 29th July, from 10.00am-12.00noon, in the Town Hall. Please come and support this worthy cause. Many people will know of either friends or a family member who suffers memory loss. Again, information will be available.

If anyone has any bric-a-brac, plants, cakes, preserves, goods etc that they would like to donate, or if they would like to come and help on the day, please contact Sue Clements on Bentham 61277.

HANGING BASKETS, PATIO POTS AND SUNFLOWERS IN LOW BENTHAM

By Judith Johnson

Low Bentham Horticultural Society met on 8th June to discuss their Show on Bank Holiday Saturday August 24th. Although this is a long way in advance there are a few notable earlier dates.

July 26th is the final date for entry to the competition for a hanging basket, a set of patio pots or a window box. Entries to Peter Marshall (61512). Ann Stewart from the Toll Bar Nurseries will judge at the end of July.

For children the Best Sunflower will be judged on the 17th of August but entries must be received by July 26th. Entries for all other classes to be sent to the secretary Judith Johnson (61905) by noon on the 24th of August. Numbers of entries and competitors has been falling for the last few years so if you value your own show in Low Bentham please support us.

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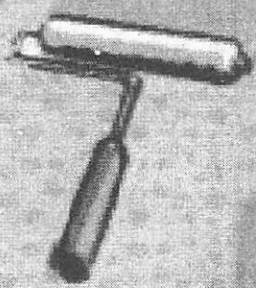
A GREAT DAY WITH THE FRIENDS OF HELEN WEIR

By Andy & Margaret Weir

On Sunday 28th May, a Fundraising Day was held at Goodenbergh Caravan Park, in aid of the Special Care Baby Unit at Lancaster Royal Infirmary. The amount raised was approximately £500.00, which was an excellent effort in view of the very wet weather we encountered at lunchtime.

There were various side stalls, cakes, plants, car boot etc. 21 raffle prizes and other prizes had been very kindly donated. The winners were:- Name the Teddy-Michelle Piper, Elephant's birthday- Thomas Waude, Sweets in the jar-Harley Kellet, Weight of cake- W. Tatham. A lady called Sheila Dobson won a prize in the raffle but didn't leave an address or telephone, so perhaps she would like to contact me on 015242 - 61527.

We would like to thank everyone who offered their help, both before the event and on the day, to all those who baked cakes, all those who donated raffle prizes and cash or helped with ideas, and for all the support from friends and family.



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CORIO RAPTOR CARE AND REHABILITATION

*By Nick & Anji
Henderson*



The weather was perfect for us as we thoroughly enjoyed our first and hopefully, not last Bentham Gala. There was a nice atmosphere with many familiar and friendly faces around, coming to say hello. We were surprised by the genuine interest in the work we do with the birds, everybody seeming to have stories to tell, especially of wild Barn Owls nesting in their barns, and of how disappointed they are that they see very little of these beautiful birds now. There were lots of questions and plenty of words of encouragement.

May we thank people for their assistance; this is always tricky as there is often someone you forget to mention. A special thank you for Don and Sue Bradshaw for all their help and very kind donations to the charity, it is really appreciated. Thanks to Mr. Burrows of Brown & Whittaker for their donation of plywood sheets, enabling us to build 4 Barn Owl nesting boxes, which are ready to be erected later this year. Thanks to Sue and the Gala committee for their donation and to all who so generously fed our collection boxes. Thank you so much.

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CRAVEN COLLEGE ARTS & CRAFTS EXHIBITION

By Sue Mnew

Early May was a hectic time at Millers Court for the many Art & Craft students whose courses were coming to an end and it was time for all their hard work to be moderated.

During the year, courses in Oil Painting, Watercolour, Pottery, Sugarcraft, Lace Making, Flower Arranging, Embroidery, Creative Textiles and Upholstery had all proved popular and the work produced was of a very high standard. This work was displayed for an examiner from Open College of the North West, based in Lancaster, to come and inspect on 18th and everyone passed with flying colours.

From 19th to 21st the College held an exhibition for members of the public to view the students work. During the three days about 1,000 people came to look around and their positive comments were well received. Tutors and students worked hard to set up the exhibition and were on hand to explain their work to visitors and proudly show off their prowess.

The professional standard of the Sugarcraft brought much praise, tempered only by the disappointment that they were mostly "dummies" and not to be eaten.

Downstairs was a wonderful array of drawings and paintings, and offers were made to buy some of the work. Audrey Burberry was a terrific steward over the weekend, answering questions, and keen to enrol students.

The exquisite display of textiles and embroidery showed what talent there is in this corner of Yorkshire, and was truly a credit to Anne Burrow, the tutor, who sadly is retiring this year, though her classes will continue under a new tutor. Also on show was the result of many hours of work by the upholstery students who, under the guidance of Pam Warbrick, had worked magic on once sad old pieces of furniture.

It seems that our exhibition gets larger each year and we are very grateful to Bernard Wildman for the use of his empty shop to display all Jane Burns' students floral arrangements.

Surprisingly, despite our presence here for four or five years, a number of visitors were heard to say that they didn't know that Craven College existed in Bentham and if it hadn't been for Billy Noble's sterling work as "Commissionaire", encouraging passers by to come in, many would have missed the experience. Perhaps we should get him a uniform next year. So if you were accosted outside Millers Court by an enthusiastic gentleman dragging you in off the street, rest assured, it was all in the name of Art.



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BENTHAM & DISTRICT PET RESCUE

By Val Marshall

After the excitement of having our first kittens born here, our family steadily grows. We have a total of 15 kittens! Some of these are as young as 3 weeks, the eldest being 8 weeks old. They are in a variety of colours: ginger, black, biscuit, black and white and tabby. Some have homes booked for them when they are old enough and we hope others will be found new owners quickly. If you would like one, please contact us as soon as possible.

We have had many kind visitors bringing gifts of food and donations. One kind lady, who arrived with 8 kittens in a sack, which a farmer was going to drown, has come every morning to help clean out, feed and tame the older ones - such a wonderful help. The last feral of the winter, Pixie, has been homed at last. She went to the daughter and son-in-law of a Low Bentham couple who adopted Nutty two

years ago. Pixie loved them as soon as she met them and I knew she would have a happy home with two other cats for company.

The big longhaired cat has not been claimed, and is waiting patiently for a home. He is such a friendly boy, full of love, and will make a great companion. He had three teeth out and has now completed his veterinary treatment and looks much healthier, having now put on some weight.

We have had two successful outings, to Bentham and Burton Galas and thank all who supported us. However, we need some help to man the stalls at our Coffee Morning in Bentham Town Hall on 12th August. If you can help, please telephone me on 62512, or ring our Chairman, Peter Phillips, on 61536. Our new 2000 Quiz, a fun one this time, is now on sale and is available from the Committee, or at Low Bentham Post Office, the Bentham Tourist Information Office and Dalehead Vets in Bentham and Settle. The first prize is £20 and there is a lucky draw for £5 for all entries received, even if incomplete.



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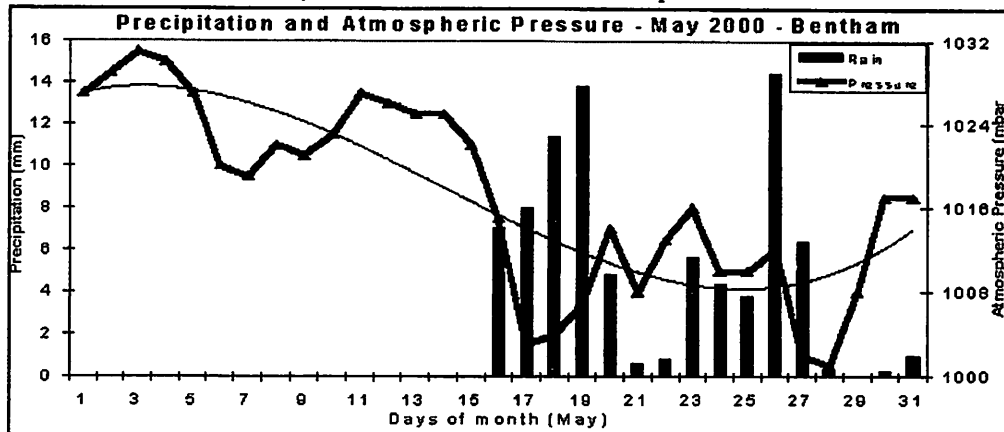
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BENTHAM'S SPRING WEATHER

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

After the wet winter, we could be forgiven for looking forward to a drier spring, but in the first 10 days of March 3.3 inches of rain fell. In fact 82% of March's rain fell during the first 10 days, while only 0.5% fell during the last week. This dry spell continued into April, and it is interesting to note that the 31 days from the 10th March to the 10th April were an extremely dry period. From April 11th - 27th 3 inches of rain fell which was 90% of the month's precipitation. Another dry spell followed when 18 days passed with only a little rain on the 27th and nothing in May until the 16th. This was a month of two halves as it then rained for 15 out of 16 days, giving a rainfall above the 10 year May mean for Bentham, although it only fell in the last two weeks! The spring precipitation can be broadly split into five periods of rain/dry/rain/dry/rain, and the average rainfall was actually 14mm over the 10 year mean of 75.5mm (3 inches) per month.



The plot above shows how the atmospheric pressure and rainfall are interlinked - high pressure generally brings fine drier weather while low pressure produces windy, wet conditions. The dashed line shows the trend of the atmospheric pressure.

There were 6 days of frost in March and 9 in April, with no temperatures below zero recorded since 17th April. This probably accounts for the prolific blossom witnessed this spring and the large number of apples, pears and plums present in our orchard this year. The mean monthly temperatures compare well with last year, 6.5oC, 7.6oC and 12.3oC respectively. The coldest and hottest days being 4th March (-4.2oC) and 14th May (26.4oC).

The dominant wind direction during the dry spells had an Easterly component, while during wet periods a Westerly wind prevailed. The maximum gust recorded was 58mph on the 2nd of March at 19-35hrs and the maximum run of wind (the amount the wind travels over 24 hrs) was 465.6miles, also on the 2nd of March, which coincided with the wettest day of spring in a WSW wind. March conformed to the old saying "In like a Lion - out like a Lamb", with wet, windy and cold weather giving way to dry, calmer and warmer conditions by the end of the month.

May has often brought an early summer in this area, although this does not usually lead to a long warm summer, but rather a series of wet and dry weeks as Atlantic lows drift in. For a sustained long, hot summer we need a large blocking high-pressure system that extends from the Northern Polar region and encompasses Scandinavia. This high pressure literally "blocks" any frontal systems and prevents them reaching us, leaving us bathed in fine, sunny and warm conditions. In recent years these have occurred in 1976, 1984, 1990 and 1995, so with a return period of approximately 5-6 years, we are due one this year or next. Keep your fingers crossed!

FOOTPATH MATTERS

By Maureen Ellis

The month of May brought three splendid walks of varying length and it is many thanks to the leaders. July will not disappoint.

Pat Parrott will lead a walk from Dunsop Bridge on Saturday 1st. It will be an opportunity for people to use permissive paths, designated by the Countryside Stewardship Scheme, which are not on the map.

At the quarterly meeting on Thursday 15th the siting of the memorial seat for Debra Pickett will be discussed. The response to the death of kind Debra has been very generous donations as a tribute. It was George, of course, who designed the cartography for the two publications "Walks around Bentham" and "Shorter walks around Bentham", and his wishes are naturally a consideration.

Frank Royston's walk on 16th from Ingleton to Chapel-le-Dale will be a circuit under the shoulders of Ingleborough, to return by a path flanked by Whernside and passing Meer Gill pot hole.

Summer brings evening walks and Sheila Hodgson is leading a high summer one on Thursday 20th along one bank of the Wenning and back along the other. If the weather is good it will be extended a little. The very interesting historic area of Victorian cave and Stackhouse will be explored by Gerald Amos on Saturday 24th.



WOULD YOU LIKE TO KNOW MORE ABOUT OUR LOCAL PLAYGROUP?

By Sharon Telford

High Bentham Playgroup has been running for many years and gives young children the chance to play in a safe and happy environment. We provide a wide variety of activities, all of which help in the overall development of the child. Children learn a great deal through play, developing their social, emotional and intellectual skills, which help them prepare for the next stage of going on to nursery or school.

Our qualified play leader, Linda Moorby, and deputy play leader, Sharon Telford, have considerable experience in caring for pre-school children, both holding certificates in child care studies (ONCW), and first aid. They have also just completed NVQ level 3 in child care.

On Tuesday 11th July we will be holding an open day at playgroup in the Upper Town Hall between 1.00 and 3.00pm and would like to invite people to come along for a coffee and have a look around to see what playgroup is all about. Our invitation is open to everyone so we look forward to seeing you there.



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GARDENING PAGE

By Dot. Hughes

So far this year we have not seen very much in the way of decent weather. Somebody told me we were in for "Flag cracking" sunshine, but we will have to wait and see.

Unfortunately the bedding plants and hanging baskets are not growing too quickly but the indigenous weeds are doing very well. Don't forget to deadhead your annuals to maintain continuity of flowering.

There are many plants which do well in containers; clematis can be wound around a wire or a twig cage and runner beans can be grown in pots. Just try whatever takes your fancy but remember that it is important to feed well and not to let the compost/soil dry out.

I rather like those obelisks which can be placed in the soil with plants grown up them, giving an added interest in the way of height, particularly in a small space. Sweet peas grow well with obelisk support, and if you chose the fragrant varieties, you will be able to enjoy them indoors, as they are excellent for cutting.

I see the "Open Gardens" are being promoted again this year, on the first weekend in July, (see the details in the article on the front page of this issue) and I would encourage anyone with an interest in gardening, to visit those which are open, as it is an opportunity to see what can be achieved.

Next month I will remind you of the local horticultural shows and hopefully you might like to enter some plants, flowers or produce.



By Barbara Harrison

The wonderful blossoms of May are fulfilling their promise: the fruits have set and we look forward to a bumper crop. We can already taste the damson jam, the apple pie and the plum crumble.

We have harvested the potatoes grown in pots in the greenhouse and are now starting on the strawberries. What a treat! The removal of the potatoes has allowed more space and more light for the tomatoes and peppers which have started to set fruit.

The air is full of life; mayflies and dragonflies hover over the pond and the undergrowth rustles with the movement of fledgling blackbirds. In the fields above our garden the young curlews are trying out their wings whilst their parents berate the unwanted observer.

The first roses are blooming. *Maigold*, a yellow climber, mingles with *Clematis Montana* which is still flowering profusely. We have also started to pick the sweet peas and sweet williams - both wonderfully scented. For the second consecutive year, both the *Virburnum Opulus* and *Virburnum Sargentii* have been attacked by aphids, resulting in poor flowering. In contrast, the *Virburnum Plicatum* Mariesti (the wedding cake bush) has been spectacular and *Cornus Kousa Chinensis* has, for the first time, produced wonderful creamy-green bracts.

We will open our garden as part of the National Garden Scheme on Sunday 9th and 16th July from 1200 hours to 1700 hours. The garden, near Lowgill, will be signed from Wray and Low Bentham.

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BENTHAM PEOPLE

Thanks

Jean Wills would like to thank relations, friends and colleagues for the lovely gifts and cards she received on her birthday/retirement.

Winifred Thwaite sends a very big "thank you" to whoever kindly handed in her purse to the Post Office on 2nd June.

Bob Sloan would like to thank the two ladies who helped him after a fall on the Stagecoach bus from Lancaster on Friday 2nd June, and to apologise for being too shaken to do so at the time.

Marie Raynor would like to thank her brothers and friends who worked so hard on the conversion of Sole to Soul, on Station Road; also all the traders who helped and who have extended their good wishes.

Congratulations

Devitt. Congratulations Jack & Nellie on your Diamond Wedding, 15th June. Love from Jim, Jean, Joe & Ruth.

Found

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CHRISTIAN AID WEEK

By Kathleen Goldsack

The Christian Aid House to House collection resulted in the following amounts being raised. United Church Service for collectors - £59.30. Low Bentham - £207.38. High Bentham - £1051.72. Total - £1318.40. Very many thanks to all who helped to raise this amount which is an increase on last year.

WENNING BADMINTON CLUB

Winners of our general knowledge quiz earlier in the year are as follows:-

- 1st Prize - £10.00 M&S Vouchers - Mr. & Mrs. M. Wood, Burton-in-Lonsdale.
- 2nd Prize - £5.00 M&S Voucher - Mr. Geoff Higgin - Lowgill.

£80.00 was raised for club funds. Thanks to all who supported us.

DO YOU WANT TO PLANT TREES?

Don't forget, if you are interested in planting trees, that there are only a few days left for you to apply for some of the trees that Craven District Council is offering. These are free to successful applicants. Get an application form from the Town Clerk, Reg Pointon, 25 Springfield Crescent, High Bentham (61596). Closing date is 5th July.

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CHILDREN'S ACTIVITIES AT LOOKING WELL

By Edna Watt

The Mucky Buckets Play project was formed soon after we opened (and named, incidentally, after the mucky fun children have playing with buckets of glue and paint!). We now run two sessions each week for parents and carers with pre-school children.

'Baby Buckets' is a cosy informal session on Monday mornings between 10.30 and 12.30. New parents can make friends over a cup of tea and play with babies on our magical playmat (a soft sculpture, birds' eye view of Bentham and district made by local artists, Vycky Pickup and Gill Barron). Pre-school brothers and sisters are welcome too.

'Mucky Buckets' happens every Wednesday afternoon from 1.00 to 3.30pm. It is open to anyone with pre-school children and is a convenient drop-in for parents with young toddlers, while older brothers and sisters are attending playgroup. The session is structured to include time playing on the playmat and "inside" Ingleborough cave (which must be seen to be believed), time for mucky making, and finished by dancing to live music. During both sessions parents and children are welcome to arrive and leave at any time. There are facilities for warming bottles, changing nappies and privacy for feeding. We have future plans for outings and baby massage sessions, but are always open to hear new ideas. Look out for our information board at the local clinic.

We also run an after school session on Thursdays from 4.00 - 5.30pm for children up to 12 years old (to be accompanied by an adult). These sessions provide an opportunity to play and have fun - this term, we are dressing up and making plays and stories. During the holidays we will continue to work in the Harvest Garden and are planning family art and craft sessions including kite making and dough sculpture. We are also planning a family day out in August to Southport by coach. If you are interested in any of these activities, drop in to Looking Well and find out more!

BENTHAM & DISTRICT ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY'S FIRST DIG

By Bill Roy

Well after only a few months in existence the society will have started its first excavation. And to top it all we are now being used as a 'model' for other archaeological societies. Even if it is patting 'ourselves' on the back it does seem well deserved.

The 'training dig' is taking place at Dawsons Close and will run up to the 2nd July, so if you can come along you will see a real-life excavation in progress. It is hoped that a report on the excavation will be ready by the end of September; more details will follow over the coming months.

Our speaker in June was Ian Wright, an ex-Benthamite, who graduated from the University of Bradford and takes up a teaching post at Leeds University this October. His talk on the archaeology of the Yorkshire Dales right up to the Middle Ages was both informative and relative to the Bentham region. It is also hoped that Ian will assist us on a special cave excavation this coming autumn - winter - spring (the best time for cave excavation as temperatures are more amenable in a cave than outside).

Our next excavation is to take place in the first two weeks of September, details of which will be advertised by August.

With over thirty members we are not the largest archaeological society but I think we can be classed as one the most active in the country, our digs, field surveys, field walking, and field trips, along with the lecture programme is the envy of many! So why not come along and see what we do and get some hands on experience!

Remember that you can contact Bill Duncan on 015242-62005 or Bill Roy on 015242-62470. All are welcome no matter what age (under 16's have to be accompanied by a responsible adult - sorry insurance), sex, or disability.

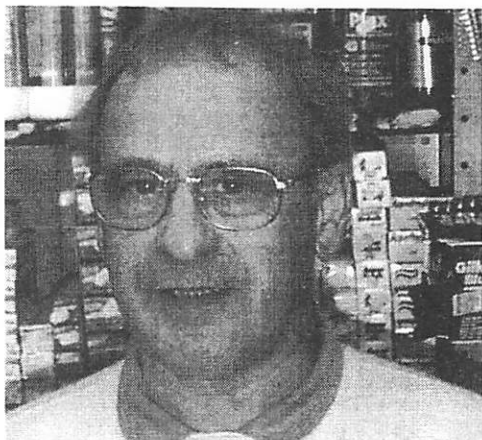
BEYOND OUR KEN

By Jean West

I interviewed Ken because I wanted to find out more about the friendly man who has the shop on our High Street that opens on Wednesdays and Fridays to sell an amazing range of goods, often at incredibly low prices.

I discovered that Ken Duxbury was born in Blackburn, moved to Burnley when he was a teenager and then to Rossendale twenty years ago. His first job was as a rep-engineer with Hoover Ltd, and then he worked for Colgate Palmolive for nine years. After that Ken had his own mini-market shop in Burnley for ten years before going on to stand the markets. He began coming to Benthams in 1969. He bought a stall from a Clitheroe man, Alan Burgess, and set up shop in the barn by the Auction Market, which is now part of The Byres. Ken and Dinah, the indoor market card and stationery lady, often had to run the gauntlet with the mice which resided in the barn. After a while he bought the shop where he is now, which was then a butcher's shop. Customers can always be sure of a cheery greeting, some light-hearted banter and a joke or two when they visit his shop, and if he hasn't got what you want he will always try and get it for you.

The big surprise for me was that Ken has also been a professional entertainer for thirty years, under the stage name of Ken Lomax. Perhaps on second thoughts it should not have been such a surprise, because Ken has always been such a cheerful man often joking with his customers. He has worked with Ken Dodd, Bernard Manning, Stan Boardman and Frank Carson among others. He has had resident seasons at Uncle Tom's Cabin in Blackpool, has done command performances, and has also played clubs in Yorkshire, Lancashire, Cumbria, Midlands and Scotland. All being well, Ken will be helping us to celebrate the Town Hall Diamond Jubilee by performing at the



Town Hall Diamond Jubilee Entertainment on 11th November.

Ken has two sons and a daughter and ten grandchildren. He is very interested in football and supports his local teams, although he can no longer have a kick about because he has had both hip joints replaced and also suffers from spinal problems.

Anita Corless

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NEW YORK, NEW YORK

By Peter Phillips

Have you ever considered a trip to the Big Apple? Mary and I visited New York for 10 days in February. We had often thought about going there but were put off by stories of crime and violence - the reality proved to be so different.

Our hotel was on 32nd Street, facing the Empire State Building and near to Grand Central Station, right in the heart of Manhattan. We were on a bed and breakfast basis; the room and bed were good but breakfast was a bit of a surprise. It was in the basement, the Empire Room, like a school canteen with formica tables and a self service bar run by an Asian gentleman and his wife, or daughter, - we never did find out. Breakfast consisted of coffee or juice, bagels or sweet buns with cream cheese or jam, and a piece of fresh fruit.

The first thing we did was to buy a Metro Card which gave 7 days' unlimited travel on the buses or subway for \$17 (£10.60). This enabled us to cover a great deal of ground, necessary when you realise that Manhattan is about 16 miles from South to North, and it is only one district of the City, although the one most people visit. Navigating is relatively easy - all Avenues go North-South and Streets go East and West off 6th Avenue.

The next purchase was a City Pass, obtained from the Information Office in Times Square. This gave 50% off admission to five attractions: the Empire State Building, USS Intrepid Sea, Air and Space Museum, American Museum of Natural History, Museum of Modern Art and the World Trade Centre. The pass cost \$28, but as pensioners (or Seniors), we paid \$18.75 so they were extremely good value.

We went to all the attractions. The Empire State Building, with its Art Deco façade, is lit at night and on special occasions the top is lit in different colours. We were there for Valentine's Day and the top was lit with red lights! There is green for St. Patrick's Day and red, white and blue for America Day. The World Trade Centre has 110 storeys but the Empire State is

higher at 1,454 feet because of the radio tower on top. The view at night from the WTC rooftop is breathtaking as you are able to see through all points of the compass and watch ships in the Hudson and planes, below you, dropping to one or other of the airports.

The only way to experience New York is by walking and we walked our feet off! One day we walked from Greenwich Village down through Little Italy, and Chinatown to the Brooklyn Bridge and on to Battery Point. The architecture is wonderful, the oldest skyscrapers being the most interesting. Tiny churches hid amongst the towering buildings and we enjoyed visiting them and learning something of their history. At the Northern end of Manhattan is The Cloisters, built as a Medieval structure and containing art and architecture from medieval Europe, brought over to America by John D. Rockefeller.

Everywhere we went we met with friendly and helpful people. We spoke to bus drivers and passengers and they seemed pleased to tell us about their City. Even in Spanish Harlem, where English was rarely heard, we had a laugh in a café when Mary was served her meal and I was left waiting because the waitress hadn't understood what I wanted.

In ten days we only scratched the surface of this fascinating City. Times Square, Central Park, the Rockefeller Centre - like any great City it would take an age to explore it all but we brought back lovely memories and I would recommend it to anyone.

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SPORTS CLUB NEWS

By Lynda Pilling (Secretary)

For the past 8 years (1991-1999) Bentham Sports Club has sponsored a young man, Sivakumar, through "Save the Children". He has finished his training on the Turner Course for vocational training. Sivakumar is from a very poor single parent family and is one of three children.

All money sent to "Save the Children" has been collected in a bottle on the Sports Club bar. We thank all those who over the years have given their loose change, and provided this young man with an education, so that he may help his family.

The Sports Club will carry on collecting for "Save the Children". Money raised will go to helping any project supported by this charity. We hope when you visit the club and see the bottle on the bar, that you will spare a few coins to help. Richard Hall, a committee member has recently started off the fund by having a sponsored head shave. He raised over £120 with some money yet to be collected. Thanks to Richard and all those who supported him.

A SAD DEMISE

By Nick Henderson

On Thursday 4th May I received a rather strange and confused telephone call from a colleague of mine who was in the area looking for his lost Lanner Falcon. He informed me that he had made a rather gruesome discovery, and felt that I should come and see for myself. He was just outside Low Bentham, and, curiosity aroused, I agreed. When I arrived he anxiously pointed to the middle of the road, at a large dark stain, which appeared to be melted tar. In the centre it seemed to be the charred remains of a fire, but to my dismay it became apparent that the remains turned out to be those of a baby Tawny Owl. It was hard to understand. Surely this sick act was not carried out for fun? Who would do such a thing and why? Only the perpetrators can answer such questions. We witness many injuries inflicted on birds of prey and their distress makes us despair. To deliberately inflict pain is beyond us, and I suspect, most readers of the B.N.

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CLEARBECK GARDEN OPEN

By Mr. P. Osborne

The garden, newly included in the "Good Gardens Guide", will be open for the usual charities including Macmillan, on Sunday 2nd July, from 11.30-5.30pm. There will be teas in aid of Tatham Fells Church, as well as a plant stall.

The opening on 2nd July will be followed by the usual Service in the garden. Garden admission is £1.50 with children free. The route will be signed from Wray and Low Bentham.

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KIRKBY LONSDALE BRASS BAND AT SCHOOL HILL SITE OPENING 14TH JULY

The School Hill Site Project will be completed in a few days time and an official opening is planned for Friday 14th July at 7.00pm. A short programme of events has been organised and the evening will be compered by our very own Tom Guy. Bentham CP School Choir has kindly agreed to take part, and Kirkby Lonsdale Brass Band will play from 7.30-8.30pm.

Wendy Dowbiggin, Chairperson of the Project Committee, will officially open the site and a Millennium Tree (a whitebeam) will be planted by the Mayor, Mrs. Jean West.

This School Hill site project is the major project in Bentham to celebrate the millennium. What started as an idea put forward at a public meeting nearly two years ago, has now become a reality; a superb improvement from the depressing old corner in the middle of our town. So please come and join in this celebration and make it a real community occasion. If the weather is inclement, most of the activities will take place in the Town Hall, which has been provisionally booked for the occasion. At the time of writing we are trying to arrange for the catering!

7.00pm Official opening.

7.05pm Planting of Millennium Tree.

7.10pm School Choir

7.30pm Kirkby Lonsdale Brass Band

8.30pm Barbeque/catering

8.30pm Music by local group

BENTHAM NEWS is published at "Latharna", High Bentham, by an editorial committee consisting of Shirley Brown, Diane Chant, Judith Johnson, Dorothy Pidgeon, Ken Robertson, Jean West, Pam Woof, and our co-ordinator, Bill Kennedy, who can be contacted on 62492. Every effort is made to ensure that information contained in the paper is correct. However Bentham News is an open access paper and views and opinions expressed are not necessarily those of the editorial committee. The committee reserves the right to edit contributions. Please note that we are willing to withhold names on request, but names, addresses and telephone numbers must accompany all items for publication. The Bentham News is printed By Pica Design & Print, Low Bentham.