

MERRY
CHRISTMAS
and
HAPPY
NEW YEAR



With best wishes from all of us at **BENTHAM NEWS**

December 2000

Issue 170

WOMENS' INSTITUTES

High Bentham

By Doreen Park

On one of the worst nights of the year, a stalwart band of members braved the elements to welcome five visitors and one baby to their November meeting. The barn owl, tawny owl, kestrel, buzzard and Bengal eagle were presented by Mr. Nick Henderson of Corio Raptor, located here in Bentham. He gave a very detailed account of his work nursing and caring for a wide range of raptors brought to his sanctuary, and of returning them to their natural habitat. He allowed three members to have the experience of receiving a flying owl on their gloved hand. The baby visitor, presented by Mr. Don Holroyd of Morecambe, was a one month old hedgehog. The dedication of this man to the care of injured and lost hedgehogs was inspirational. The reputation of both Mr. Henderson and Mr. Holroyd is becoming well known all over the North West. They were thanked by Mrs. D. Park.

The new President, Mrs. Margaret Hayton, told members that the Christmas Party on the 7th December would be an all ticket affair, with caterers providing the meal - names as soon as possible please.

A raffle for a free ticket to Barton Grange Christmas Fair was won by Mrs. P. Tomlinson. The competition winner was Mrs. I. Carr with a photo of her cat.

Low Bentham

By Jennifer Watkinson

Due to the indisposition of the President, Mrs. Lydia Wilkinson chaired the meeting and introduced the speaker, Mr. Doug Ellis, who spoke of his experiences as a Morecambe Bay coastguard. For thirteen years until his retirement in 1992, he was on duty every weekend from April to October. He had the authority to call out any emergency service, stop a train or summon an RAF plane or helicopter (the police are always in attendance). Walkers, bird watchers, swimmers, wind surfers and canoeists have all been victims of the tricky coastline, especially round the Kent estuary and near the notorious quicksands. All coastguards are good swimmers and receive extensive training in the use of naval charts, O.S. maps and emergency first aid. Often they act as guinea pigs in training exercises. Our speaker told us he had volunteered to be rescued from powerful quicksands.

The competition winners were:- Mrs. Jennifer Watkinson, Mrs. Mary Murphy and Mrs. Linda Cressey.

Fourteen members really enjoyed a visit to Tatham Fells W.I. for a performance of "1000 years of fashion", and two members attended the Ingleborough group's tai chi class.

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and a Happy New
Year**



TOWN COUNCIL REPORT

By David Johnson

All the Cllrs. attended except for Cllr. Marshall and County Cllr. Ireton.

Traffic

The police were absent, which was a pity, because some Cllrs. are uneasy about the flack they get from shopkeepers about police diligence in booking people for parking offences. The shopkeepers fear they will lose business and blame the Council for encouraging the police. Other Cllrs. felt that the police were simply enforcing the law and trying to prevent the town seizing up completely. The Cllrs. raised the problem of people parking on Grasmere Drive to go to the surgery and blocking peoples' drives. The letter from the Highways Department implying that £50,000 was to be spent on a traffic calming survey has been clarified. This money will be spent on traffic calming measures along the B6480 through High and Low Bentham. The proposals will be made public early in January and there will be just three weeks to make comments. The work will be completed by June 2001. We were astonished to learn that one proposal is to put a mini-roundabout at the junction of Goodenber Road and Main Street!!

District Council Matters

One aspect of the District Cllrs. report covered recycling. The Council plans to tighten up on those who put garden rubbish in their wheelie bins. It is hoped to encourage people to compost it.

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The Market Towns Initiative

Cllr. Pilkington explained that twelve organisations have been asked to appoint representatives to the Board. Efforts have been made to try to include a broad span of organisations. Cllr. Woof will represent the Town Council. It is planned to create interest groups involving many in the community who will feed ideas to the Partnership Board.

The Playing Fields Committee

This is finding the going difficult and needs more support, particularly from younger people. Only one member of the committee has a youngster who uses the facility. The secretary wishes to retire and the committee is looking for offers of help.

New Town Hall Letting Arrangements

These will give the clerk the discretion to ask for a bond against damage or additional cleaning if there is to be a bar.

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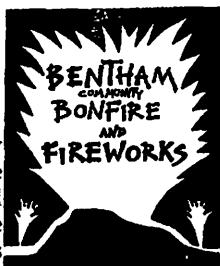
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WEREN'T WE LUCKY?

By Pam Woof

Bentham community bonfire committee wishes to thank all those who braved the weather to come to this year's bonfire. A



window in the weather allowed the procession and fireworks to go off without a hitch. Many thanks to all the ticket sellers and gate men who kept the entrance running as freely as possible. Thanks also must go to all the helpers who escorted the procession and to those who helped clear up afterwards. Special thanks to Nikki Johnson who played a large part in many of the workshops at the Looking Well and to Robert and Wendy Heigh for making collections from spectators on Station Road and Summer Hill. We are very grateful to anyone who donated to the funds or who helped in any way to make the event run smoothly. The loan of tractors and trailers is much appreciated as is the use of the auction yard and we are very grateful to all concerned.

This year the whole event, including drumming and lantern making workshops, was recorded on video by Peter Rollinson, who has only recently moved to Bentham. The video will be on show at the Looking Well on Thursday 7th December. There will be showings at 4.00p.m. and 5.30 p.m. for anyone who would like to see it.

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CRAVEN DISTRICT COUNCIL MATTERS

By Councillor John Pilkington

Review of Area Forums.....

Over the last two months the District Council has been reviewing the Area Forums which are held once or twice a year. Several people have completed questionnaires and a few more should be completed in the next few weeks. So far the main problem with these Forums has been lack of publicity. Many people have been unaware of the dates and times and the meetings. There has been further discussion at the series of Forums, which have just been held throughout the District.

.....and a Challenge!

A meeting is to be arranged in Bentham, probably in January 2001, to look at ways in which the Area Forums can be improved. If you think meetings like the Area Forums are a complete waste of time please come to this meeting even if you don't come to any others!! The District Council wants to know how to make meetings more useful and relevant. Where should they be held? When should they be held? How should they be organised? Help the Council to find answers to these questions. Details of the meeting will be given as soon as possible.

Disabled Access

The promised improvements to the new toilets to provide better access for those in wheelchairs have still not been carried out even though a contractor was appointed

several weeks ago. I am hoping that the work will have begun by the time this issue of the Bentham News is published.

The County Council has agreed to provide a dropped kerb near to the entrance to Furness Drive so that wheelchair users can more easily cross to the pavement on the south side of Low Bentham Road. The work should have been completed by the time you read this report.

Recent Planning Applications

08/2000/811 Mr Quinn and Miss Bridgeman, 1 Ellergill Cottages, Burton Road, Low Bentham, Lancaster, LA2 7DZ. Two storey extension.

08/2000/812 Mr R Turner c/o Mason Gillibrand Architects, 16 Willow Mill, Caton, Lancaster, LA2 9RA. Renewal of existing planning permission for demolition of prefabricated redundant farm buildings, extension of dwelling, conversion of stone barns into 3 dwellings and erection of new garages. At Todhill Farm, High Bentham, Lancaster.

08/2000/818 Mr and Mrs Cowling and Mrs Kenyon, 11 Moons Acre, Low Bentham Road, High Bentham, Lancaster, LA2 7BP. Rear conservatory.

08/2000/843 T & J Marshall, Bentham Hall Farm, High Bentham, Lancaster, LA2 7HF. Alteration and change of use of out-barn to provide farm holiday accommodation and construction of new access.



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REMARKABLE RAINFALL FOR BENTHAM

(1st September to middle November)

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

Water, water everywhere! This has been the story of the autumn around the whole country, especially in the south-east where some places have had over 200% of their 'normal' rainfall for the time of year. However, we are not bothered what happens 'down south' but rather how has Bentham fared during the recent deluge that has swept the UK. There have been 8 wetter Septembers since Mrs Foster began taking records in 1966, but none as wet as this year (156.0mm) since 1985, while October 2000 has been the 3rd wettest at 233.6mm. We have to go back 20 years (1980) to find a year that beat it, but in October 1967 a massive 324.5mm fell! Which is all the more remarkable when you consider almost 500mm fell between July and the end of September that year, making around 800mm in 4 months! By contrast, this year just over 600mm fell in the same period, which is also a lot of rain!

If we take the autumn period of September to the end of November, this year is the 5th wettest at time of writing (13th November) and we still have 17 days to go, which will probably make it the wettest autumn of the last 35 years (possibly longer!) if another 90mm is recorded, (highly probable at the current rainfall rate). This certainly goes a long way to explaining why we have been

experiencing floods in the area. In addition, the Met Office calculate an estimate of moisture deficit (SMD) and hydrologically effective rainfall (HER) every week, the higher the SMD the drier the soil. The rainfall during September reduced the SMD from its average of 90mm to zero, which meant any additional rainfall, of which there was plenty during October and the first 2 weeks of November was HER. So, because most aquifers are fully recharged through last year's rain and relatively wet spring, almost all this HER is direct runoff into our rivers. The resulting floods are what we are experiencing, and if we continue to receive a succession of Atlantic lows across the UK we can expect regular flood events until next spring when the soil finally starts to dry out! Keep the wellies and brolly handy...!



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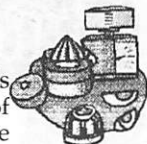


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RECIPES

By Doreen Park

Recently I heard that there is quite a large number of diabetics in our area, so here are some recipes from a Diabetic Cookbook in the healthy eating library.



Garlicky lentil soup

High in fibre lentils make a very tasty soup. Unlike many pulses they do not need to be soaked before cooking. Serves 6.

- 8 ozs red lentils, rinsed and drained
- 2 finely chopped onions
- 2 large garlic cloves, finely chopped
- 1 carrot, very finely chopped
- 2 tbs olive oil
- 2 bay leaves
- generous pinch of marjoram or oregano
- 2½ pints vegetable stock
- 2 tbs red wine vinegar
- sea salt and ground black pepper
- celery leaves to garnish

Put all the ingredients except the vinegar, seasoning and garnish in a large heavy based pan and bring to the boil over medium heat. Then lower the heat and simmer for 90 minutes, stirring occasionally to prevent the lentils from sticking to the bottom of the pan. Remove the bay leaves and add the red wine vinegar, with salt and pepper to taste. If the soup is too thick, add a little more vegetable stock. Garnish with celery leaves and serve with crusty bread.

Anita Corless

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This old fashioned pudding is so delicious you will not begrudge the time spent steaming it. Serves 8.

- 4 ozs raisins
- 4 tbs brandy
- 4 diced, stoned dates
- 4 ozs low fat spread
- 2 oranges
- 2 lemons
- 8 ozs SR wholemeal flour
- 1 tsp baking powder
- 2 eggs
- 1 pear about 4ozs, peeled & pureed
- 8 fl ozs low fat fromage frais

Soak the raisins in the brandy in a small bowl. Put the dates in another bowl with enough boiling water to cover them and soak for 10 minutes. Drain the dates, chop finely and place in a mixing bowl with the low fat spread. Add the grated rind from the oranges and lemons. Beat well. Sift the flour with the baking powder and gradually beat the eggs and pureed pear into the creamed mixture. Add a little of the flour if the mixture shows signs of curdling. Fold in the rest of the flour mixture then add the raisins with any remaining brandy. Spoon the mixture into a greased 1½ pt pudding basin. It should be two thirds full.

Cover the basin with a pleated double layer of grease proof paper and tie this firmly in place with string. Stand the pudding on an inverted saucer in a large saucepan. Pour in enough boiling water to come halfway up the side of the basin. Cover the pan tightly and steam the pudding in gently simmering water for 1½ to 2 hours, topping up the water from time to time.

Squeeze the juice from one of the oranges and both lemons. Put the fromage frais in a bowl and gradually beat in the citrus juice. Turn the pudding out on to a warmed serving plate and serve with the citrus sauce.

I can assure you that whether you are diabetic or not, both of these recipes make extremely good eating.



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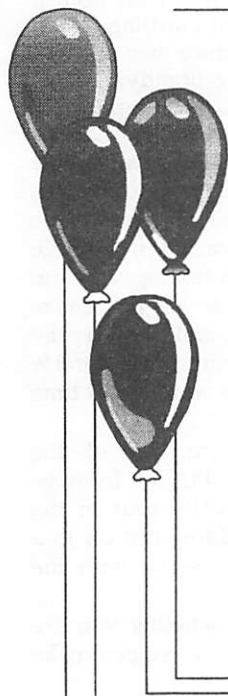
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Dear Bentham News,

We would like to thank everyone who had a part in the Bentham Community Bonfire. Our grandchildren came over specially from Hull for this event and purchased lanterns so that they could take part.



Saturday dawned - and it rained, and rained, and rained! Thankfully it cleared up just in time. The lantern procession was the largest I have seen, led by Jack-o'-Lantern and followed by the bands and all the children with their wonderful lanterns. On to the Auction Mart where the bonfire was blazing away in the strong wind, causing several hasty retreats from flying sparks! The hog roast was appreciated by our three, together with toffee apples! No-one could fail to be impressed by the splendid firework display that followed - amazingly there wasn't a 'damp squib' amongst them! Many thanks to all for a smashing night - the children will be coming back for more next year.

Peter and Mary Phillips.

Dear Bentham News,

Black Bull Car Park Explained!!

Following numerous one sided articles in the Bentham News and local uncertainty regarding the reasons and the charges for the car park adjacent to the Black Bull, I am grateful for the opportunity to respond.

The Black Bull is a tenancy for which the tenant pays a rent for the building, trading areas, fixtures and fittings and "Car Park"!

Charges for the "PRIVATE CAR PARK" and refunds to the Black Bull's "customers" are as follows:- 50p per hour and £2 all day parking.

Any person who purchases a ticket and then uses the Black Bull, to buy food or drink, will have their money fully refunded - ticket only valid on the day of issue. The period of charging is from 7.00am to midnight. Annual permits are available at a cost of £300 per annum.

There is a private clamping company in operation and cars parked without tickets in restricted areas will be clamped and charged a release fee of £25. The area that is between the Black Bull and the Town Hall is strictly a no parking area. The persons who do not have to pay to park are Black Bull staff and residents. Whilst there are only two disabled spaces, disabled permit holders can park anywhere at any time, in the car park, free of charge.

Therefore, anyone who uses the Black Bull and its private car park will have the charge fully refunded, whilst other users will have to pay the tariffs. I hope this clarifies the situation.

Lee Ellis

Landlord, Black Bull.

Dear Bentham News,

We would like to say a big thank you to Gavin West for his generous and thoughtful donation to our support group. We are raising money to help with the cost of complementary therapy sessions which are now recognised as being very beneficial to both cancer sufferers and their families.

Yours sincerely,

Members of Looking Well Cancer Support Group.

Dear Bentham News,

Since the Black Bull decided to introduce parking restrictions on its car park there has been a marked increase in congestion in other parts of town, particularly at the bottom of Station Road.

The Brewery has obviously decided to meet the full resurfacing cost. As the car park is usually nearly empty I wondered if the Black Bull would consider introducing a low cost short term parking fee for two hours? This would be adequate for most shoppers, ease congestion in Bentham and give the Black Bull a good return that would help to pay for the improved car park. Not many people want to pay £2 for parking while shopping.

Yours sincerely

David Johnson

Holly Gill, Low Bentham

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BONFIRE NIGHT

By Tom Bearpark (Age 6)

The drums go by

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The lanterns

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Bonfire like dragon.

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GARDENING PAGE

By Dot Hughes

With the wet weather we have been having recently, it is almost impossible to walk on the lawn, never mind do all the jobs such as spiking to relieve compaction of the soil, so this might as well be left until it dries up. There are plenty of fallen leaves still to clear away and these make a valuable addition to the compost heap. It is a good time to sort out all your old plant pots, washing and storing them until they are needed. Tender plants should be brought in for the winter.

Now is the time to get a good supply of manure and this should not be too difficult a job in this area. Keep all your kitchen waste, in fact anything that will rot down, as this will provide lots of free organic matter. If you have a greenhouse you can stay in the relative warmth and out of the wind and rain, removing all the faded foliage and flowers from pot plants. I have found that it will give you time to think about what you want to keep and what you would like to try to grow next year.

As Christmas will be here soon, we will have the problem of trying to keep the needles on the trees instead of on the carpet. You have to "condition" your tree and because trees may have been cut for several weeks, you need to recut the stem and then plunge this new stem end into boiling water, and then fill up the container (your bucket) with cold water and leave the tree to take up as much water as possible. For placing in the house, it is better if you have a special container that holds both the tree in position, and the water.



By Barbara Harrison

This autumn we have not been able to enjoy those crisp dry days where walking amongst autumn leaves is a pleasure and gardening a joy. No, this autumn has been all about unblocking leaf-sodden drains and squelching through muddy puddles. Clearing up the garden in these conditions is almost impossible so we have left much of it until the ground is drier. Neither have we been able to lift and move any plants and shrubs into their new homes and get them settled in before winter. However, when weather permits, we continue to clear up and bag the fallen leaves, which will be allowed to rot down for a couple of years or so.

The last of the spring bulbs were planted during one of the rare dry days; some into large containers for the patio, some used for under-planting around the garden and some in the arboretum. Most of the half hardy and more tender plants have been lifted, potted up and moved to the greenhouse for the winter. Amazingly, the garlic which was planted last month has spurred into growth and is already two inches high - perhaps it's an aquatic variety! In contrast with the Liquidambar styraciflua (sweet gum tree), which is holding on to its best-ever show of autumn colour with crimson, deep purple and ruby red leaves, the winter flowering Viburnum bodantensis is already covered with tight little pink flowers and the yellow flowers of the witch hazel Hamamelis mollis are beginning to appear.

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CONGRATULATIONS & CELEBRATIONS

By Dorothy Pidgeon

Congratulations on the occasion of our Town Hall's Diamond Jubilee. It seems almost unnecessary to print this article since the Town Hall was packed beyond capacity for the event: but for those not there and who missed a great evening - a short appreciation.

Perhaps others were more aware than I of the great pool of local talent in Bentham, much of which was on display. From the "tinies" at Primary School with their wartime songs, through the slightly older children also singing, to the teenage talents of the ballet school and the High School's Rock 'n' Roll, there were excellent contributions. And we golden oldies were equally well catered for by the hilarious W. I. (or should it be W.C.?) sketch and the Dad's Army take-off. Along with several other items, altogether an excellent programme, to say nothing of the wonderful giant birthday cake of which we all got a taste.

Our Lady Mayor thanked all who had in any way contributed to the great success of the evening, so it remains for me to say a special thank you to Bateman Marshall whose brain child this all was, and to Judith Johnson for organising it.

P.S. The winner of the "lucky number" programme at the event was Jim West, of Lairgill, who has kindly donated his prize to the British Legion Poppy Appeal.

(See photographs on page 21).

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and a Prosperous New Year.



POLICE FILE

By PC Danny Kay

A few bits and pieces this month in an attempt to keep up with contemporary news issues.

Floods

Ingleton police station was recently flooded out. However our deluge was not of the watery kind. We have just received a virtual torrent of new Fixed Penalty tickets. The new variety will cost the indiscriminate parker or the non seatbelt wearing driver, the princely sum of £30. Please take our advice, park sensibly and always wear your seatbelts. If you follow these simple guidelines we may be able to hold back the tide.

Fuel Crisis

Local drivers are running out of fuel rapidly or maybe I should have said "rapid local drivers will soon run out of money to buy fuel". The cause of the crisis? We are now in possession of a hand held radar gun which we have already put to good use in Bentham. For many years local residents and the Town Council have expressed their concern about the speed of vehicles in certain parts of Bentham. In an attempt to address the problem we have acquired the radar gun. Initial results indicate that quite a high percentage of vehicles travelling in the 30mph zones are exceeding the speed limit. Results also indicate that the drivers of the speeding vehicles which are putting the lives of local children at risk, are mostly local residents. Maybe Bentham is in self destruct mode! Anyway if you wish to speed we will be only too happy to give you a £60 fine and 3 points on your licence and thereby add to your insurance premiums etc etc etc.

Storms Ahead

Deep depressions, turbulence and a gloomy outlook. No, I haven't taken up weather forecasting, I am just predicting how people will react when they find that their cars have been broken into when out shopping for Christmas presents. Each year we get a number of reports from local residents who have had their shopping stolen from the car parks in places like Preston, Manchester and Lancaster. Our advice is not to leave

valuables in view, park in car parks that offer the best security, or consider leaving somebody in the car with all the goodies.

New American President

If you think I can find a link from the US elections to Bentham then you are wrong. But hopefully having still got your attention I would like to offer best wishes for Christmas and the New Year from all the staff at Ingleton Police station to the residents of Bentham.

MARY THORNBOROUGH'S

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I'M ON A COMMITTEE

Supplied by Peter Marshall

Oh give me some pity I'm on a committee
Which means from morn to night
We attend and amend and contend and
defend

Without a conclusion in sight
We confer and concur, we defer and demur
And reiterate all our thoughts
We revise the agenda with frequent
addenda

And consider a load of reports
We compose and propose, we suppose and
oppose

And the point of procedure is fun
But though various notions are brought up
as motions

There's terribly little gets done
We resolve and absolve but we never
dissolve

Since it's out of the question for us
What a shattering pity to end our
committee

Where else could we make such a fuss?

BLACK BULL

13 Main St. Bentham 015242 61213

Christmas Fayre

Available now

Soup of the Day
with fresh bread and butter

Traditional Roast Turkey
with sausage and bacon roll, sage and onion
stuffing and cranberry sauce or

Escalope of Salmon
topped with lime and dill butter or
Pasta, Broccoli and Tomato Bake
with garlic bread (all served with seasonal
vegetables and potatoes)

Rich Christmas Pudding
with tipsy brandy sauce or
Festive Mousse
with a fruit coulis

Coffee and Mince Pie

2 Courses including Coffee & Mince Pie £8.95
(Choose either soup and main course or main
course and sweet) 3 Courses including coffee &
Mince Pie £10.95

Private Restaurant - Bookings Only

Horse & Farrier Inn

Proudly announce our Christmas Menu

CHOICE OF STARTERS

SOUP SERVED WITH A CRUSTY ROLL....YES/NO

PRAWNS ON A BED OF FILO PASTRY IN A PRAWN SAUCE....YES/NO

DEEP FRIED WHITEBAIT SERVED WITH SALAD....YES/NO

MELON PEARLS AND FRESH SEASONAL FRUITS....YES/NO

GARLIC MUSHROOMS SERVED WITH GARLIC BREAD....YES/NO

ROAST TURKEY, CHESTNUT STUFFING AND ALL THE
TRIMMINGS....YES/NO

FRESH HORSESHOE GAMMON STEAK WITH PINEAPPLE....YES/NO

ROAST BEEF AND YORKSHIRE PUDDING....YES/NO

VEGETARIAN LASAGNE (V)....YES/NO

RUMP STEAK WITH/WITHOUT SAUCE OF YOUR CHOICE....YES/NO

SALMON EN CROUTE WITH A FRESH HERB SAUCE....YES/NO

CHICKEN BREAST SERVED WITH A MUSHROOM SAUCE....YES/NO

ALL WITH A SUPERB SELECTION OF SEASONAL VEGETABLES

A CHOICE OF TRULY WONDERFUL PUDDINGS OR A SELECTION OF
ENGLISH AND CONTINENTAL CHEESES WITH BISCUITS, PLUS
COFFEE AND MINTS

CHRISTMAS MENU (A) 4 COURSE FOR PRE-PARTY BOOKINGS
£14.95

A TWO COURSE MENU IS ALSO AVAILABLE FOR £12.95

*If you would like to book your Christmas meal
please telephone 015242-61381*

BART, SUE & STEVE ARE PLEASED TO CONFIRM THAT THE HORSE AND
FARRIER WILL BE OPEN AS USUAL THROUGH TO 1ST JANUARY SO YOU
CAN BOOK IN CONFIDENCE AND ENJOY OUR EXCELLENT CUISINE.

LOCAL EVENTS IN DECEMBER

Fri 1st Bentham News published.

Toddlers' Group at Bentham Community Centre - 9.30-11.30 am.

Craven Alzheimer's Disease Support Group Christmas Social at the Skipton Branch.

Age Concern at the Town Hall, Jean Fawcett and Ann Duncan "The Christmas Story in Flowers".

Sat 2nd St. Margaret's coffee morning in the Town Hall Ballroom, 10.00am-12.00 noon. 

Sun 3rd Bentham Footpath Group walk, Bentham/Ingleton/Burton circular, 8 miles, leader D. Fisher 61449. Please meet at Lairgill at 9.30am.

Mon 4th Town Council meeting at the Town Hall, 7.30pm.

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

Tue 5th Looking Well, 12.30-1.30pm relaxation session. 2.00-3.00pm Womens Support Group. Both every Tuesday.

Toddlers' Group, at Community Centre, 1.00-3.00pm.

Listing for Local Events

Day

Date

Event

Venue

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

Tue 5th Book Group, Bentham Library, 7.30pm. Book "Cold Mountain, by Charles Frasier.

Wed 6th Late Night Shopping, see page 30.

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

Thu 7th Looking Well, 4.00 and 5.30pm, video premiere of Bentham Bonfire and Lanterns film. 2.00-3.00pm Tai Chi Qigong gentle exercise session and every Thursday.

Fri 8th Age Concern at the Town Hall, Christmas dinner - children singing.

Toddlers' Group at Bentham Community Centre - 9.30-11.30 am.

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

Sat 9th St. John's coffee morning  at the Lower Town Hall, 10.00-11.00am.

Bentham Homing Society Show in the Town Hall Ballroom, all day.

Sun 10th The Panto - signing on for Snow White at the Community Centre, 2.00-3.00pm.

Mon 11th Looking Well, 12.30-2.00pm, Cancer Support Group shared lunch.

Tue 12th Bright Hour and Mothers Union, Bentham Methodist Schoolroom, 2.15pm. Christmas message by Rev. Norman Price.

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

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

Tue 12th Toddlers Group at the Community Centre, 1.00-3.00 pm.

Wed 13th Citizens Advice Bureau at the Surgery, 1.30-3.15pm.

Alzheimer's Disease Support Group Christmas Social, Looking Well 7.30-9.00pm.

Thu 14th Low Bentham Chapel Friendly Hour Carol Service, 2.30pm, led by Rev. Norman Price.

Bentham Footpath Group walk, Greystone Gill circular, 4 miles, leader V. Smith 61100. Please meet at Bentham Bridge 1.00pm.

"Soup & Sing" Carols at Bentham Methodist Schoolroom, 7.30pm. Collection for National Children's Home.

Fri 15th Age Concern at the Town Hall, Christmas Party, entertainment by Ray Garland.

Toddlers' Group at Bentham Community Centre - 9.30-11.30 am.

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

Copy deadline for January edition Bentham News.

Sat 16th Wenning Badminton Club coffee morning at the Town Hall, 11.00am-12.00 noon.

Bentham Footpath Group, Lunesdale walk - Carnforth/Loyne Bridge, 10 miles, leader B. Ellershaw 62078. Please meet at Lairgill 9.30am.

Mon 18th Bentham Angling Association Annual General Meeting, 7.15pm at the Punch Bowl Hotel, Low Bentham.

Tue 19th Toddlers Group at the Community Centre, 1.00-3.00 pm.

Sun 31st High Bentham Methodist Church, 11.00pm. Watchnight Service - Rev. Norman Price.

Early January

Fri 5th Bentham News published.

Toddlers Group at the Community Centre, 1.00-3.00 pm.

LOOKING WELL

Looking Well will be shut for Christmas from Saturday 23rd December until Friday 5th January. We wish everyone a Happy Christmas and a Peaceful New Year.

THE HORSE & FARRIER

Bartolo, Head Chef, looks forward to meeting customers old and new, over the festive season.

TOWN COUNCIL PRECEPT MEETING

The precept meeting, where the Town Council decides which local organisations it will make grants to, will take place in early January, at a date to be arranged.

So now is the time, if you want to apply for a grant, to get your application form from the Town Clerk, Reg Pointon, 25 Springfield Crescent, telephone 61596.

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OPENING	TIMES
MONDAY - FRIDAY	12.00 - 8.00pm
SATURDAY	12.00-6.00pm
CLOSED WEDNESDAY & SUNDAY	

High Street, Burton-in-Lonsdale Via Carnforth LA6 3JP.
TEL: 015242-62735, Fax 62736.

POST OFFICE NEWS

By Alison Wilken

Christmas/New Year Arrangements - 2000/2001

Last posting dates for delivery before Christmas

At the time of going to press last posting dates were:-

Airmail letters and packets outside Europe - 7th December.

Airmail letters and packets to Europe - 14th December.

Inland second class (letters/packets) - 18th December.

Inland first class (letters and packets) - 21st December.

Inland parcels (heavier items) - 15th December.

Please post early, pack packets and parcels well and check the postage required.

Delivery Arrangements

Normal up to and including Saturday 23rd December, but with some delays.

None on 24th, 25th December. Sunday style collections on 26th December. Normal on 27th-30th December. None on 31st December. Sunday style collections on 1st January.

Post Office Counter Opening

Normal up to and including Saturday 23rd December.

Closed on 24th, 25th, 26th December.

Normal opening 27th-30th December.

Closed 31st December and 1st January.

Pensions and Allowances

Winter fuel payments should all have been made by the end of the first week in December. Pensions and allowances due on 25th and 26th December are payable up to one week in advance. Pensions and allowances due on 1st January are payable from Wednesday 27th December.

Dales Railcards

The contract between the Post Office and Northern Spirit for the sale of Dales Railcards has unfortunately been terminated and Dales Railcards will need to be purchased from Settle or Appleby stations for the foreseeable future.

Wishing all customers the Compliments of the Season.



THE BENTHAMS AT THE MILLENNIUM

By David Johnson

I thought your readers may like to know that the photographic survey of all the buildings, barns and bridges in Bentham has now been recorded digitally on two CD's and together with the appropriate catalogues we hope they will soon be available for use on the library computer.

This project was made possible by two grants, one from Craven District Council Community Chest, another from the North Yorkshire Small Project Fund and the balance from donations at the local history exhibition held last Easter.

SPEED FUEL OILS

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CALLIGRAPHY EXHIBITION

By Siobhan Kirrane (District Museums Officer)

The Craven Museum, Skipton, has been filled with vibrant colours and patterns as it hosts a new travelling exhibition featuring "Calligraphy from the Muslim World". It started on 18th November and finishes on 27th January 2001.

Calligraphy plays a central role in Muslim cultures and this exhibition celebrates the beauty of the Arabic script. Its fluid and undulating lines lend themselves well to use on a whole variety of materials. They can be inscribed into gold and silver, woven, printed or embroidered onto textiles, carved into wood or painted onto pottery.

The exhibition illustrates all of these techniques and the wide range means that there is something for everyone to enjoy, from the richly decorated furniture to elaborate textile wall hangings. Whilst some items are centuries old, there are also new

works, some of which are computer generated. There is even an art table where younger visitors can get to grips with crayons and rubbing boards.

The Museum is open as follows:- Mondays, Wednesday Thursday and Friday, from 1.30 to 5.00pm; Saturday from 10.00am to 4.00pm.

BENTHAM NEWS - JANUARY EDITION

Please note that because of the Christmas and New Year holidays, the January edition of the Bentham News will be published on Friday 5th January.

Copy deadline, for advertisements and editorial copy is the 15th December.



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Now with an established reputation for its creative, professional approach to the Financial Management of small and medium businesses, we have extended our facilities to include **Business and Personal Insurance**.

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"A Very Happy Christmas from us all"

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ON THE TWELFTH DAY
OF CHRISTMAS MY
TRUE LOVE
SAID TO ME

"BOY, THIS HOUSE NEEDS
CLEANING"

I HAD IT DONE IN NO
TIME,

ALL I DID WAS PICK UP
THE PHONE

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61840/62401

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House Maids or any other cleaning
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Tooby's
ELECTRICAL STORE

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Walter, Linda, the directors and staff,
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and would like to thank you
for your continued support

Bentham, Ingleton
Tel (015242) 61259 / 41224

PICTURES FROM THE DIAMOND JUBILEE VARIETY SHOW

By Bill Kennedy

The picture on the left shows the Lady Mayor, Councillor Jean West, cutting the "Birthday" cake at the variety show in the Town Hall on Saturday 11th November, to celebrate the 60th anniversary of the extension and refurbishment of the Town Hall.

Also in the picture are Councillor Felicity Hey, who baked the magnificent cake, Mrs. Judith Johnson, who organised the event and a former Mayor, Mr. Bateman Marshall, who entertained the audience with a brief history of Bentham 60 years

ago, and with some hilarious anecdotes and jokes. Pictured below is the superb 60th birthday cake, depicting the councillors, woolly sheep and 60 candles.



THE LANGCLIFFE SINGERS

Tuesday 12th December at 8pm

Fresh from their successful recording of a C.D. "With a Voice of Singing" the Langcliffe Singers will entertain you at St. John's in Low Bentham at 8pm on Tuesday December 12th.

The programme will include Haydn's *Missa Cellensis*, excerpts from *Gloria* by John Rutter and a selection of solos and part songs. Valerie Baulard from Giggleswick will conduct and the accompanist will be Brian Heaton. Admission £3 (children free).

There's a lot of gifts at

Armstrongs,

and seasonal bargains too.

So follow the stars to Main Street, choose for family & friends & for you.



Merry Christmas to all our customers.



B & C. E. ARMSTRONG

17 Main Street, Bentham 61229



**M & E'S FISH BAR
& RESTAURANT**

22 Main St. Bentham, 61317.

Marian, Elaine & Staff
wish all their customers
a Merry Christmas and
a Happy New Year.

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gardens to bed!**



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BENTHAM MARKET TOWNS INITIATIVE UPDATE

By Claire Jackson (Yorkshire Forward)

The Partnership Steering Group for the Market Towns Initiative has now been formed and held its first meeting at the Town Hall on 15th November to discuss ways of taking the initiative forward.

The organisations represented on the Partnership, following nominations from the Public Meeting held in October, are: Bentham Traders Association, Angus Fire Armour, Bentham Schools, Bentham Farmers Discussion Group, Looking Well, Playing Fields Association, Bentham Town Council, Bentham Development Trust, Bentham Community Association, Craven District Council and Burton-in-Lonsdale Parish Council.

Yorkshire Forward, The Countryside Agency and the Partnership will shortly be looking to set up specific focus groups to

help develop the initiative and would welcome names and addresses of anyone interested in taking part.

If you are interested in a particular subject matter, then please forward your name and address, together with a sentence on the subject/area that is of interest to you, to Vicki Mulligan at the Bentham Development Trust, 26 Main Street, Bentham, LA2 7HL, by the 22nd December at the latest.

LETTERS *(More on pages 9 & 26)*

Dear Bentham News,

On behalf of myself and the Town Council I would like to thank everyone who helped, participated and came to the celebrations of the Diamond Jubilee of the Town Hall. Special thanks to Mrs. Judith Johnson who took on the mammoth task of organising it all.

Sincerely,
Jean West (Mayor)



Swallow Springs

**Swimming Sauna
Jacuzzi Steam**

Soak up the tranquility of Swallow Springs,
an exclusive new leisure pool.

Enjoy the luxury of a private swimming pool

Pamper yourself in the steam room

Relax in the jacuzzi

And unwind in the sauna.

Swallow Springs is situated on an elevated site, less than one mile from Low Bentham, with magnificent views of the three peaks.

Refreshments available. Qualified lifeguard. Open for pre-booked sessions, swimming lessons and parties.

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SPONSORED AID FOR CANCER GROUP

By Cancer Support Group

In October, Gavin West, son of Jim and Jean West, ran the Great North Run, Newcastle to South Shields half marathon. Gavin has participated previously in the run a few times but this year decided to run, with sponsorship for Cancer Relief, coming from permanent staff and civilians of 102 Battalion, R.E.M.E. at Newton Aycliffe, Co. Durham. Gavin has kindly donated his sponsorship money to the Cancer Support Group at the Looking Well to help with Complementary Therapies for cancer sufferers here in Bentham. He raised £120. Gavin is a Staff Sgt. in R.E.M.E. now with the Royal Artillery in North Lincolnshire. He has served four tours in Bosnia and the Falklands and other overseas tours. He suffers from a rare form of arthritis. His sponsor money will give a great boost to the Cancer Support Group.

Many people are affected by cancer and need support. The group meets monthly for

a shared lunch in the Cottage at Looking Well. The next meeting is at 12.30pm on Monday 11th December. If you, or anyone in your family is facing cancer, we invite you to join us. We also offer complementary therapy sessions (aromatherapy, massage, reflexology) on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Fridays in the Cottage, at a reduced rate for those who are receiving treatment for cancer. For details and bookings, phone Lynda Graveson on 62672.

AEROBATHON

Raised money for good causes

By Heather Guy

On Sunday 8th October, Karen Hayton, Sally Horn and I led an aerobathon in Ingleton Centre, three hours of fun aerobic type exercises. The total amount raised was £1,404, which will be divided equally between the Health Centre Extra Care Fund, Ingleton Swimming Pool, Play Area and Settle Physio Department. Thanks so much to everyone who took part, sponsored or provided raffle prizes.

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BURN REDHEAD'S YORKSHIRE COAL AT CHRISTMAS

We wish all customers old and new a Happy Christmas and New Year.

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New Century Steiff

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Outdoor display of TP swings, slides, trampolines & climbing frames.

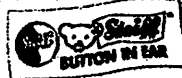
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It is a simple process of laying on of hands, releasing energy and calm throughout the body.

I was trained by an accredited Reiki Master and have recently started up in practice myself.

If you would like to try a Reiki session or would simply like more information, please contact me, Gillian Ratcliffe, on Bentham 015242 - 62608.

TOM & RACHEL'S BARBER SHOP

Bentham 61716

BEEN TO SPAIN
AND BACK AGAIN
IT RAINED THERE
IT RAINED HERE

RACHEL CUT A LOT OF HAIR
AND EVERYONE WAS HAPPY
MERRY CHRISTMAS FROM US BOTH
NEW YEAR WILL BE SUNNY.

TOLL BAR NURSERIES

Lower Bentham,
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Open 7 days a week,
9.00am-5.00pm.

Fresh cut Christmas Trees
Holly Wreaths, Terracotta pots
large & small. Sales over £15
delivered free if required.
Merry Christmas and Happy
New Year.

ADVERTISING RATES

Local Advertisers

Bentham, Burton, Ingleton - Boxed advertisement, one eighth page - £10. Other sizes pro rata. Series rates (prepaid) for 6 or more insertions, subject to 10% discount.

Non-local advertisers

boxed advertisement one eighth page - £15

Flyers and inserts rate negotiable depending on size, design layout and printing etc. Normal commercial rate £100 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.

NOT JUST A
FRUIT "N" VEG SHOP
BUT
FINE FOODS AS WELL
AND
A "BLOOMIN"
GOOD FLORIST!

MERRY CHRISTMAS

BAMFORDS

7 Main Street, Bentham.
Tel: 61904

LETTERS (continued from page 9)

Dear Editor,

In recent years, whilst the Parish Council has had to operate on a tight budget to maintain the town hall and meet its other commitments, and some long established voluntary organisations have struggled to survive financially, cash has flowed into the town (or been promised) in unprecedented quantities. From Bentham Development Trust's 'Newslink' and the Lancaster Guardian, it would appear that some £574,000 or thereabouts, has been promised or received, which on the face of it is excellent news. However, when it is realised that some £465,500, or 81% of this sum, has been allotted to just three organisations, (viz: Looking Well (approx. £250,000), Bentham Development Trust (£122,170) and Bentham Community Association (£93,366), concerns arise about priorities and the disparity between the treatment of older voluntary organisations and that of their more recent 'semi-professional' counterparts.

Now a further £340,000 is on offer from the Market Towns Initiative, and its allocation is to be decided by the Bentham Regeneration Partnership. As I understand it, this will be a committee of twelve people, selected by an official from MTI. They will be drawn from Bentham Development Trust, the traders, farmers, local industry, churches and other 'local interest groups', together with a representative from the County, District and Town Councils respectively. This means that of the twelve representatives only three will be directly answerable to the people of Bentham. Whilst it is important not to "look a gift horse in the mouth", it is also important that the grant is fairly distributed and used in line with the views of all the people of Bentham.

Can I therefore suggest that before the matter is pursued further and the District Council throws its promised £100,000 in the pot, the local council representation on the Partnership committee be significantly increased. This is because:

(a) The Town Councillors and District Councillors having been elected are directly answerable to the people of Bentham.

(b) The Town Councillors and the two District Councillors are more representative of the local populace and have less of an "axe to grind" than some of the local interest groups.

(c) The Town Council has run its own grant scheme for local organisations for a number of years which, though it has not satisfied everyone, is generally perceived as being run on a reasonable fair basis.

If this proposal was accepted, the project need not be delayed unduly, and most people would consider it a more democratic way of proceeding, as, at the end of the day, if the public of Bentham don't like the way the grant is handled they could, at least, express their disapproval practically at the next local elections.

Yours sincerely,

J. E. Guy,

9 Goodenber Crescent, High Bentham.

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Best Wishes for
Christmas and the
New Year to all
our customers, past
and present.



BENTHAM PEOPLE



Personal Thanks

♦ **Mrs. Jean Walton and Family** would like to thank all the friends and neighbours of the late Ken Walton for their kind thoughts, cards, letters and prayers. In the time of our need we gained strength from the warmth of your friendship, great comfort from the Rev. Norman Price, whilst being sustained by a large array of biscuits and cakes baked so well by Mrs Hilda King!

♦ **Frank Bosman and Family** wish to thank all their neighbours and friends in Bentham for their support and kindness during Margaret's last illness, and at the funeral.

Thanks

♦ The sisters of **Thomas Bentham**, formerly of Mill Dam, Mewith, would like to thank all those from Bentham and the surrounding area who have offered him help, support and friendship over the years. They hope that he will be happy and meet with such friendship in his new environment.

♦ Following her recent illness and operation, **Mrs. Laura Simon** would like to thank family, Dr. Story, the paramedics and the ministers who visited her. Thanks also to friends and neighbours for their kind deeds and wishes.

♦ **Mick and Ruth Green** would like to thank their family, relatives and friends for all the beautiful cards, flowers, presents and good wishes, on their Silver Anniversary. Also a big thank you to Gail, Steve, Nicky, Felicity, Beverley and Natasha for all their help in making the party a memorable one.

Holidays

Simply Austria. Fancy a holiday in Söll, Austria, next summer? We are planning to leave this area in mid August 2001, travelling by luxury coach and the overnight ferry from Hull. Duration of holiday - 10 days. For further details please contact Susan Adams on 61182 a.s.a.p.

Accommodation wanted

Wanted for family - 3 bedroomed house in Bentham, with garden. First time/cash buyer. Phone 74277 weekends or 4-6pm Mon-Fri.

Greetings

♦ Good day! Touring Australasia, that's where we are! We wish family and friends a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year. Love from Midd & Laws.

♦ Ken Leeming wishes all his Relations, Friends and Neighbours a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

♦ Wishing all friends and home carers and neighbours a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. Leah Cox, 2 Collingwood Terrace, Bentham.

♦ Jim Segger wishes friends and relatives a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

For Sale

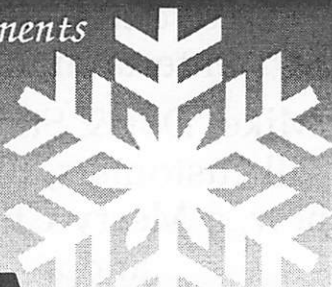
Piano for sale, Waddington walnut, upright piano, good condition, under damper, 7¼ octaves, £250 o.n.o. Telephone Bentham 62444.

Congratulations

♦ Congratulations on your 18th Birthday William, on December 4th. Lots of love, Dad, Angela and David. xxx.

♦ Wenning Badminton Club wishes to congratulate Sue Airey for successfully completing a recent Three Peaks Walk and raising £115.00 for club funds - Sue is one of our most loyal and longest serving members. Thanks Sue - Well done!

*Compliments
of the
Season
from*



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COUNTDOWN TO CHRISTMAS

Book your
Christmas Party Menus
to suit you.

Christmas Fare served
to order from Friday
1st December until
Friday 22nd December.

Friday 1st December
Live Music
"Back of Beyond".

Monday 18th Christmas
Quiz Night.

Watch notice board for
more details of live
entertainment.

Mike, Dot & Staff wish
all customers, old and
new, a Merry Christmas
and a

Prosperous
New Year.




BENTHAM & DISTRICT PET RESCUE



By Val Marshall

This year is ending with a bang! After taking in and re-homing over 70 kittens and neutering 20 or so cats, we are now having to shut down our pens due to an infection which will take some time to clear. Not all is gloom, however, as we are still able to neuter local feral cats which are causing annoyance to domestic pets and have all our equipment to lend out to people willing to help.

Please can I ask anyone who obtained a kitten this year, or whose cat produced unwanted offspring, to make arrangements to get them neutered before they breed again. The number of kittens dumped at the roadside each year is appalling and this can be avoided by having a responsible neutering programme. We can offer some financial assistance if the cost is the reason for ignoring this advice. As many of you know, we also help with the payment of vet bills after accidents or when the alternative appears to be to put the pet to sleep.

Once again, we thank all our supporters for their help during the year, and do please remember that Pet Rescue is here to assist you with any problems you have with your pets.



ANCHOR STAYING PUT - CRAVEN

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

BENTHAM FOOTPATH GROUP

By Tony Burnett



Who said that Annual General Meetings were to be endured rather than enjoyed? Not so, at the Group's AGM held mid October members were treated to an insight into the philosophy of hill walking, why we do it and what we get out of it, by a man well qualified to speak on the subject. John Wyatt, the first paid warden of the Lake District National Park and a working member of that organisation until his retirement a few years ago, gave an autobiographical talk on his love for mountains, particularly those in Cumbria. Most people could identify with his enthusiasm for the hills even if they never gave a thought to why they climbed Ingleborough or sat in the rain half way up Pavey Ark!

Fields turned into lakes, farm tracks into quagmires, becks become torrents and the hills blotted out day after day by rain cloud. It has been a familiar story over the past month or so; how it affected everyone and every activity has been well chewed over. But let it be said, the foul weather did not deter the keener walkers in the BFG. A good number turned up for the circular walk around Barbon and Casterton in early October despite a day of almost continuous rain. Hardy? Some would perhaps say foolhardy but walkers are a tough breed and well used to getting wet. The Ribblehead/Chapel-le-Dale walk (first on our winter programme) was well attended and the group was rewarded by, believe it or not, a rain-free day, although one would admit, hardly a balmy autumn day. Much flood debris was in evidence as the party followed the normally low Winterscales Beck down through the limestone cave area around Haws Gill Wheel and Philpin. The return from Chapel via the farm track serving Ellerbeck and Bruntscar was a much drier prospect and was even rewarded by some views of this beautiful area.

So, if the story has been recently of doom and gloom, we look forward to the future and what the BFG programme offers. By the time this is printed the Footpath Group will have had one of its "highlights" - a walk through the heart of the pothole country to Bull Pot Farm via the wonderfully scenic (usually stone dry) Easegill. Another walk not to be missed comes last in the December calendar (Saturday 16th) with a stretch of the most beautiful Lunesdale Walk from Carnforth to Loyne Bridge near Gressingham.

And finally, as they say, a brief mention of the Group's forthcoming Annual Dinner to be held on Friday 2nd February. This has become the Group's main social affair, usually held in a local pub and very well attended. Numbers are being counted already so members are advised to make known their interest by ringing 62326 in early January.

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A PRAYER TO PRAY IN DEDICATION

By Olive Calverley

Into Your Hands I give my day;
show me Your way.
Into Your Hands I give my night;
You are my light.
Into Your Hands I give my week;
as You I seek.
Into Your Hands I give my years;
dispel my fears.
Into Your Hands I give my life;
help me in strife.
No longer need I fear, for You are near.
Into the future will I tread -
You'll go ahead.
Unknown may be the way -
I cannot stray,
For You God are my guard -
though ways be hard.
Loved with Eternal Love - By God above.
By Faith I'll walk each day -
The Narrow Way.
Amen.

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Please do not forget to tell us
your orders for Christmas in
good time!

We wish all our customers and
their families a very Happy
Christmas and a prosperous
New Year.

LATE NIGHT SHOPPING

By Pam Woof

Don't miss Benthams Trader's Late Night Christmas shopping on Wednesday 6th December.

The evening will start with fireworks at School Hill at 6.30pm. Shortly after this Father Christmas will make his entrance and will be taken to his grotto so that you can visit him during the evening. You will find him in the Town Hall from about 6.45 pm onwards. There will be carol singing and street organ music throughout the evening. Have a go at the window quiz organised for your amusement and there will be a free children's disco in the new Youth Community Centre.

We hope you will come and visit shops and street stalls and enjoy an evening of seasonal festivities. Shops will be open until about 8.30pm.

Benthams Traders wish every one a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

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WENNING BADMINTON CLUB

By Andy Chappell

Well my appeal for supporters almost fell on deaf ears; we had the grand total of one for an "A" team fixture! Thank you Cliff Rosier, our No.1 supporter. As yet, no one has come to support the "B" team. So come on, make an effort. You know you want to, really. As we are a self funding club, is there anyone out there who would like to offer any sponsorship? We would be most grateful. Please contact me on 62274.

Recent results are as follows:- "A" team versus Saltaire away, won 12-6; Sunnyside "A" away, lost 18-0; Kirkby Lonsdale "A" lost 11-7; and Brookhouse "A" away won 11-7.

"B" team versus Moor Hospital "C" won 11-7; Bolton-le-Sands "B" lost 13-5; Storeys "A" won 10-8; Garstang "D" won 12-6 and Ingleton "D" won 10-8.

Home fixtures in December "A" team none; "B" team on Tuesdays, starting at 7.00pm, 5th - Ashton; 12th Hest Bank "C", 19th Garstang "D". There will be no club nights in December. Current placings "A" team 4th in Division 1; "B" team 5th in Division 4.

BENTHAM SPORTS CLUB

By Linda Bentham & Lynda Pilling

On 7th October Christmas came early to Bentham. Caravanners from Riverside Caravan Park, who are members of Bentham Sports Club, and local members, organised an end of season Christmas Party.

It was well attended with a giant raffle and Jacobs Join meal. Father Christmas also came and gave each child a box of chocolate Santa biscuits, while each couple received a 2001 Bentham Sports Club calendar.

Since the beginning of the season we have held raffles and all the money collected was given to two local organisations. £200 was presented to Mr. and Mrs. P. Marshall for Bentham and District Pet Rescue. On 21st October, Derek



Anthony and Andy Winspear, two paramedics from Ingleton, received a cheque for £400. This money will go towards the cost of an Infusion Pump and a Fluid Warmer.

Both parties gave a talk on their line of work, which was enjoyed by all who attended. The Sports Club also supports Children in Need, Leukaemia, and the Playing Field through the efforts of its members.

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PANTO 2001

SNOW WHITE AND THE SEVEN DWARVES

By Margaret Cowling

It's time to sign on the Bentham Pantomime which is Snow White. Our production of Snow White in 1984 was our first attempt at writing our own script and it was so successful that we have made it a tradition. We are able to write with our cast in mind and can include many local references and topical news and also be rude about the Ingleton Panto!



Rehearsals will begin on 7th January 2001, in the newly refurbished Bentham Community Centre (formerly the Youth Club), so we're looking forward to some lovely warm rooms at last!

We will be rehearsing three times a week until the Panto begins on 21st February. Being involved in the Panto is a really enjoyable way of occupying the winter evenings after the sparkle of Christmas has faded, and when Snow White is over, the snowdrops will be out! If you want to act, sing, dance, sew costumes, paint scenery, make props, design posters, help backstage or have any other skills to offer, then come along and sign on at the Community Centre on Sunday 10th December, 2.00-3.00pm. If you can't manage that, phone me on 63175 or Heather on 63304.

LOTTERY CASH FOR PLAYGROUP

By Kay Sharples

Low Bentham Playgroup recently received a grant of £1150 from the National Lottery Charities Board. This huge sum of money means a great deal to everyone involved with the playgroup, which barely makes enough money to keep it running and relies on fund-raising activities for money for new toys. We have bought lots of new toys, bean bags and play mats, to make the room more colourful and inviting, and lots of art materials as the children love being creative.

Bring your little ones along to play with our new toys and create a work of art for your wall. Sessions are on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 9.45am.

HIGH BENTHAM PLAYGROUP FUND-RAISING

By Stephanie Procter

On behalf of everyone at Bentham Playgroup I would like to thank all who came to our fund-raising event at the Golf Club on 7th October, and we hope you had a good night. Thanks also to the following who gave their free time and made the evening such a success. The "Back of Beyond" who provided the live music, Nicky Louth for doing the disco, Howard Neil for being on the door and Louise Neil who collected all the raffle prizes. Thanks also to all the traders and others who donated raffle prizes. And last but not least, thanks to all who contributed by selling the tickets. We raised over £650 for the playgroup. Special thanks to Elaine Prendergast who donated her prize money of £40 to the Playgroup Christmas Party.

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