

BENTHAM NEWS

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Christmas in the Mart

Photo by Jon Brook of Bentham Imaging

More photographs on pages 2 and 3, read all about it on page 44

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Christmas in the Mart 2022

Read all about it on page 44





John Barnes in Bentham

By Shirley Brown

Ripples of excitement and disbelief were felt in Bentham on Tuesday 6th December. A tall dark handsome stranger was wandering along the Main Street looking a lot like John Barnes. Amazingly it was John Barnes!

He chatted with Kevin the butcher on Station Road, who, as an ardent Liverpool F C fan in the 1980s and 1990s, was fairly sure the man in his shop was the famous footballer. John Barnes, having confirmed that he was indeed **the** John Barnes, then asked where he could get a good breakfast on a Tuesday morning in Bentham and Kevin suggested G&Mo's café. (*see photo top right*)

I checked with Mo and Gina, and they confirmed he'd sat at the table in The Naughty Corner, on his own, and enjoyed a full English breakfast with orange juice and a cup of tea – he ate everything on his plate. They'd not been sure who he was at first, but after an initial "Your face looks familiar" and "I think I know you" he admitted that he used to play for Liverpool and England, so the penny dropped! He chatted with everyone in the café and was thoroughly lovely and friendly. He left a tip, used the toilet (*is that too much information?!*) which he complimented as "very clean" and departed. His next stop was The Black Bicycle, where he chatted with Chris and bought a tweed jacket and some trousers. (*see photo below left and right*) He said he was



killing time before a meeting at Huws Gray Builders Merchants. Chris described him as a football legend who came across as down to earth and really pleasant. He now has a Black Bicycle lapel pin, which he says he'll wear on his next TV appearance.

I checked with Huws Gray on Low Bentham Road. Huws Gray have been running a nationwide competition for which the prize was a Man Cave. And the lucky winner is someone in Bentham! So, what better than to ask John Barnes to come to Bentham to make the presentation, and that's why he was here.

For those who wonder why we're making such a fuss about having John Barnes visit Bentham: here's a few reasons to be excited....

He was born in Jamaica and came to England with his family at the age of 12. He's now 59, but as a left-footed left winger, between 1983 and 1995 he earned 79 caps playing for England. Arguably he scored England's greatest goal 16 years ago against Real Madrid (check it out on YouTube John Barnes – England's Greatest Goal?). In 1987 he joined Liverpool Football Club and in his 10 seasons there he scored 106 goals in 403 matches. He went on to join Newcastle United and ended his playing career in 1999 at Charlton Athletic. In 2005 he was inducted into the English Football Hall of Fame and in 2022 returned to Liverpool as an official Club Ambassador.



Tatham Fells Primary School News

By Mrs Fiona Ip, Headteacher

We were very lucky that the Friends of Tatham Fells school paid for the whole school to watch Robin Hood at The Dukes Theatre. We all had an amazing time; we were so excited to take part and enjoyed chocolate lollies in the interval. Thank you, Friends!

Our Y1/2 pupils were busy again at the University of Cumbria. This time with an athletics competition. They ran jumped and hopped their way through the morning. As part of their DT sewing project our infants are designing and making felt Christmas decorations.

Meanwhile the juniors have been extremely busy making a huge range of beautiful Christmas crafts to sell at our school Christmas market and at the Christmas in the Mart 2022. We wonder who purchased them? At our school Christmas market, we were pleased to see so many familiar faces coming for drinks and a mince pie as well as taking part in the raffle, chocolate tombola and games run by the children. The children's crafts raised £299 for us to purchase new classroom resources. The sheep log craft was the star of the show and sold out in minutes.

Our KS1 pupils are looking forward to performing their nativity 'The Hoity Toity Angel' and will be excited when a real donkey appears - photos to follow in the new year. We would like to wish everyone a happy and peaceful Christmas as we look forward to 2023!



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Person of Bentham - Ula Thorn

Ula Thorn has lived in Bentham since 2000 with her husband Steve and their dog Teddy, a Jack Russell/Yorkshire Terrier cross. She is now retired and has one daughter, Kamilia, who lives in Lancaster and works for the NHS. Ula has had an interesting and eventful life. Please read on to find out more.

How long have you lived in Bentham, and what brought you here?

I have lived in Bentham for twenty-two years after running the John O'Gaunt pub in Lancaster with my husband Steve. Bentham was a convenient location to escape to on our days off, and then we moved here permanently in 2004 after selling the pub.

Tell us something about yourself that people wouldn't normally know.

I am the granddaughter of a Polish Countess, and my full name is Ursula. My grandmother died just before I was born, my granddad and my mother's sister were shot by the Germans early in World War II. I came to the UK in 1946 with my mother and sister as one of the first refugee children and was unable to speak a word of English. Prior to this, at the age of three and a half, I was in a German prison camp where my head was shaved on entry. When I came out of the camp, the only words of German I knew were swear words picked up from the guards. I didn't know where my parents or little sister were. When we were re-united, we were taken to a railway station where we lost my father due to people shoving and pushing on the train. When we reached our destination in Northern Italy, we were taken to a refugee camp where I saw my first ever orange. We were well fed here! In the meantime, my father joined the Polish Army which eventually got in touch with the Red Cross, and they were able to find us there. He was allowed to visit us once a week in the camp. After about five or six months, we were taken to Dover where we were given once more a very good meal, before being taken to a Polish Army camp in Flookburgh where we were re-united with my father as a family. The children were taken daily to a local school in an army Jeep and soon learned to speak English. I was not allowed to go to Grammar School because I wasn't British, so at the age of eleven I was sent to a secondary school in Grange-over-Sands.

Soon after, my father left the army, got a job in Lancaster where we moved to, and we became actively involved in the Polish community. My mother ran a Polish dance group, and I taught English to the children of the mixed Polish/English marriages. Although my family have been happy in this country, the war has left its scars.

Have you ever been back to Poland?

Yes, twice, and recently to Krakow to visit the Christmas Markets.



Photo by Jon Brook, Bentham Imaging

If you could travel anywhere, where would you like to go?

I would like to visit Brest in what was Eastern Poland where my family are from, but now this is part of Russia - so any trip there is unlikely!

What does a perfect day look like to you?

Going for a drive with Steve around some scenic countryside, stopping for a coffee on the way to visit some shops, such as a nice deli or kitchen shop like Dawson's in Clitheroe, and then home to a nice meal cooked for me in the evening.

If you could witness any event of the past, present or future, what would it be?

I would like to see Vladimir Putin get his come-uppance for his recent actions in Ukraine.

Are there any world events that you remember particularly from when you were growing up?

It's not really a world event, but a childhood memory I have is of being lifted up in the air by the Polish General Anders when he visited the Flookburgh army camp.

Is there anyone who has had the most influence on your life?

The headmaster, Mr. J. E. Berry, at my school in Grange-over-Sands. He was very kind to me after reading my life story which I wrote for an exam paper. Later I

Continued on page 8

...../Continued from page 7

became very ill and was taken to Lancaster Infirmary and then to the Isolation Unit at Beaumont Hospital. Mr Berry sent me a parcel of chocolates and books and a jar of his honey along with letters from all my classmates.

If you had an unlimited budget, what investment would you make in Bentham?

Some sort of scheme to help small businesses reduce their overheads so that the shops on Main Street could survive and flourish and it would encourage new enterprises to fill the empty premises.

What is the worst job you have ever done?

I have had a variety of jobs throughout my life. After school I went to college in Morecambe and gained my certificates in leather making, jewellery, dressmaking and weaving. I had two exhibits at the Good Housekeeping show in Manchester. I then became a bespoke tailor. I also did some nursing for a while and then did all the cooking in the pub from 1986-2004.

But the worst job was working in the weaving sheds at Bath Mill in Lancaster, the noise and overall working conditions were awful.

What is your most treasured possession?

A brass metal plaque given to my mother as an award for helping the other women in the refugee camp in Italy during the war. Also, a solid silver spoon that belonged to my grandmother, with her initials and the date of her wedding.

How do you relax?

I used to read a lot but now I like to watch old fashioned black and white films such as 'The Third Man'. I also like doing puzzles.

What did you want to be when you were growing up?

An opera singer, and I wanted to play the piano but didn't have access to one as a child. I still have a love for music such as Blues, New Orleans Jazz and Opera.

Is there a book, film or event that you have particularly enjoyed?

I really enjoyed going to Verona to see the opera 'Nabucco' by Verdi, performed in the Roman Amphitheatre.



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Bentham Panto 2023 is the 'Wizard of Oz'

By Heather Knowles

Costumes and props are being made, scenery painted, songs rehearsed and (hopefully) lines learned (mind you that would be a first!) in preparation for the 2023 Bentham Panto. Our first acting



rehearsal was between Christmas and New Year, and with 58 people in the cast and chorus, I can tell you it was pretty busy.

The Panto will be performed in Bentham Town Hall on the evenings of Thursday 16th February and Friday 17th February at 7pm, and on Saturday 18th February there will be a 2.30pm matinee and an evening performance at 6pm.

We have kept tickets the same price as last year: £6 adults and £4 concessions. Tickets are bookable online www.ticketsource.co.uk and will be available in mid-January.

There will be more information on social media and at Bentham Theatre Group Facebook page, and we are all really looking forward to having full houses of enthusiastic audiences like last year. Believe me, you do not want to miss this.

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HAPPY NEW YEAR

I would just like to take this opportunity to say thank you to all my customers old and new for all their bookings this year.

It has been a pleasure.

I would also like to say a big thank you for all the kind messages and understanding through November and December whilst my family took priority. It has really meant a great deal.

This year we start anew and look forward to introducing some new ideas, events and more.

I am available again for new bookings throughout 2023.

Please note we are no longer serving a menu over the weekends @ 1922 Bar & Kitchen until this year's season begins in March, but we are still available for function bookings, larger table bookings of 20 or more, so don't hesitate to ask.

Please check my facebook page for updates
Contact Mandy on 015242 61525
www.facebook.com/simplydeliciousbentham

Hip Joint All Jazzed Up!

By the Hip Joint Team

Welcome to Jazz Joint on Thursday January 26th at 12.30pm, Town Hall, Bentham

Enter a moody jazz club and be welcomed with a glass of Prosecco or a soft drink and lots of welcoming faces. Eat, drink and be merry then relax, tap your toes or dance to the sounds of a keyboard and saxophone duo, Fred and Paul. They will play numbers like Fly Me to the Moon, My Baby Just Cares for Me, Moon River, The Lady is a Tramp and many more.

December's Hip Joint: Wow, what a great lunch time event. Wonderful food, the beautiful voice of Nicola Mills, great company, all in the warmth of a rich, lush, velvety world.

Simple Booking: The cost is £10 plus 15p ticket fee. Buy tickets by card or use PayPal.

Go to www.trybooking.co.uk/CAUO.

If you have any queries, please email hipjointtickets@icloud.com.

There is the option of a £5 ticket if you are on a reduced income. Please email hipjointbentham@gmail.com to obtain a ticket, which must be booked by January 12th for catering purposes. There is no need to print out your ticket as we will have a list of those who have booked.

We hope you can join us for jazz in January. Come along and share in the fun of a Hip Joint event.



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Bentham Social Media Roundup

Not all our readers use social media, but many local stories appear there, so here's our look at this month's highlights from in and around Bentham on Facebook and elsewhere, edited by Matt Purcell.



Ken Durkin raised the issue of poor fibre broadband provision in High Bentham. Parts of Low Bentham are served by B4RN, as are many adjoining areas such as Burton, Austwick and Rathmell. However, the project here appears to have stalled due to a lack of interest from local residents. **Phil Gerrie** replied that Bentham Masterplan are to have meetings with NYCC about providing free Wi-Fi in the centre of High Bentham, as currently enjoyed by Settle, in January.

Bentham Christmas Lights thanked the army of volunteers that have erected this year's display. Thanks were also extended to The Black Bull for providing hot drinks on the day.

Timothy Pickering reported an alarming incident that happened to his elderly neighbour. Whilst climbing into his car outside the doctor's surgery, a grey Ford pickup impatiently drove past, smashing the gentleman's car door. The pickup driver did not stop, and the incident was reported to the police.

Craven District Council advertised their Warm Hub programme for the winter. They are running 'Soup and Song' sessions across the district. These will provide a safe warm space, hot food and drink and performances from opera singer Nicola Mills. Details from the Skipton Town Hall website.

The 2023 Bentham and Beyond calendar is now available to buy from the Tourist Information Point at the Town Hall. Produced by **Bentham Town Council** it costs £7 with proceeds this year going to Bentham Older People Together. The TIP is open on Saturday mornings from 10am until 12noon. A copy can be posted out for an additional £2.05 p&p.

Bernie Garrett shared details of the Cave Rescue Organisation's Ingleborough Challenge that will take place on 20th May 2023. This fundraising event consists of two possible walking/running challenges starting and ending at Clapham. Further details from the CRO.

Gary Chapman shared a link to a YouTube film about the aerial ropeway at Claughton Brickworks. It is the last of its kind in the UK and operates solely by gravity. Despite green credentials, its days are numbered, as the claypit it serves will be exhausted by 2036.

And finally, there was a big thank you from **B & CE Armstrong** who have closed their doors for the final time after 55 years of trading.

What to look for in January

By Sue Halsall

There is plenty of interesting stuff to look out for in January if you are out and about in the area. This fungus is called Scarlet Elf Cups (*see photo below*) and can be found on fallen branches and logs in damp woodlands. The red cups are about 3-5cm in diameter and produce spores which are the fungal equivalent of seeds. I took this photo in Greta Woods near Burton and a bit further on I found snowdrops just starting to come out.



There are not many flowers out at this time of year but one you might see in hedgerows but not in Bentham itself, is gorse (*see photo below*). There is a saying that goes “kissing is out of season when the gorse is not in flower” which refers to the fact that somewhere, there is always some gorse in flower! The scrubby bushes provide shelter to many species of birds, spiders and other invertebrates – a cool damp morning reveals masses of cobwebs on gorse branches. The yellow petals are edible, although I haven’t tried them, and in summer give off a fine smell of coconut.

If you have any bird nest boxes in your garden, then you should clean them out if you haven’t already done so. Remove any nest material or unhatched eggs and pour boiling water inside it to kill off any parasites – never use insecticides. I emptied one and under all the old nest material, there were tiny insect larvae wriggling around, which wasn’t very pleasant. You can put in some wood shavings once it is dry (not straw) and the



box may be used as a roosting site by birds in the cold weather. The RSPB are keen for people to join in the Great Garden Birdwatch over the weekend of 27th-29th January. You watch the birds in your garden and record what you see over one hour. Go to www.rspb.org.uk then click on “get involved” and you will find lots of information about what to do.

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Bonfires and Preparing Your Garden or Allotment for 2023

By Joyce Knapp

January can be a very cold month and for that reason we will need to select our gardening tasks to suit the prevailing weather conditions. My first job is usually to burn a bonfire, having



collected all the cuttings that are considered too woody to add to the compost heap, it is now a good time to burn them. This can be a pleasurable task even on a frosty morning, with just a word of warning to move the stack, if possible, before setting light to it, just in case a hedgehog may have taken up residence underneath to hibernate. It is also advisable to check for wind direction to reduce smoke blowing on to nearby properties. The final word of warning is always to stay with a fire until it burns out and I find that spreading the last embers over the ground helps it to die down more quickly. Later, we can use the fine ash to spread around the base of soft fruit bushes such as blackcurrant and gooseberry, to provide them with a long-lasting source of potash, which will help to improve fruiting next season. Any remaining wood can be raked up and used to start the next bonfire heap.

If the weather is too wet to get outside, we may need to just sit back and consider what we intend to grow in the coming season, following up with producing a seed order and drawing up plans for any changes we hope to achieve in the near future. Any allotment holders out there may wish to use wet days to clear out sheds and greenhouses, making sure that all plant pots and seed trays are clean and ready for use. We can also use days when the weather prevents us working outdoors to check over all our gardening tools with a view to cleaning, sharpening and oiling them. This is especially important for all the cutting tools such as secateurs, loppers and shears as they may have become a bit rusty and blunt whilst being used in the growing season. Finally, I find a coating of linseed oil added to the wooden handles of faithful old garden rakes, spades and hoes will not only make them look good but will also add years to their lifespan.

I would just like to add that I enjoy writing this article each month but would appreciate comments from readers to help me write on topics of particular interest to you, that is if my knowledge stretches that far.

The Bentham Pantry - the story so far

By David Bayes (Acting Chair – Bentham Pantry Steering Group)

It was in April 2020, at the start of the first Covid lockdown, that Rev Anne Russell gathered a team to reach out to those who would find their income disrupted in the short term. So, a “Pop-up Pantry” was born in Bentham. Housing it in the old Community Youth Building, since the young people were not able to meet, the pantry initially opened on three mornings week. There was a steady flow of people from day one, some tearful, some lonely and isolated, some anxious. They all found a place not only to pick up essential supplies but also a listening ear if they needed someone to confide in.

Our wonderful community rallied to support the venture with donations of food and cash and some of the larger supermarkets were generous in passing on surplus stock - at one time we had so much pasta it was almost impossible to move for the stuff. As the lockdowns continued into 2021 it became evident that the need was not just short-term. With the Community Youth Building increasingly unsuitable for storing food, the Pop-up Pantry relocated to the rear of the Methodist Church on Station Road and was renamed “The Bentham Pantry”.

Over the past 15 months new volunteers have joined us, whilst support from the Co-op, Spar as well as many individuals and groups has continued for which we are incredibly grateful. From our records we estimate that since September 2022 alone we have assisted more than 100 local people with a top-up to their weekly groceries. A huge thank you to all who give time, cash or food. We are also hugely indebted to Carol Taylor of Age Concern who has been a star in sourcing grants to cover both overheads and goods. When NYCC made their community awards for 2022, the four pantries (Bentham, Ingleton, Settle and Hellifield) that Carol supports came second out of 80 entries! Well done, Carol!

We have listened to our guests, and so from January 2023 we will be tweaking our opening hours. Still open Wednesday morning from 11am till 12noon but in the afternoon we will now open at 3.30pm and close at 5pm. We keep a range of basics including some fresh fruit and vegetables, household items (washing powder, washing up liquid) and toiletries. No referral is necessary, but we ask that people “join” The Pantry by making a voluntary contribution of £1 for each shop. If it helps to linger and chat, then hot drinks are always available free of charge. Do pop in and see us, we would be delighted to show you round and if anyone has items to donate or could join the team of volunteers, please pop in or you can text the dedicated mobile number – 07942-364606.

The Pantry is overseen by Churches Together in Bentham (CTiB)



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Your New Year's Resolution – Cut Fuel Bills – Here's How!

By Della Angel

Fact - over 50% of UK homes have no insulation or less than the current standard. Over 50% of heat loss from the average home is through the roof and walls. Do you know if and where your home is losing expensive heat?

BEST (your local environmental group) can help you find out. Book a free survey and using our thermal imaging camera our trained operator will conduct a scan of the exterior and interior of your home which will show you exactly where any heat is escaping and will suggest how any losses can be minimised



with the least expenditure. We have been surprised to discover how even in well-insulated homes, heat is escaping in small ways that are easy and cheap to remedy, for example round window frames, cat flaps or along ceiling beams.

The only benefit of increased energy costs is that the payback period is now reduced - for example the cost of loft insulation for the average house can be recovered by the savings in only 4.3 years - a year ago it would have taken nearly 10 years! So even the energy crisis cloud has a silver lining!

Book your survey now by telephoning or messaging John Smithson on 07714-662132 or by email to johnsmithsonis@gmail.com.

Stop Press: Just announced as this goes to press: £1 billion of funding is being made available by the government for insulation measures from April 2023. More details to be confirmed but initial criteria are based around Council Tax band and EPC rating of the property.









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Town Hall

Every Monday, except 2nd

BR, 1:00 - 4:00pm, Indoor Bowls

Every Tuesday,

WR, 10:00am - 12:00noon, Craft Club

LH, Blue Moose Dance

9.30am - 10.30am, Mature Movers

10.45am - 12.15pm Adult Ballet

Every Wednesday,

BR, 9:00am - 12:30pm, Stepping Stones.

LH, 9:30am - 10:30, Pilates, Sally Horn

HIP JOINT (see page 10)

Welcome to **Jazz Joint** on Thursday

January 26th at 12.30pm, Town Hall,

Bentham

Town Hall - Meetings

Tuesday 3rd,

LH 7:30pm, Full Council Meeting

Wednesday 4th,

LH, 7:30pm, Finance Committee Meeting

Monday 9th,

LH, 7:00pm, Precept Meeting

Monday 16th,

LH, 7:30pm, Full Council Meeting

Town Hall - Coffee Mornings

Saturday, 10:00am - 12:00 noon

28th, Friends of Bentham Station



WI

High Bentham

Thursday 5th, 7:30pm

Bentham Town Hall

Low Bentham and District

Thursday 19th, 7:00pm

The Victoria Institute

Tatham Fells

Tuesday 10th, 7:30pm

Old School , Tatham Fells



Events in



Public Safety Officer - monthly surgery

Wednesday 4th, 2:00pm to 4:30pm, Tourist Information Office, Town Hall

Bentham Golf Club

Every Friday

11:00am-2:00pm

Age Concern Bentham Friday Lunch Club



Methodist Church

Every Monday starting 9th

10:00 - 11:30am, Toddle In,

£2.00 per family. For children newborn to starting school, and their parents/carers.

Monday 30th, 7.30pm (see page 31)

Ewecross Historical Society

Dr Andrew White: Crossing the Sands. Visitors welcome: £3

The Pantry (see page 16)

Every Wednesday

11am-12noon and 3:30pm-5pm

Everyone welcome to drop in for a chat, a brew and to top up on food and groceries.

Left side of Bentham Methodist Church.

Victoria Institute

Every Monday,

10:00am - 12:00 noon, Office Open,
Enquiries/bookings

11:30am - 2:00pm, Community Link Café,
Light lunch and activities.

6.15pm - 7:45pm, Tai Chi.

Every Tuesday,

10:00 - 12:00 noon, Kay's Chat & Mexican
Train meet, £2 tea and biscuits

4:00pm - 9:00 pm, Helen Howard School Of
Dance. Term time.

Every Wednesday

9:00am - 12:00 noon, Office Open,
Enquiries/Bookings.

10:00am - 12:00noon, Post Office Services.

11:30am - 2:00pm, Community Link Café
Lunch club.

4:00pm - 8:00 pm, Helen Howard School Of
Dance. Term time.

Every Friday ,

10:00am - 12:00noon, Post Office Services.

Every Sunday

11:00am- 12:30 Cornerstone Church
Service.

Footpath (see page 36)

For all January walks, meet first at Lairgill
for 9.30 am.

Friday 6th. Kate Rowe, 015242
51402, Appersett mosaics, 7 miles.

Thursday 12th. Don Cartledge,
015242 64979, Fairy Steps from
Beetham, 6.5 miles.

Saturday 21st. Alison Kinder and Colin
Stroud, 015242 62255, Abbeystead and
Tarnbrook, 5.5 miles.

Wednesday 25th. Bryn and Sandra Craggs,
015242 62416, Pikedaw Hill and Malham,
6.5 miles.



Pioneer Projects Looking Well Studios



Every Monday,

9:20am, Health Walks for Women, Meet
Lairgill car park

10:30am - 12.30pm,

Making Connections Dementia Group

Every Tuesday,

10:30am - 12:30pm,

Creative Community Hub

11:45am - 1:00pm, Creative Writing
Group via Zoom

Tuesday 10th,

2:00pm - 4:00pm, Book Group

Every Wednesday,

10:30am - 12:00noon, Singalong to Every
Song, face to face and via Zoom

2:00pm - 4:00pm, Art for All

Every Thursday,

12:30pm - 3:30pm, Community Art Shed

Every Friday,

10:00am - 12:30pm, Mental Health &
Wellbeing Hub

*For more info and to join any of the above
groups please contact 015242 62672 or
office@pioneerprojects.org.uk*

Bentham Community Library

Monday 2:30pm - 5:00pm

Wednesday 10:00am - 2:00pm

Friday 2:30pm - 4:20pm

Saturday 10:00am - 12:00noon

SETTLE PHOTOGRAPHIC GROUP PROGRAMME (see page 22)

Monday 9th and 23rd, 19:30 on Zoom

*Find us on Facebook and Instagram @thebenthamnews
or on the web www.thebenthamnews.co.uk*

January Events Beyond Bentham

Burton-in-Lonsdale Film Group

The next film being shown in the Village Hall is 'Elvis', on **Saturday 7th January**.

As usual doors will open at 7pm for a 7.30pm start. Tickets cost £5 and will be available at the door.

Refreshments will also be available.

The February film will be on **Friday 3rd February**, not the usual Saturday, and it will be 'Ali & Ava'.

Settle Photographic Group

Meeting by Zoom on **Monday 9th January** at 7.30pm to learn about Astrid's creative process for capturing emotion in photographs.

(www.astridmcgechan.com)

Meeting by Zoom on **Monday 23rd January** at 7.30pm to discuss our entries for YPU and a chance to get feedback from other members about images that you are considering as entries for the YPU exhibition. We will also review the 'Farming' gallery.

Meetings are held at St John's Methodist Church, Church Street, Settle, BD24 9JH or on Zoom.

Further details are available at <https://www.settlephotos.org/>

Nature Notes

By David Fisher

As the winter season is here now, my moth trapping has stopped, also my fishing, which wasn't good this time. Bird spotting was good recently, and I saw a pair of jays on the side of the Lowgill Road flying into the hedgerow. Roadside trees at Hornby have been sorted with ivy being cut off round the trunks. A stoat crossed in front of me when I was driving near Melling Moor. There I also saw a casualty, a fox had been run over, I don't know how that happened. As owls are nocturnal, they are active at night and I hear them quite often. On the whole, signs of wildlife are pretty good now.



Winter Wonderland Wordsearch - enjoy!

U	S	A	N	R	G	G	A	T	W	S	G	D	N	M	W	R	R	R	C
N	H	L	N	R	X	O	V	B	N	V	K	L	L	Z	Y	J	H	M	I
F	G	M	X	M	O	Q	V	O	O	N	V	D	R	Y	P	U	G	B	X
G	U	C	R	K	G	A	T	T	W	J	S	O	M	D	B	C	X	P	B
M	O	S	C	G	N	I	G	D	E	L	S	R	Q	E	M	O	K	S	Z
O	L	W	O	E	Z	O	Z	Q	S	B	O	P	E	Q	M	G	Q	D	B
G	P	E	X	E	X	M	F	O	Y	T	U	V	A	D	N	W	S	U	K
T	W	N	G	T	Q	L	Q	K	S	N	O	W	D	R	O	P	S	V	F
V	O	M	K	P	P	R	X	X	L	L	A	X	Q	N	K	B	S	S	F
T	N	A	U	Y	C	I	E	V	I	W	L	T	S	W	H	L	W	S	Q
T	S	H	D	U	O	J	A	F	P	V	U	A	I	Y	S	B	E	K	W
R	D	T	U	I	R	E	C	F	P	T	C	X	B	S	K	O	A	M	H
E	S	N	O	W	F	L	A	K	E	S	I	O	C	W	C	B	T	G	S
O	A	E	X	C	O	B	J	W	R	C	N	U	Q	G	O	A	E	R	I
E	V	B	L	G	K	D	V	V	Y	I	G	I	E	N	S	N	R	W	L
Z	B	F	U	F	R	I	N	W	I	H	W	G	N	I	I	K	S	F	P
B	I	D	X	P	F	T	N	M	Y	B	S	K	A	T	X	V	G	O	y
U	V	X	W	Z	W	I	P	G	A	E	G	U	E	A	L	Z	F	Y	D
X	Q	E	N	I	H	S	N	U	S	W	R	C	L	K	P	O	T	O	Q
P	U	C	C	K	X	P	B	S	Y	K	W	S	Q	S	H	I	V	E	R

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SLIPPERY
SLUSHY
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SNOW**



**SNOWBALLS
SNOWDROPS
SNOWFLAKES
SNOWPLOUGH
SOCKS
SPARKLE
STOCKINGS
STORMY
SUNSHINE
SWEATERS**

See www.thebenthamnews.co.uk for the answer

Charity Thanks

Christmas Lights

By Julia Abbotts

The Bentham Christmas Lights committee would like to say a huge thank you to Gary Carter from Bentham Golf Club for the very generous donation received. This donation will help us to improve our festive lights display in the future. Also, a big thank you to everyone who has supported our committee throughout the past year. We hope the festive lights have brought you some cheer this season. All fundraising and donations are very much appreciated.



Photo above shows Gary Carter presenting a cheque for £785 from the President's Charity Night, to members of the Christmas Lights committee, Mark Paige and Tristan Stannard (aka Stan)



Presentation by SBC Club to the Playing Fields

By Ingrid Ellershaw

This photo (left) shows Barry Lister presenting a cheque for £1,000 from the SBC club to Bentham Playing Fields. Playing Field committee members, Lisa Guy and Ingrid Ellershaw were very pleased to accept it and said it was much appreciated and would be used towards ongoing projects to improve the facilities at the Playing Fields.

Tatham Parish Council Invitation

By Richard Wilson

You are invited to join Tatham Parish Council, ahead of its next meeting, for a chance to meet Andy Pratt, the Deputy Police & Crime Commissioner for Lancashire. Tatham Parish Council has asked him to explain how the police force intends to move forward in rural parishes to achieve better communication, how liaison with local constabularies of North Yorkshire and Cumbria can be improved and how the prevention of wildlife related crimes is approached locally. He will also explain how parish councils have a shared responsibility as an organisation within the Road Safety Partnership, to prevent road traffic accidents.

Please come along and join us if you can.

When? Tuesday 17th January 2023 at 7pm

Where? St James the Less Church, Tatham

Why? Meet Andy Pratt, the Lancashire Deputy Police & Crime Commissioner

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Encouraging Response to Bentham Masterplan Questionnaire

*By Elizabeth Adlington, Shirley Brown, Phil Gerrie and
Jim Munday*



The Bentham Masterplan is a joint initiative of Bentham Town Council, Craven District Council and North Yorkshire Council. With answers in so far from 314 individual questionnaires and another 32 from local organisations representing more than 700 people, the first phase of the Bentham Masterplan is well underway. 58 questionnaires have also been circulated to local businesses and traders and those results will be added to the other totals when the final tally is done just before Christmas.

Our hope has always been that Bentham people would take this initiative seriously as a genuine attempt to make positive changes in our town and attract funding to make those changes possible.

The questions asked respondents to outline both good and bad aspects of life in Bentham and to suggest possible improvements. And you have not disappointed!

The Good: Some ideas that have come in have been predictable, others less so. Some have been innovative and surprising, but the main message about living in Bentham has been that it is a great place to live, but that it needs looking after. People comment frequently about the warmth and friendliness of the community and that it is a proper working town, not full of second homes and that there is more chance here of getting on the housing ladder than in the neighbouring Dales and Lake District.

A close second to the quality of the local community as a positive about living here, was the beauty of the natural environment that we are fortunate to have all around us.

The Bad: The worst things about Bentham fit into a clear pattern: traffic, parking and roads, closely followed by not having a proper bus service and the poor state of the town centre with a lack of shops, sport facilities and other amenities. There is huge support for improving traffic management. Suggestions include a 20mph speed limit, speed bumps, improved parking arrangements and better pavements. There is sadness that parts of our town centre look unattractive and rundown, and a massive desire to find ways of improving things here. People commented on the lack of a central community facility with some suggesting that the Town Hall could be better used for this. Bentham people mourn the loss of our regular bus service into Lancaster, and ask for ways to be found to serve Bentham people better by making public transport links to surrounding towns and villages.

The Way Ahead: Once all the questionnaires are back after Christmas, and we do further analysis of the results, we feel optimistic that most of the issues that

have been highlighted by you all can be worked on. We are not downhearted and are encouraged by the fact that local residents are, in the main, willing to assist in keeping it an attractive, welcoming, working town.

Many people have left their contact details on the questionnaire returns, and we will be involving them in the New Year in further discussions and meetings about the key areas of concern. We are already in close contact with officers from Craven District and Yorkshire County Councils who, like us, want to work on positive outcomes for Bentham.

Police News

Wishing you all a Happy New Year from members of your Safer Neighbourhood Team covering the Bentham, Ingleton and Settle area. We are PS1006 Paul Evans, PC871 Ian Hunt, PC188 Jane Carpenter, PCSO5561 Jayne Grace and PCSO5881 Julia Runciman, who will be keeping you updated on recent crimes and incidents in Bentham and the surrounding area.



We would like to announce that monthly drop-in surgeries with your local Neighbourhood Policing Team will be starting in January, running within the Town Hall. Dates and times will be published in the New Year.

33 incidents were reported between 13th November and 12th December 2022.

These included anti-social behaviour caused by a car rally, a road related offence about drink driving, oil spillage on a road, theft related to the internet, money and a parcel and a road traffic collision involving 2 vehicles in Cross Lane, Low Bentham.

30th November: Burglary in Greystone Gill Lane – at 8pm on 29th November, 2 persons with torches were seen on a property entering outbuildings. Nothing broken into and nothing taken – any information please call 101, ref 0125.

6th December - Arrests after Quadbike and Golf recovered

A stolen quadbike and suspected stolen Volkswagen Golf have been recovered and two suspects, including a 16-year-old boy, have been arrested. The arrests follow the theft of the quadbike from the Long Preston area, reported at 1.45am in the early hours of Tuesday 6th December. Thanks to a tracker fitted to the quadbike, we were able to quickly locate and intercept it near Kildwick. The rider, a 20-year-old man from Leeds, was arrested following a short foot chase. The quadbike was in convoy with a Volkswagen Golf suspected as stolen from the Hellifield area, and the driver, a 16-year-old boy from Bradford, was arrested on suspicion of theft. Investigation ongoing - ref: 12220215679

Contact Information:

- 1 Ring 999 in an emergency or to report a crime in progress
- 2 Ring 101 to report incidents or provide information
- 3 Ring Crime Stoppers on 0800-555-111 to remain anonymous
- 4 E-mail SNACraven@northyorkshire.police.uk



Low Bentham and District WI

By Kathryn Brownsord

Our November meeting was a talk and slide show by Charles Everson on "Love Food, Hate Waste and Home Composting." Charles told us the facts and figures about how much waste we as a nation throw away each year. **It was mind blowing.** Charles stated that we should all think carefully about what we throw away, instead we should be looking to recycle as much as possible. About food wastage, he suggested that we should all plan our week's meals before going shopping as this would cut down on what we end up wasting. All members who attended said "what an informative talk and that we would all take a closer look at how each of us could reduce our own household wastage". The Craft and Chat Day was held at Kathryn Brownsord's home where we enjoyed a lovely day crafting and tasty lunch. Our next Craft and Chat meeting will be held in January 2023.

Our Luncheon Club is having a break over the festive period and will hopefully recommence in February 2023.

The WI Group Carol Concert was held at Clapham on December 4th open to one and all on a very cold day. Readings were read. Carols were sung and the Bentham Praise Choir sang two Christmas songs followed by refreshments served in the Church.

As always look out for our posters advising our next meeting, our WI meets on the third Thursday every month at 7pm in the Victoria Institute, Low Bentham. We all hope to see you there.

Here's hoping that you all had a lovely Christmas and wishing you a Happy New Year.



High Bentham WI

By Jan Stuiver

We celebrated our December meeting in style, with an excellent Christmas meal provided by Mandy of 'Simply Delicious' and served up in the Town Hall, which was looking very festive as committee members brought in their Christmas lights and tinsel to decorate the room.

Congratulations to Ingrid Ellershaw, who has gained the most points throughout the year in our monthly competition. She won some vouchers to use at G&Mo's.

Our first meeting of 2023 is on Thursday 5th January in the Lower Town Hall at 7.30pm. We will be trying out a range of board and tabletop games during the evening. Non-members are very welcome to join us for this meeting, at a cost of £4, which includes free refreshments.

Ewecross Historical Society learn about Mary Hodgson, a Forgotten Local Artist

By Mary Taylor

Mike Winstanley welcomed members and guest speaker Edward Huddleston to the November 28th meeting of the Ewecross Historical Society held in Bentham Methodist Church. Edward's illustrated talk entitled 'Mary Hodgson: a forgotten local artist', began in the 1970s when he was given a painting of his great grandfather's brother 'John Huddleston of Calf Cop at 92' and signed MH. He revealed the detective story of tracing the identity of MH, starting when he discovered other paintings with the full signature in the Quaker meeting house at Low Bentham. From this Edward discovered that Mary's family were well to do Quakers living at Greta Bank at Burton-in-Lonsdale and that her father was a famous surveyor, being the first to survey Ingleborough Cave. Mary, a teacher as well as an artist, had produced an illustrated journal 'Excursion to Loweswater' in 1865. She moved to Manchester with her mother and brother, and there exhibited her paintings in the Manchester Art Gallery. She gave paintings to Acworth School and became an advocate of the progressive movement of temperance and vegetarianism. Born in 1835, Mary died in a Quaker hospital in York 1886 being remembered with a three-page obituary.

The next meeting on January 30th will feature Andrew White, who will speak on 'crossing the sands'.



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Town Council Meeting on 21st November 2022

By Bob Clark

Councillors present: Gareth Adams (chair), Phil Gerrie, Howard Hill, Mark Paige and Leonie Pearce. Also present were Christine Downey, town clerk, two members of the public and the BN reporter. Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Tony Burton, Thomas Marshall and Tim Stannard.

Police Presentation: At 7.15pm, before the Town Council Meeting, there was a presentation given by Inspector Julie Earnshaw (Neighbourhood Policing Inspector for Craven) and Sergeant Paul Evans. Julie and Paul gave a general overview of crime figures in Bentham and of events moving forward.

In answer to residents' concerns about drugs and speeding cars (which were highlighted by a survey conducted by Craig Lyons, Safety Officer) the police said they had made good progress on the drugs issue, resulting in two successful warrants, and that there were more warrants in the pipeline. They said this issue relies a lot on information they receive from the public. In the case of speeding cars, they now have two specially equipped vans based on the approach roads leading into Bentham, and they have also set up a volunteer "Community Speed Watch", which is currently being organised by Carolynne Lobb. Volunteers will be trained to use a hand-held device to report drivers' number plates to the police, who in return will issue a letter to the owners of the vehicles.

The police went on to say that they recognise the concerns residents feel at being a bit out on a limb because of the geographical position of Bentham, which is close to Lancaster, whilst the North Yorkshire police are positioned in Skipton, and they are looking to address this problem. They are closing the Ingleton police station in the spring of next year and there will then be a police presence in the Bentham fire station when all the necessary tech has been installed.

Councillors raised concerns about response times, especially when ringing 101. The police admitted these weren't as good as they should be but suggested that if you fill out an "online report" on the North Yorkshire Police website it would be flagged up straight away. In conclusion Sgt Paul Evans said that, looking at the crime figures for last year, Bentham was a very safe place to live and go about everyday business. In the last twelve months there has been one burglary in High Bentham and two in Low Bentham, and there have been twelve low theft crimes, from supermarkets etc., which averaged out at one a month.

Town Council Meeting at 7.30pm

The Punch Bowl, Low Bentham: A member of the public reported concerns regarding an ongoing dispute relating to the Punch Bowl in Low Bentham. The Council resolved that the clerk write to the licensing manager at Craven District Council and to the Chief Constable regarding the seriousness of the problem and the strength of concern of residents, and to ask for updates on the situation.

Police Drop-In Session: A suggestion has been made by PC Ian Hunt to set up a police drop-in session in Bentham, and it was resolved that a room will be made available at the Town Hall and the clerk will liaise with PC Ian Hunt to make the necessary arrangements.

Monies from the Felstead Development: It was agreed to have a site meeting with Elaine Hiser of Craven District Council regarding monies due from the Felstead Development. Councillor Marshall and other councillors would attend to take interested parties on a tour of the Goodenber Road Play Area and the Bentham Playing Field, followed by a discussion at the Town Hall of all the options.

Bentham Masterplan Survey: It was resolved that the Town Council's response would be submitted online by Councillor Adams.

Concerns about River Wenning: Councillor Pearce gave an update on the River Wenning concerns. She had visited the group at Staveley who are working to clear the river there and are applying for bathing status. They have prepared a seventy-page application to DEFRA which it might be useful to review.

Community Youth Building: The public and press were excluded from this part of the meeting because of its confidential nature, but the Council resolved not to appeal the listing of the Community Youth Building as an asset of community value.

Bentham Town Council on Monday 5th December

By Shirley Brown (these are my notes from the meeting, not the minutes, which can be viewed on the Town Council's website. In particular for this meeting, the Town Clerk's extensive reporting of what was said about the planning application appeal in the public participation section makes interesting reading)

Present were Councillors Phil Gerrie, Mark Paige, Tim Stannard, Gareth Adams (chair), Leonie Pearce, Tony Burton and Andy Jones. There were **apologies** from Councillors Thomas Marshall and Howard Hill. Also present were Christine Downey (town clerk), Craig Lyons (public safety officer), 5 members of the public and the BN reporter.

In the **public participation section**, one person mentioned that using the Town Hall kitchen had been problematic at a recent Hip Joint event and two others spoke about a planning application appeal. Another member of the public wanted the Town Council to support their objections to a development at **Greenhead Lane**, Low Bentham. This had been wrongly referred to in the application as **Greenfoot Lane**, and this use of misleading information along with other objections, was accepted and supported by the Town Council, who will be contacting the planning authorities accordingly (*see my note above*).

The other **planning application** was for conversion of the redundant bakehouse to a detached two-bedroomed dwelling to the rear of 38 Main Street, High Bentham. The councillors raised no objections to this.

The **Public Safety Officer** reported that the police station in Ingleton has been sold and that police will be working with Bentham Fire Station to provide a base for the police in Bentham, hopefully in the new year. His shift pattern is expected to change in March or April 2023.

Councillor Gerrie gave an update on progress with the Bentham Masterplan. The questionnaire which has still got two weeks to run, has received responses so far from 257 individuals and 31 organisations. Not surprisingly, the paper returns were from older age groups and those online were from younger people. Currently the age profile of respondents looks broadly like that of the town in the 2011 census, and as yet the results of the 2022 census are unknown. Work is continuing getting more responses from children and young people. Questionnaires have been sent to 53 local voluntary organisations and 58 local businesses and traders. Responses so far have been put on a spreadsheet for further analysis, but some patterns are already emerging.

The Best Thing About Bentham is overwhelmingly the quality of local community and people, closely followed by the natural environment.

The Worst Thing About Bentham is road traffic and parking problems and the unprepossessing town centre. In particular, people mention the lack of amenities, commenting on the lack of a central community facility with some suggesting the Town Hall might be used for this. Criticism of the functioning of the Town Council will require analysis later to understand how best the Council can respond effectively, and Councillor Gerrie stressed it was important to take notice of constructive criticisms, even if they make uncomfortable listening.

Further analysis will be done after Christmas when all the questionnaires are back. However, it is already clear that most of the respondents think that Bentham has much to offer and are willing to assist in keeping it an attractive, welcoming working town. 74 people have left their contact details to say they would like to be involved in further discussions and they will receive an update in the new year.

The **Community Emergency Plan** was reviewed with contact details of councillors being updated, and councillors Gerrie, Jones and Paige being added as members of the Community Emergency Team. In the event of a local emergency, this plan should ensure effective action by the community.

Consideration of the Draft of a **Civility and Respect Protocol: Councillor – Officer**, was deferred as it was an extremely long document and councillors hadn't yet had the chance to study it.

Councillors will request Craven District Council to install **larger bins at Bentham Playing Field**, and ensure they are emptied regularly.

Facilities and System for Room Booking at the Town Hall was raised by Councillor Pearce who said that the Town Hall is drastically under-used and that how bookings are made, pricing structures, and general maintenance of the Town Hall's facilities could be better managed. There was a lively discussion of these issues, during which it was said that the cooker is serviced annually, that unwieldy curtains have long presented problems and the suggestion that blinds might be a better option is being explored, and that maybe an online booking system should be developed. Clearly these issues which reflect on the financial viability of managing this important community facility require further detailed consideration, so a sub-committee (composed of councillors Adams, Burton, Jones, Pearce and Stannard) was formed to investigate these matters further.

Correspondence which had been received concerning the dangerous condition of Oak Trees on Mill Hill and the need to trim trees on Mount Pleasant, Butts Lane and Springfield, was considered.

Whether the **Town Council would like to express an interest in managing some services on behalf of North Yorkshire Council** was raised – and potholes and pavements sprung immediately to mind. Would that be a good idea and enable speedier local action?

The attractive Christmas Lights which Councillor Paige said are now brightening up our long dark evenings, are timed to be on from 4pm-11pm. There was some discussion about having them on for longer, but that won't happen this year.

Councillor Pearce reported that BEST (Bentham Environmentally Sustainable Town) is taking up the issue of the state of the River Wenning and how this can be improved, and a presentation is scheduled for February. The Lune Valley Rivers Trust will attend with the aim of encouraging the river to be seen as a key part of Bentham's identity.

There will be meeting of Bentham Town Council on Tuesday 3rd January at 7.30pm and the public are welcome to attend.



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Four Footpath Group Walks in January

By Don Cartledge



Hopefully we have another year of great walks ahead of us, so wishing everyone a happy and healthy 2023. Walking is a simple, free and easy way to lose weight and become healthier, and any readers who have made a "get more active" new year's resolution are very welcome to join us on any of our rambles. **For all January walks meet first at Lairgill at 9.30am.**

Our first walk is on Friday 6th and is led by Kate Rowe (tel. 015242-51402). It covers 7 miles and parking is at Appersett. From there we head towards Sedbergh and take field paths up Bluebell Hill and continue towards Hawdraw. Just past a pub, we join a steep path which leads up to Simonstone Hall and, keeping in the same direction, walk through several fields and descend to an old pack horse bridge and the road towards Hawes. Over the bridge we follow the river left and left again on reaching the road until a path to the right takes us across fields down to the road and back to the cars.

On the route, there are small mosaics to look out for, created by local groups to celebrate the millennium.

On **Thursday 12th** Don Cartledge (tel. 012542-64979) takes us on a 6.5-mile circular walk from Beetham via Fairy Steps. The start is from the Heron Mill car park (honesty box) and walking through Beetham village, we continue left up the hill and along a gently climbing wooded path up to Fairy Steps. A path takes us around the steps, and we continue northwards to Coldwell Lane where we turn right and first left, again climbing a wooded path, through fields and arriving at the road just before Sandside. Across the road, a path along the old railway embankment leads to Dallam where we walk through the estate, back to the start. The parking donation allows anyone interested to look round the mill which still produces flour today.

Abbeystead and Tarnbrook are the location of our next 5.5 mile walk on **Saturday 21st** the leaders being Alison Kinder and Colin Stroud (tel. 015242-62255). The walk which, weather permitting, will provide marvellous views over the Bowland Fells starts from Over Wyredale Church. This is about 2 miles from Dolphinhholme and 1 mile west of Abbeystead on the Dolphinhholme/Abbeystead road and parking is available on the south side of the road, 250 yards west of the church. We walk through the churchyard and down to a footbridge then along paths and a track to the road near Abbeystead. Walking through the village we cross Stoops Bridge, past the drive to Abbeystead House and up the hill, across a field next to the House gardens and along a path to the road between a farm and the lodge. We then travel up the drive to "Top of Emmetts" and cross stiles, fields and eventually a walled track to access the road at Tarnbrook. Walking along this quiet, dead end country road, following the Tarnbrook Wyre for about 1.5 miles, we then cross the main road and climb through fields back to the church from where we started.

Finally, on **Wednesday 25th** there is a 6.5-mile ramble around Pikedaw Hill and Malham led by Bryn and Sandra Craggs (tel. 015242-62416). Parking beside the road at Malham, before the YDNP car park (honesty box, suggested £2), we take the lane before the National Park Centre up to the left and climb above the village on a rocky track. It's then up through fields to pass the summit of Pikedaw Hill and on to reach the junction with the Dales Highway/Pennine Bridleway where we turn right at the wall with good views to Malham Tarn. Coming down, we cross the road at Langscar Gate and continue across to pick up the Pennine Way path along Ing Scar to the top of the cove where we descend to cross another lane and follow the clear path to Gordale Bridge, returning to Malham via Janet's Foss.



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News from the Fells of Losing Armstrong's Shop, Deer and Beautiful Burial Grounds

By Helen Wilkinson

The second of this year's Tatham History Society talks was given by Mike Winstanley in Low Tatham church. He spoke about TD Smiths, A Traditional Grocer in Lancaster and their local connections. There has since been a lot of reminiscing about family-run shops in Lancaster. This time last year I was planning a shopping trip to Armstrong's in Bentham to replace a gas canister after a winter storm. Sadly, another well-loved family run shop that we will miss.

No storms yet but the cold frosty weather has brought people out walking the footpaths, enjoying the peacefulness with only the low burble of the Hindburn in the bottom of the valley and the occasional hammering of a woodpecker, or the startled cry of pheasant. This year Father Christmas made a welcome return to the Old School for the Christmas Fair, with cakes and crafts for sale and plenty of coffee and mince pies to be enjoyed; the event raised over £400 for the church. He and his reindeer may have gone now but you can still catch a glimpse of a family of roe deer in the woodland, usually two or three of them, grazing quietly before bounding away for cover (*see photo*).

We were recently contacted by the team from Caring for God's Acre to ask if we would take part in the Beautiful Burial Ground Project. The aim is to collate a network of burial grounds across the country that have well-managed, flower-rich grasslands that will serve as inspiration to others wishing to manage their churchyards, cemeteries or chapel yards in a similar way. We have information from wildflower counts and photographs but more work needs to be done to record fungi and lichen.

You can find the page here <https://www.caringforgodsacre.org.uk/churchyard/tatham-fells-church-of-the-good-shepherd/>



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Who? When? Where?

This fascinating old photo which may be of interest to some of our older readers has been sent to Bentham News by Graham Wright. He wonders if anyone can identify the people in the photo, and when and where it was taken. We'll forward any replies or guesses to Graham.

Stop Press: Some Incredible News About Esmée

By Cherry Holgate

Esmée currently holds both cadet and junior British Judo titles. On Sunday 11th December she stretched herself to compete in The National British Senior Championships in Sheffield. She was the youngest by far in the group, and in fact one fight she won was against a 32-year-old British woman.

I'm so incredibly proud to say she won a bronze medal. This gives her senior ranking of third in Great Britain. Now we have had official notification that she's on the World Performance Pathway looking at a programme specifically aiming at achieving Senior European, World and Olympic medals. Wow!

(Editors' note: Well done Esmée – we're all following your progress with great interest and feel pride in your achievements.)

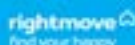




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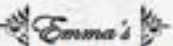
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A Chilly but Cheerful Christmas in the Mart

By Shirley Brown

Christmas in the Mart 2022 took place on some of the coldest days of the year! December 10th and 11th saw temperatures drop well below zero and stay there! And a heavy snowfall on the Friday night meant that Saturday did indeed have, in the words of the popular carol, a feel of “In the deep mid-winter”.

Despite that, stallholders, Bentham people and visitors, young and old, all came along to enjoy the colour, the variety and the amazing array of local produce, arts and crafts. Our photos, taken by Jon Brook of Bentham Imaging and Malcolm Preece give a flavour of what was on offer.

Our front cover photo (*taken by Jon Brook*) is of Rod Everett, an ecologist and researcher in organic and permaculture systems, who lives and works at Backsbottom Farm, Roeburndale West. He farms organically raising sheep and has an orchard of 200 heritage apple varieties. At this event he was doing a brisk trade with his craft cider vinegar which he explained has many health benefits, including improving digestion, reducing acne, killing bacteria and helping to lose weight, reducing belly fat and aiding heartburn (*so that's why it was flying off the shelves at this festive season!*).

An innovation this year was a wreath-making workshop, and our photo (*again by Jon Brook*) shows Ruthie Woodhouse (ruthiewoodhouse@outlook.com) helping Rosalyn and Sheila from Low Bentham make their own wreaths. While she was busy here, her daughter Emily (*in grey bobble hat*) was on the stall selling beautiful floral designs.

Keeping the children happy was Lois Dennis with her imaginative face-painting, and the balloon man who could model balloons into every shape you could wish. In the circumstances, some stalls were proving particularly popular: Tatham Primary School provided warm mulled wine and mince pies and the Farming Community Network (fcn.org.uk) were serving hot apple and ginger drinks, while Ali Guy at Seasons Bakery's stall was serving hot drinks, coffee, tea or chocolate. At the entrance, the pizza van was also popular serving tasty pizzas from its wood-fired oven.

There was a lot going on, too much to mention individually, but it was worth braving the cold, putting on extra layers of clothes and sturdy boots to get there. Thanks to the organisers for making it happen, and to the Auction Mart for allowing it on their premises (and supplying much-needed heaters).

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