

BENTHAM NEWS

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Charles III will be crowned king of the United Kingdom and the Commonwealth on Saturday 6th May 2023 at Westminster Abbey. Our illustration shows a Coronation Badge which you can buy for £2 from the Pawprint Trust which aims to help young people have amazing experiences. There are several local celebrations of the Coronation for you to enjoy, see pages 8, 25, 28, 29, 37 and 39.

'Friends of Bentham Library' Disbands – Their Work is Done

By Margaret Cowling

In late 2010, as the period of Austerity was beginning, councils were told to close some of their libraries and mobile libraries. North Yorkshire County Council (NYCC) informed us that Bentham and Ingleton libraries would have to close, and that Settle would become our 'Core Library'. The fact that Bentham had no direct bus route to Settle and that our trains stop at Giggleswick station, not Settle, made this policy even more ridiculous. We were dismayed that we would not only be losing our libraries, but also that our librarians would be losing their jobs.

So, a protest group, 'Bentham and Ingleton Library Action Group', led by Irena Pritchard and Craven Councillor Linda Brockbank, was formed. The aim was to have discussions with NYCC and to organise events to show the importance of our libraries to all of us. We had two well-attended public meetings in Bentham Town Hall and Bentham Town Council added their support. In February 2011 we held a read-in at Bentham Library during Saturday opening hours. The room was full of readers and listeners of all ages, joined by local author Helene Wiggin (who wrote as Leah Fleming). We had invited Alan Bennett, one of our staunchest supporters, to take part, but he apologised saying he would be in Camden that day supporting their library that was threatened with closure. However, he sent us a quotation, 'Closing Libraries is Child Abuse', which we used on one of our placards (see photo below). We also received a wonderful letter of support from Hilary Mantel (who sadly died in September 2022).

Our next protest was to walk the 13.4 miles from Bentham Library to Settle Library via Clapham, Austwick, Feizor and Stackhouses. Over 30 of us (all ages) plus a dog, completed the walk in six hours, by which time Settle Library was closed!



Our campaign was successful in that we were told we could remain open although volunteers would be needed to cover the hours lost by the librarians who were no longer employed. We took up the challenge and formed the Friends of Bentham Library (FOBL) chaired by Linda Brockbank and including County Councillor David Ireton. With a rota of 18 volunteers, we were able to open the library for several hours a week.

At this time the library was housed in a brick building that had been part of the old Primary School in the centre of Bentham. When the condition of the building caused concern, we had to find new premises, which was quite a challenge. Fortunately, Pioneer Projects were looking for a partnership to share their premises at Looking Well, and we were delighted to join them. NYCC turned the upper rooms there into the splendid library we have today. We were told by NYCC that our library would have to be run solely by volunteers with assistance on some days by librarians, and thankfully our own librarian, John Frankland, remained in post. We did just that, and with funds raised from coffee morning and grants from the Town Council and the Co-op, we were able to buy local newspapers each Friday and to fund workshops organised by John Frankland and the library service.

Pioneer Projects has housed our library very successfully for some years thanks to the generosity of Lynda Graveson and her staff, and as our FOBL committee has dwindled recently, we have decided to disband. FOBL has done its job and feels that the future of Bentham Library is secure in the hands of Pioneer Projects. On March 2nd we handed over the balance of our account, £1,748.13p, to Pioneer Projects for library use in line with the requirements of our constitution (*see photo by Linda Brockbank below*). We would like to thank all our volunteers, past and present, and the community of Bentham, for their unwavering support and generous donations. We also thank North Yorkshire County Council, Craven District Council and Bentham Town Council, Librarians, and Pioneer Projects' Staff, Trustees and Library Volunteers. Together we have been able to ensure that Bentham continues to have a library to be proud of.

Photo by Linda Brockbank of the £1,748.13 cheque being handed over by members of FoBL to Pioneer Projects at Looking Well.

l-r Bev Sim, Margaret Cowling, Chris Joint, Lynda Graveson, Howard Matthew and Kathleen Kelly.



Person of Bentham – Mary Hartley

We are often asked how we choose who to interview in this People of Bentham series. The main criterion is that the person likes living here! Sometimes they have lived here all their lives, some were born here then moved away and have returned to their roots, and some others have actively chosen to live here having found it to be a rather special place. Mary is one of this latter group.

Mary was born in Liversedge near Cleckheaton in Yorkshire in 1935, spent her school age years in Derbyshire but then much of her working life in Lancashire. She is a woman who still embraces life with humour, humility, compassion and strong moral principles, we're sure you'll find what follows really interesting. Please read on.



Sally Annie age 20

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

I had been a social worker for many years and worked my way up through the ranks to eventually become Lancashire County Council's Head of Children's Services. I was based in Preston. This was quite a stressful job so my husband, Keith, and I bought a caravan on Goodenbergh Caravan Park as a weekend retreat and came here at weekends for 11 years, to relax and enjoy the peace and quiet. Then we found we really loved the area so in 2011 moved into a house in Bentham. We've been really happy here ever since and have involved ourselves in the community life of the town and made many, many friends.

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

My early childhood was happy, I had a brother one year older than me, and later another brother who was much younger. My parents met while my mum was 'in service' and my dad worked as a market trader. My dad was a lovely man, we were very close, and we would sing duets together. My mum favoured the boys and would spoil them while expecting me to do lots of domestic chores. It felt really unfair, and I never got on with my mum: she had had a hard life and that had made her into a hard woman.

A committed Christian, when World War II broke out, my dad became a conscientious objector. From then on, my life and that of my family changed dramatically.

Dad was put on trial, and the whole family had a difficult time. People gave us white feathers as a symbol of cowardice. It was very upsetting.

After the trial we had to move to Tansley, a small village near Matlock in Derbyshire, where dad became a farm labourer, and mum worked in a munitions factory, which is bit ironic considering dad was a conscientious objector and pacifist. Because of the work in the munitions factory, we got a meal there, which was one good thing, but I was not happy in Tansley. We were poor and I had to walk 3 miles through the fields to school each day.

For a while I went to live with my dad's mother, but that was horrible.

I left school as soon as I could, aged 15. My family moved to Blackpool. We were Methodists but one day I was walking along when I heard a band playing. I was drawn towards them and found it was the Blackpool Citadel Salvation Army having an open-air service on the sands.

This was the beginning of the next unexpected time of my life.



Photo by Jon Brook of Bentham Imaging

I eventually became a member, wore the uniform, including the bonnet (*see photo of me opposite in uniform: older readers will remember what the bonnet was like, nowadays they wear different hats*), and went round the pubs at night selling 'The War Cry', the monthly magazine of the Salvation Army which was sold to raise funds for the Army's social work. Although I was a young woman on my own, I was never frightened, and never felt unsafe.

I went to the Army's William Booth training college in Denmark Hill, London and passed out as a lieutenant, being commissioned in the Royal Albert Hall. My first posting was to Streatham Vale in South London, with a mission to preach and reach out to serve the community.

This is when I met my first husband who was a Salvation Army officer.

We were posted together, first to the South Wales valleys, and then to Liverpool. We had 2 sons; David was born in Wales and Andrew was born in Everton.

This marriage ended when my husband got another woman pregnant, and after that we were not wanted in the Salvation Army, and I went back home to Blackpool.

That's when I trained as a social worker, at Harris College in Preston, and began work as a Child Care Officer and also ran a home for discharged prisoners. I had various jobs including running an Intermediate Treatment Centre in Blackburn, where I met my present husband, Keith. He came to the Centre as a student, and in fact I was his boss! We did some excellent work with the young people there, including taking them up Helvellyn at midnight so we could all see the sunrise! I'm not sure Health and Safety would have let us do that nowadays!

...../Continued overleaf

...../Continued from page 5

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

Some of our experiences of holidaying abroad have been rather less than enjoyable. We had a horrific car crash in the mountains of Majorca, our 'Hurtigruten' cruise ship ran aground in Norway, and I was mugged in Fuengirola in Southern Spain, losing a diamond ring I had just bought. We loved Interlaken in Switzerland, but by far our most enjoyable holidays have been spent in the British Isles. We visited the Isle of Arran in 1984, fell in love with it and returned annually for 38 years! But our most memorable holiday was in the Outer Hebrides, and it is to there I would love to return.

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

It would have to be World War II. Wars change everything. I don't have many memories of the War, but those I do have are quite vivid – but rather unpleasant.

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

Brigadier Ozanne, who was the Officer in Charge at the Blackpool Salvation Army Citadel. As a new recruit, he took me under his wing and gave me an inspiring introduction to the Army. He continued to inspire me throughout my time in Blackpool and played a large part in my decision to go for Officer training.

What's the worst job you've ever done?

My parents were quite poor, and I knew that if I was to go to the training college in London, I would have to fund it myself. I worked every day in Marks and Spencer's which wasn't too bad. Then every evening in an ice cream factory. I had to put sticks in lollipops and watch while lumps of ice-cream got dipped in chocolate, it was very boring. However, the perk was: "Eat as much as you want" – they thought I wouldn't eat much, but I ate loads; I loved ice-cream, and still do!

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

I'd invest in people, not in a place, or in things. I've done what I can for Bentham since moving here; I was a founder member of Bentham Praise choir, and for many years was Chair of Age Concern – I'm really a people person.

What's your most treasured possession?

My dad's old bible, some jewellery from my mum and an opal ring from Keith.

How do you relax?

I don't drive these days, but I still enjoy going out in the car with Keith. We go to some nice places and still get pleasure from revisiting the hills we used to walk over. They may not have been very relaxing, but I did enjoy the long-distance walks I was able to do with my Bentham friends. These included the Dales Way, Ilkley to Bowness, Hadrian's Wall and the Cleveland Way. Sadly, the walk from sitting room to bathroom is something I now need to plan for!

You were one of the first to move into Extra-Care Housing in Bowland View, and the first living here to be interviewed by Bentham News, how do you find it?

The actual move was difficult, giving up our lovely bungalow, and there were lots of delays because of Covid and the building work being behind schedule. The move itself didn't go smoothly, but now I'm here it feels like home. I have made lots of new friends and can meet up with them without having to go outside. We have great times and a good laugh when we're together. I think I'm blessed to be very comfortable, to feel so secure, and as a bonus to have such a wonderful view from my balcony. The sunsets are truly amazing!

Where's The Catch?

By the River Wenning Group

Two fishermen, Martin Foley and Chris Wilcock, were photographed recently as they explored the Wenning near Greystonegill Bridge. Would they find small fry in the shallows? Would this season bring a good catch?

All that they fished out of the river that day was rubbish and fertiliser bags with some added sandwich packs, bits of polystyrene and squashed bottles. Shrubs and grass by the bridge had trapped litter, which breaks down to join microplastics released through the water treatment system. These are often eaten by fish and other aquatic creatures, poisoning the food chain and sometimes killing the feeders.

What can we do? Nothing will change overnight, except our attitudes to looking after the places we love. And there are paths of action we can take. We can avoid buying goods in plastic packaging and re-use bags for shopping. We can dispose of litter with care and even go litter picking with friends.

Motivated by the desire to help create an environmentally friendly organisation, Martin has donated money through his business, Alcedo Selection, to help the River Wenning Group buy equipment to measure and improve the water quality of our river. Chris is a member of the group. To find out more about the group's activities, you can receive email updates by requesting them from: riverwenninggroup@gmail.com





Unexpected visitors to Bentham on Wednesday 12th April, Scots Guardsman and Sierra Leone, completing a test run from Carnforth to Hellifield and back. Photo Jon Brook of Bentham Imaging


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Bentham Beagles

Bentham Beagles running club meets twice a week on a Tuesday and Thursday evening at Bentham Golf Club. All abilities are catered for from complete beginners to more experienced runners. We offer a range of local running routes and mileage to suit everyone's needs.



On Sunday July 16th, 2023, we are hosting our popular 10k road race which **starts at 10am** from Bentham Golf Club. The scenic route is perfect for all abilities and lots of friendly marshals will be out on route to support you. Entries are available on-line: www.bookitzone.com/steve_ashcroft/MFjFFX

For further information please visit our website www.benthambeagles.co.uk or email benthambeagles@live.co.uk where we will be happy to answer further questions.

Quiz Night at The Black Pig

A very happy and successful quiz night took place at The Black Pig on Friday 24th March when a full house answered some very tricky questions and enjoyed delicious food and drink. Café owner, Bryan Jeffs donated the proceeds from the event, which amounted to £230, to The Bentham News. We at BN are extremely grateful for this generous gesture, which really does make a difference, and enables us to continue bringing 48 pages of colourful, up-to-date, informative pages to the community of Bentham every month. Thank you Bryan and all you clever quizzers.

The Return of the Lunesdale Art Trail

After a gap of 3 years, we are delighted to announce that the Lunesdale Art Trail is happening again this year, in June and July. You will be able to visit artists' studios throughout the Lune Valley, meet the artists in their place of work, ask questions and buy local artwork. A map of where the studios are open and more information will be included in the June Bentham News.



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Last Year at Bentham Playing Fields

By Lisa Guy

on behalf of the Playing Fields Committee

Over the last 12 months we have had a lot to celebrate down at the playing fields. 'Angus Fire' have kindly extended our lease which enables us to move forward with future planning. The lease is extended to 2047, which gives us opportunities to apply for funding and grants which will hopefully improve the future of the playing fields. That said, grants and funding are for specific items and equipment and do not help with the general running of the playing fields, although they will hopefully help to improve the facilities for future generations.

We were nominated by Bentham Town Council and chosen by CDC to receive a Legacy Award 'for work in the community'. We were presented with the award at Skipton Town Hall during the final Craven District Council meeting at the end of March. It was a great honour, and we would like to take this opportunity to say a massive THANK YOU to Bentham Town Council, CDC and most of all to the committee members past and present for all the hard work and effort over the last 50 years!

We are to receive an amount from the 106-planning agreement towards play and recreation equipment and are in the process of deciding where this is best spent.

We have had a small kitchen (*right*) put into the front of the building, patio installed (replacing what was a mud bath) and we have done some maintenance work to the roof of the changing room building. We also had to replace the boiler at substantial cost due to it coming to a dramatic end; many thanks to the residents for alerting us to the issue.

We now have more groups using the field and facilities: Craven Wanderers (kids) and Pause United (seniors) play football down on the field on Wednesdays, Saturdays, and the occasional Sunday during the football session. The rounders team is still going from May until September on Thursdays at 6.30pm and we have a newly formed netball team who are training on Wednesdays at 7.30pm. As always it is lovely to see people utilising the area for pickleball, tennis, basketball, skate park, play area, a singing group and many groups of families and friends using our fabulous field.



The club house is still an issue for the Playing Fields Association. We have had the building inspected and have had numerous quotes for demolishing the now, sadly, unusable building. Unfortunately, the cost of this is still unaffordable at approximately £50,000, but it is something that needs to be addressed and a solution must be found soon.

Many people have asked how much the Playing Fields costs to run, so we thought we would shed some light on our approximate yearly outgoings.

Insurance- £4,782
 Grass cutting - £5,430
 Accountants - £1,000
 Play Park Inspection - £204
 Utilities - £746
 Website - £54
 Maintenance - £300
Total - £12,516

As you can see the maintenance and general upkeep of such a large area comes at a substantial cost, these costs must be met every year just to keep the playing fields open for use. We couldn't do it without the generosity of the local community. Every year we have received a Precept Grant from Bentham Town Council, which is usually £5,000 towards grass cutting, but this year we have received £4,000. We get many donations from members of the public and local businesses: The Bentham Hub, SBC, B&W Funerals are a few that have been kind enough to donate this year. We try to hold as many events as possible and from these we make between £30 and £200. The September Music Day made around £400..... And what an amazing day we had! Every few years we apply for Co-op funding and last year received a total of £3,470.86, so thank you Co-op and everyone for choosing us as your local good cause.

If anybody would like to donate, we do have a Go fund me page.

<https://www.gofundme.com/f/efaem-we-need-your-help>

Here is a QR Code which will help you find our GoFundMe page online:



If anyone would like to organise an event, hire the facilities or have any enquiries please contact us:

benthamplaying@gmail.co.uk

Many thanks for all your continued support.

Photos show Lisa Guy and Angie Chapman receiving the Craven District Council Legacy Award and, below, the new kitchen.



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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.

Lynn Massey has given thanks to 'The Gentleman in The Tractor' who has filled and smoothed out the ruts and potholes along Duke Street. Correspondents identified the good Samaritan as **Keith Carroll**.



June Percy shared the news that the Bentham branch of Barclays is to close on 12th July. Almost all replies were of the opinion that this is terrible news. Indeed, one response pointed out that since Bentham is the second largest town in Craven behind only Skipton, it is ridiculous that there will now be no banks here.

Bentham Town Council announced that they have made £1,000 available to any organisation wishing to run an event for the Coronation. Details from the Town Clerk.

Bentham Playing Fields were honoured at the last ever Craven District Council Meeting with a *Legacy Award for Work in the Community*. See pages 10/11.

David Johnson asked the purpose of the yellow and silver poles that have been erected along the length of the A683 road between Lancaster and Kirkby Lonsdale. Replies confirmed that they are for the installation of Average Speed Cameras.

Ian Wood in his capacity as a trustee of the Alms-houses shared that there is a vacancy. Applications are invited from residents of Bentham and further details are available from the trustees.

Jane Barnes and **Phil Gerrie** both shared that the B6480 is to be closed for five weeks from the start of April. This is for resurfacing works across Newby Moor. The road will remain open at weekends.

And finally, **Martin Dearden** shared a link to a tool from the National Library of Scotland. This Georeference Map tool allows the overlay of current and historical maps, showing how areas have developed over time. It can be accessed at maps.nls.uk/geo/explore.

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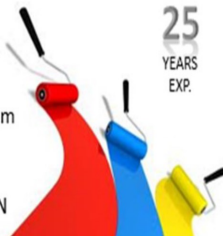
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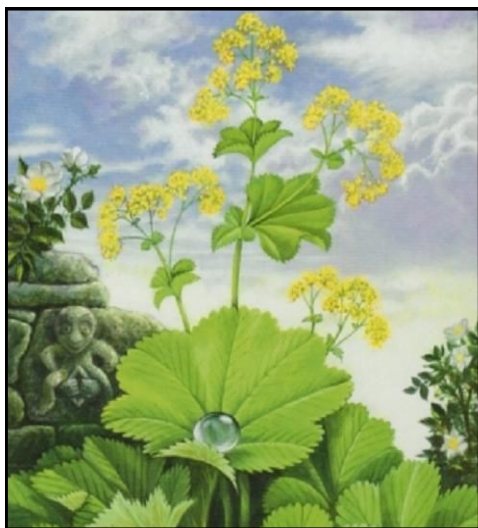
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Your Garden or Allotment in May

By Joyce Knapp

By the time we reach the month of May, our gardens and allotments should be in full swing showing signs of growth in all areas, and this will be especially noticeable amongst the young plants in our care. These can range from the lush new shoots on perennials as they burst forward into growth e.g., Ladies Mantle, to the seedlings rapidly developing into strong, young plants in our vegetable gardens. Ladies Mantles may have a rather insignificant flower but the lime green leaves more than make up for this by producing a stunning display, especially after a shower. This is created by the droplets of rainwater shimmering in the sun and is quite unusual in the plant world as most leaves absorb moisture whereas those of the Ladies Mantle repel it. Just a word of warning, this plant can become quite invasive, but it is possible to remove the flowers as they die back to avoid the spread of seed.

In the vegetable garden/allotment we should now be able to check on the progress of young crops, taking time to thin out root crops such as carrots and beetroot. Both can be thinned to 2-3 inches apart now, with a view to further thinning as the plants

develop to a size where they can be lifted and cooked as baby veg. We can still sow seeds of some vegetable crops in May, whether they be of less hardy ones e.g., courgettes, or a successional sowing of a crop such as lettuce. The beauty of successional sowing is that we can avoid all our crop coming ready at once creating a glut, and thereby spread the harvesting season considerably. We can also plan ahead somewhat this month by sowing seeds of Brussel Sprouts, (I always joke that this is when I start making Christmas dinner) and Purple Sprouting Broccoli that will not be ready to harvest until next spring.

May is probably the best time to prune both plum and damson trees as they can become diseased if trimmed in the winter months. This task can be carried out as the buds burst into life and all that is required is to thin out any overcrowded branches, taking them right back to the main stem, then just cast an eye over the remaining tree, removing any stems that show signs of die-back. Other plants that will benefit from a trim this month are the early flowering ones such as Ribes, Forsythia and Mahonia. A slightly different approach is needed for each of these, for instance Ribes (flowering currant) will simply need 1/3rd of its stems removing at ground level. We can keep a Mahonia to a manageable size by removing its longest stems back to a side shoot and Forsythia will flower better next year if we remove all stems that have borne flowers this year, cutting back to a new, upward-facing shoot.

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A View from the Penthouse - Happy Birthday Bowland View!

By Keith Hartley

No-one has been particularly impressed when I have told them that Mary and I have a penthouse suite in Bentham's recently opened Extra Care Housing Unit, *Bowland View*. But then Bentham folk are not easily impressed - and after all, it *is* just a third floor flat! But to us, it's rather more than that.

It's a year since we made the one-way 300-yard journey from Banks Rise to a completely different world; from an insular four-bedroomed bungalow to an apartment in a communal building which amounts to rather less than half the size of our previous home. But it's a journey I have absolutely no regrets about making. I won't deny that for various reasons our personal journey has been a bit bumpy at times. But thanks largely to a brilliant and very committed staff at Bowland View, the bumps have been much smoother than they could have been.

From the beginning, the scheme has been beleaguered with management problems due to long-term sickness, and this has at times given rise to some disharmony. But if the Officers' Mess has been less than efficient, the NCOs and other ranks have stepped up to the mark to ensure that the quality of service on offer has been as good as they could possibly make it. And they've done it (very successfully) with some of the biggest smiles I've ever seen! Steps have already been taken by *Housing 21*, who manage Bowland View and Scholars Rise in partnership with North Yorkshire Council, to sort out the management issues. This is good news to us because the scheme holds incredible potential to become the place where everyone wants to live, and it would be sad if that potential couldn't be realised.



Mary and I have both made many new friends, as well as being able to renew old acquaintanceships at Bowland View. We have seen an empty residents' lounge become transformed into the hub of an active and very social community, which has already seen some memorable events, with celebrations ranging from Tapas evenings to Halloween parties, and punctuated by birthdays and weekly bingo (any line for a Mars bar!) Although 'knocking on a bit' some of our residents are very talented in arts and crafts, gardening, catering, etc., and seem happy to share their skills with others who are interested. Consequently, we have several thriving groups which are inclusive and very welcoming.

The Bowland View main building houses 64 apartments, with eight linked bungalows located in Scholars Rise. With potential accommodation for around a hundred people, by any local standard the scheme is big. I have every sympathy with those local people who, from overlooking school playing fields, suddenly found *Bowland View* on their doorstep. But I hope that they in turn can begin to feel happy for the many people who have already gained a great deal of benefit from its existence.

It will never be possible to create an environment to suit everyone, but from what many people have told me I know for certain that the lives of the vast majority of our residents are so much richer for having come to live here. Certainly, that's how Mary and I feel.

Photo by Jon Brook of Bentham Imaging



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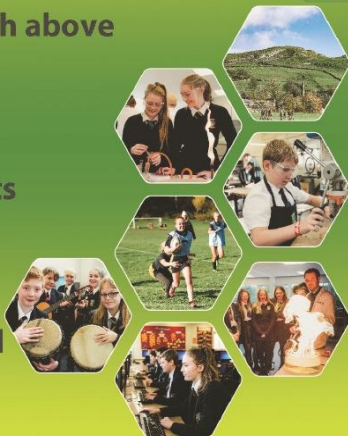
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Further details and application forms can be obtained from the Clerk and Trustee, Ian Wood.

Please ring 07793 281156

Closing date for applications

21st May 2023

Bring your Verges to Life

By Victoria Benn (victoria.benn@friendsofthedailes.org.uk)

The last 80-90 years have seen the acceleration of a **biodiversity emergency** in the UK as more intensive farming – driven by farming policy – has eroded our once prevalent hay meadows. Species-rich meadows are not only more resistant to climate change and store more carbon than non-biodiverse grasslands, but they also support hundreds of varieties of plants, myriad insect life and dozens of bird species.

The good news is that there is something we can all do to help and prevent further decline in biodiversity – we can look to protect and enhance those former strips and remnants of traditional grassland that have survived as **roadside verges**.

The principles of nature positive verge management are simple:

- Cut verges or other village grassland no later than **April** and clear cuttings away to prevent the build-up of thatch, which increases soil nitrogen levels and can encourage docks, nettles and thistles to take hold.
- Do not cut the grass between **May and August** (inclusive) to allow plants to flower and set seed.
- If cutting can't be avoided, consider mowing paths or narrow edge strips but **leave some areas uncut** as a wildlife refuge. This can also help to address concerns about untidiness and safety.
- **Remove invasive weeds** (nettles, thistles, docks) by chopping down/uprooting, not spraying.
- Do a second cut in **September** – clearing all cuttings away.

In other words, Cut Less, Cut Later, Takeaway!

We have several resources available on our website to help you get started. Visit Friends of the Dales website to access: Village Guide; Monthly Planner; Link to a campaign video by our Living Verges campaign champion, Dr Anne Readshaw and a 'No Mow' sign (*right*) you can print off to let your neighbours know that you are managing verges for nature.

Do let us know if we inspire a change of approach – and please send any photos of any botanically rich verges and grassland you encourage! (*See Above.*) For all questions, comments and feedback please email me.



***Don't forget the BN deadline
date is 12th May
for the June edition***



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People Page

Notices and Events

Personal Thanks

Malcolm SAYER Born 3rd July 1933 - Died 26th February 2023

Malcolm, my loving husband of 56 years, died after a short illness at the Royal Lancaster Hospital early on Sunday 26th February. Very many people have sent me cards and flowers, thank you so much, they have been a great consolation to me. I would also like to thank Dr Morgan and nursing and other staff at the Bentham Medical Practice for many years of committed medical care and attention; the Emergency Ambulance Service for their very quick response to our 999 call and for the care they gave Malcolm and me during the blue light journey to Lancaster; the staff nurse and staff of the stroke unit at RLH for their professional and compassionate care for Malcolm; Mabel and Frank Parr who conducted a beautiful Anglican Requiem for Malcolm; and five other ministers from Bentham's churches who also shared in the service; Fr. Frank Smith who allowed us to use St. Boniface Church for Malcolm's funeral; the Smith family from Leeds, friends of Malcolm who sang and played such moving music during the Service. Finally, my thanks go to Jimmy Macdonald and Tara Wilson of B&W Funerals for their care, advice and guidance in preparing and conducting Malcolm's funeral.

Malcolm, Rest in Peace. ELZA SAYER.

Rounders

By Ingrid Ellershaw, Organiser

Hi everyone it is the start of the Rounders season. We start on **Thursday the 18th of May at 6.30pm** down on the Playing Fields. All abilities can play as we practise and play matches on a home and away basis. We only play local villages. So come along, we have a great time. We are a very friendly bunch.

Hope to see you all on the 18th of May.

Don't forget if you contact
Bentham News via
telephone be sure you get
an acknowledgement if
you want your article in!!!
If not ring or email again.

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Tatham Fells CE (VC) Primary News

By Fiona Ip (Headteacher)

We are at the end of a busy spring term and are enjoying the longer days. Some of our Y5 pupils represented our school in the Lune Valley Netball tournament at the Bay Leadership academy. It was a really well organised competition from the Lancaster and Morecambe Sports partnership and we were very please to come in second place overall, thanks to great teamwork by our Y5 and great teaching - Thank you Mrs Speight.

Our youngest children have been enjoying the great outdoors as the weather improves and have been 'little twitchers' finding out all about the birds in our local habitat. Thanks to the Friends of Tatham Fells School for providing the children with new overalls which are really waterproof. We can't wait to see them in use in our new Forest School area. The bird topic finished with a visit from some friendly chicks who the children got to hold.

The children planned a Mothers' Day surprise for their mums to show their gratitude and appreciation. They made and decorated cakes. We decorated the hall and laid place settings. Mums were invited to afternoon tea where the children read their cards out and showed their paintings. We were pleased to see a packed hall and hope all our families enjoyed it - we certainly did.

For Comic Relief, Student Council organised a talent show- it was amazing how many hidden talents the children showed us. We were proud of how well they managed to prepare and perform independently.

Our Juniors' singing skills were utilised to give enthusiastic performances at The Lancaster and Morecambe district singing festival in the Ashton Hall in Lancaster. The festival had returned after a 3-year break and our children's singing, enthusiasm, behaviour and enjoyment were commented on by the festival organisers. They had the best time performing and we loved watching them on the stage.

Easter term ended with a Lent reflection day at Leck for our Y1/2 pupils, provided by our Vicar, Rev Jane, at the Church of the Good Shepherd and an Easter bonnet parade. Well done to all the children who got involved in making Easter bonnets at home; the effort put into the entries was incredible.

Next term all pre-schoolers and toddlers in the local area are welcome to join us for free community Diddidance session on Thursdays at 11.15am at Melling St Wilfrid Primary School. There is no need to book just turn up and enjoy the session with Nicola, our amazing Diddidance teacher. Then for the King's Coronation, the children will be performing maypole dancing and we will be having afternoon tea. All are welcome to join us at 2pm on Friday 5th May.



Town Hall

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 - 10:30am, Pilates, Sally Horn

Town Hall - Meetings

Tuesday 2nd and Monday 15th

LH 7.30pm, Full Council Meeting

Town Hall - Coffee Mornings

Saturday 10am - 12noon

6th - Bentham Pet Rescue

13th - St John's Church

20th - Springfield Bowling Club

27th - Bentham Playing Fields



WI (see pages 36-37)

High Bentham

Thursday 4th, 7:30pm, Bentham LH
Town Hall

Low Bentham and District

Thursday 18th, 7:00pm in the Victoria
Institute

Tatham Fells

Tuesday 9th, 7:30pm, Old School Tatham
Fells.



Methodist Church

Monday 15th and 22nd May

10:00 - 11:30am, **Toddle In**, £2.00 per family.

For children newborn to starting school, and
their parents/carers.

Events in May

Bentham Golf Club

Every Friday

11:00am - 2:00pm, Age Concern Bentham

Friday Lunch Club



Footpath (see page 35)



For May walks we meet first at
Lairgill for 9.30am, except for the one on
Wednesday 17th where we meet at 9.00am.

Thursday 4th. Bernie and Sheila Garrett,
07805296711, Stainforth, 7 miles.

Saturday 13th. Kate Rowe, 015242 51402,
Roeburndale Bluebells, 7 miles.

Wednesday 17th. Ed Badley, 015242 62502,
Ullswater and Place Fell, 9 miles.

Friday 26th. Bryn and Sandra Craggs, 015242
62416, Yarnbury Lead Mines and Mossdale,
9 miles.

The Pantry

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.

St John's (see page 29)

The church will be open for a Bring and
Share Coronation Lunch at 12noon on

Sunday 7th May, and for Cream Teas on

May Bank Holiday, **Monday 29th May**.

Please join us if you can, everyone is
welcome.

Victoria Institute

Every Monday

9:30am - 12noon, Office Open, Enquires/
bookings.

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

Light lunch and activities.

6:15pm - 7:45pm, Tai Chi.

Monday 8th Coronation Afternoon Tea

2 - 4pm Community garden (*advert page 8*)

Every Tuesday

10:00 - 12:00noon, Kay's Chat & Mexican

Train meet, £2 tea and biscuits.

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

Every Wednesday

9:30am - 12:00noon, Office Open, Enquires/
bookings.

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

12noon - 2:00pm, Community Link Cafe`
Lunch club.

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

Every Friday

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

Saturday 13th

Book Swap and every 2nd Saturday of month

Every Sunday

11.00am - 12:30pm Cornerstone Church
Service

Bentham Fire Station

Thursday, 11th and 25th, 10:00am

Bentham & District Dementia Friendly
Community Breakfast Club

Coronation Party

Bentham Playing Fields

Sunday 7th May 2pm

Music and Games

Bring your own food and drink

Keep eyes peeled for more information

(*See article on Playing Fields*

pages 10 and 11)

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Monday 15th & 22nd, 10.30am to

12.30pm, Making Connections Dementia
Group

Every Tuesday, 10.30am to 12.30pm, Creative
Community Hub

Every Tuesday 11.45am to 1pm, Creative
Writing Group face to face and Zoom

Tuesday 9th, 2pm to 4pm, Book Group

Every Wednesday, 10.30am to 12noon, Sing
Along to Every Song – face to face and Zoom

Every Wednesday, 2pm to 4pm, Art for All

Every Thursday, 12.30pm to 3.30pm,
Community Art Shed

Every Friday, 10am to 12.30pm, Mental
Health & Wellbeing Hub

For more info and to join any of the above groups

please contact 015242-62672 or

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Bentham Community Library

Monday 2:30pm - 5:00pm

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Friday 2:30pm – 4:20pm

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Rounders season starts on **Thursday 18th of
May at 6.30pm** on the Playing Fields.
All abilities. We are a very friendly bunch.

See page 21.



The King's Coronation Wordsearch



Ceremony
Coronation
Throne
Holiday
Regalia

Monarch
Charles
Crown
Palace
King



Bentham Police News

Members of the team from your Safer Neighbourhood Team covering the Bentham, Ingleton and Settle area are: PS1006 Paul Evans, PC871 Ian Hunt, PC188 Jane Carpenter, PCSO5561 Jayne Grace and PCSO5881 Julia Runciman. They will be keeping you updated on recent crimes and incidents in Bentham and the surrounding area.



There were **33 incidents** reported between 10th March and 9th April 2023.

These included: a sudden death, anti-social behaviour, a domestic incident, abandoned vehicle in Grasmere Drive, Licencing breach in Low Bentham, suspect males and vehicles in Main Street leading to a search of the area, male suspected to be involved in vermin control in Duke Street, a crime of violence, concern for welfare/safeguarding/theft in Robin Lane, fraud involving Vanquis bank and Amazon/Western Union/Sky, road traffic collision involving 2 vehicles on Bentham Road, road traffic collision involving 2 vehicles on Goodenber Road, criminal damage to vehicle tyre on Millers Court, a sexual crime, highway disruption involving the manner of driving in Wenning Avenue.

Crime Prevention Advice for the Spring

Don't let burglars have easy access to your home. As the weather starts to get warmer people are more likely to leave their doors and windows open to ventilate their properties. Walk-in burglaries do increase during this time, so don't be complacent. If you cannot see the door or window, then it should be shut and locked. If you are out enjoying your garden, remember to shut and lock all windows on the front of your property. Enjoy the lighter nights but make sure your home looks lived in if you go away. Use timer switches on lights to make your home look occupied in the evenings. If possible, leave a car in your driveway or ask a neighbour to park their car on your driveway whilst you're away. Ask a neighbour to check on your home while you're away and move any post out of sight. Cancel any regular deliveries such as milk and newspapers. If you have a lawn, cut it before you go away and trim back any bushes or shrubs that burglars could hide behind. Lock away any valuable items such as pedal cycles – they may be safer in your home than in a shed.

You can report safety issues under speed concerns on - www.roadwise.co.uk.

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 Email SNACraven@northyorkshire.police.uk



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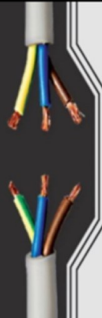
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Churches Together in Bentham

By Rev'd Stephen Caddy

May is I think my favourite month of the year. We are deep into the warmth of Spring without yet the fiercer heat of the summer. It can be a good month for a day out or a weekend away. For me it's a month of significant birthdays with both my father's and my daughter's within three days of each other. May always seems like a good choice to get things done whether indoors or out.

The last Sunday of May this year is Whitsun (White Sunday) or Pentecost (meaning '50 days' as it's seven weeks since Easter Day). It's also sometimes called the 'Birthday of the Church'. The risen Jesus had asked his followers to wait for 'power from on high' and this is the day it happened; the disciples were filled with the Holy Spirit and began in earnest their mission to share the stories of Jesus wherever they went.

The Methodist Church (and some others) keep that sense of movement by regularly sending its ministers somewhere new. My five years here in Bentham will be up by the Autumn and my forty-six years in the active work, because Bentham has been my last appointment. I left Birmingham to begin my service in London and then to Kinlochleven in the Scottish Highlands, Larkhall, Glasgow, Kilsyth, Glasgow again, Berwick-upon-Tweed, Manchester, Ilminster in Somerset, Castletown Isle of Man, Corbridge in Northumberland, Beverley and then Bentham. They have all had their own challenges and blessings. Bentham and the surrounding area have been a good place to be, both for its people and the natural world around us. My short time here has seen new things including a pandemic lockdown and a change of monarch. I'm always sorry to leave people and places behind but somewhere new is always beckoning the wanderer. Bentham Methodists have always warmly welcomed their new ministers and I am sure they will be glad to see the Reverend Timothy Broughton take up his new role with them as I move on to East Yorkshire. In Bentham the five congregations that make up the variety of churches in "Churches Together in Bentham" work well together throughout the year and I have appreciated being an active part of that. I trust that sense of unity through action will continue to grow. Have a great Merry Month of May finding enrichment in where and how you live. Every blessing.

**COME AND CELEBRATE WITH US
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Easter was Celebrated at St John's and next there's a Coronation Lunch

By Libby Wheildon

Our Easter celebrations in church started with two Easter visits to Bentham Community Primary School to run Easter Craft Workshops with the children. Our team of volunteers helped the children to decorate their own individual crosses, make paper daffodils and play Easter Bingo. The whole school then walked down to the church to hold their own Easter Service on the last day of term, where some of their artwork was displayed and they could see the paper daffodils they had made adorning two large crosses - the centrepiece to our Easter celebrations. On Easter Day, the third and largest of the three crosses, was filled with real daffodils by everyone attending the service (*see below*).

We held our annual Easter Egg Bingo on Friday 31st March at the Victoria Institute in Low Bentham. The event was well attended, and competitors were treated to an 'eggstavaganza' of Easter eggs with a delicious supper in between rounds of bingo. Thank you to everyone who attended. We raised an 'eggciting' total of £342.50 which will go towards the building of our new children and families' room in church.

Daffodils and crosses were the main theme of our decorations in church for Easter. As well as the beautiful floral arrangements in church and the children's imaginative and creative artwork; you might also have seen Christ's tomb just outside the church gates. The church was open for everyone to come and see our Easter displays and to enjoy a Cream Tea both on Easter Day and on Easter Monday. Visitors on these days helped us raise a further £232.90, again for our children and families' room. Thank you to everyone who came.

We will be opening the church once again to host a Bring and Share Coronation Lunch at 12noon on **Sunday 7th May**, and for Cream Teas on May Bank Holiday, **Monday 29th May**. Please join us if you can, everyone is welcome.

On **Saturday 10th June** at 7.30pm, Lancaster/Morecambe Ladies Choir-Exultate will be performing a varied programme of choral music in church, perfect for a summer evening, followed by refreshments. Further information to follow in next month's Bentham News.



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Ewecross Historical Society Learn About the Life of Adam Sedgwick

By Mary Taylor

Robert Fox, Emeritus professor of History and Science at Oxford University and President of Sedbergh History Society, gave an absorbing illustrated lecture on 'The many lives of Adam Sedgwick' on March 27th. Dr Fox showed the person behind the image of Adam Sedgwick, who was born at Dent in 1785, attended Sedbergh School and graduated from Trinity College, Cambridge in Mathematics and Theology. Then, knowing nothing of the subject, was appointed Professor of Geology. He became a pioneer of geology with great enthusiasm, riding on horseback to locations with his students trying to keep up, then lecturing from the saddle. He studied Cambrian rock in Wales and travelled all over the world becoming a celebrity, welcomed at the Royal Palaces as a friend of Queen Victoria's husband, Prince Albert. Although popular, the other side of Adam's character showed a troubled man. He suffered bouts of depression, argued with other geologists and Charles Darwin, who was one of his pupils. He understood evolution but could not reconcile the extinction of many species of life with his faith. He donated a large amount of money to the building fund of St. John's church, Cowgill, as an ordained Anglican Minister he steered a path between the High Church and the Nonconformists. A memorial stone still in the middle of Dent was erected to him the year after his death in 1873, but he was not commemorated at Cambridge until many years later.

Mike Winstanley, Chair of the society, welcomed and thanked Dr Fox, who answered many questions.



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Town Council Meeting on 3rd April 2023

By Shirley Brown

These are not official Town Council minutes, but a factual report of matters discussed at the Town Council meeting. The official minutes will be posted on the Bentham Town Council website in due course.

Councillors present at this meeting were Gareth Adams (chair), Tony Burton, Phil Gerrie, Howard Hill, Thomas Marshall, Mark Paige, Leonie Pearce and Tim Stannard. There were **apologies** from Andy Jones. Jo Burton was in attendance as temporary clerk. One member of the public and the BN reporter were also present.

In the **comments and concerns** section, a member of the public said he was very interested to find out what is happening with the community centre as he felt there is a great opportunity to develop it as an arts and heritage centre, indeed he is trying to purchase it. He explained that he has a background and qualifications in fine arts and moved to Bentham 2 years ago. Previously he has been involved with a project in Morecambe where a building such as the one in Bentham had been opened as a gallery which was now receiving national and international acclaim. He asked for feedback on his offer to buy the building.

Then Thomas Marshall, speaking as a member of the public and not on behalf of the Town Council, read out a statement critical of Bentham News for inaccurate reporting. He said he was seeking legal advice for defamation of character and would be requiring a retraction in a future edition of the Bentham News.

Co-option of councillors: No written applications have been received.

Temporary Clerk: Jo Burton was confirmed for an “interim period”.

New Planning Applications: Councillors had no comments on any of the 3 applications:

- Addition of a new single storey garage adjoining existing garage for secure on-site storage of essential equipment required for business and personal use at 1 Lakeber Terrace, Robin Lane, High Bentham.
- Minor pruning to improve clearance over drive at Ellerburn, Doctors Hill, Low Bentham.
- Erection of holiday lodge at Greta Mount, Burton-in-Lonsdale (Councillor Marshall left the room when this application was presented).

Highway Matters:

Correspondence was received about **EV Home Charging and general parking issues on Main Street**. Councillors felt they could not provide a solution for these matters and that they should be referred to North Yorkshire Council Highways Department.

There was a discussion about requesting **Average Speed Cameras** in Bentham as these are currently being installed by Lancashire County Council. It was accepted that nothing will happen quickly, but that a request for a policy should be forwarded to North Yorkshire Council.

King’s Coronation:

The Town Council did not know of any special events that were being planned, and proposed making £1,000 available should someone or any organisation wish to organise a civic event.

Town Hall Windows:

It was agreed to progress the project to replace the Town Hall windows.

New Laptop for Town Council Business:

The Councillors authorised the purchase of a new laptop, which should happen as soon as possible.

Police Surgeries in Bentham:

These have been cancelled due to lack of attendance by the public, although they are to continue in Ingleton and Settle. Some councillors felt this was a shame and that Bentham might be missing out and asked whether they had been publicised well-enough.

Town Hall Clock:

There has been a complaint about the Town Hall clock chiming through the night and enquiries will be made about whether the timing of the chimes can be altered.

Conservation Area Appraisals:

Councillors noted Craven's appraisals including those proposed in both Low and High Bentham.

Hedgehogs Highway Project:

Councillors have received information about this project, and if you want to know more, please ask.

River Wenning Group:

There is increasing concern about the water quality of our River Wenning, and the local group have received a generous donation which will enable them to test this.

Tourist Information Point:

Needs more volunteers.

Bentham Masterplan:

Councillor Gerrie reported on the progress being made, including attempts to bring B4RN high-fibre broadband coverage to Bentham. Early discussions have revealed that government grants may not be possible, but the BMP team are querying this on the grounds of unfair competition and restrictive practice by a commercial supplier. The possibility of other grants is being explored. The poor local bus service is part of a national problem with rural bus services, but ways forward are being sought. And improving the appearance of the Main Street is something that many people are determined to achieve. Town Council support for a "Tidy Up Bentham" campaign would help and other projects will be discussed shortly with interested individuals.

The press and public were asked to leave before the remaining items of business, the Community Youth Building and the Clerk's Vacancy, were discussed.

Some Items for Next Meeting:

To consider putting parking restrictions (yellow lines) on the Main Road outside Low Bentham car park.

To support a 'Tidy Up Bentham' campaign.

The next full Town Council meeting will be in the Town Hall at 7.30pm on Tuesday 2nd May and is open to the public and press.

Important Update on Energy Grants

By John Smithson on behalf of BEST



In March the UK Government announced the following financial incentives to reduce carbon emissions:

1. A fund of £6.6 billion to reduce energy consumption by householders and industry.
2. A £450 million 3-Year Boiler Upgrade Scheme offering householders up to £5,000 for low carbon heating systems.
3. A 'Future Homes Standard' to be introduced in 2025 to ensure new build homes are more energy efficient.
4. The extension of VAT relief for the installation of energy saving materials in homes.

We hope to bring you more details and how to access these funds in next month's Bentham News. In the meantime, our Thermal Imaging Surveys have revealed that simply by closing thermal-lined curtains or blinds can conserve 2 to 3 degrees of heat loss - if you're heating your home to 20 to 22 degrees that's over 10% saving.

Lunesdale Probus Club - Hornby, May/June meetings

By Roger Carter, Lunesdale Probus Club, Email hornby.carts@ic24.net or Tel: 015242-22283

Due to various bank holidays, our May speaker programme will consist of just one session. This will be on **Monday 15th May** when **Peter Wiltshire** will be speaking on the history of **Lancaster Markets**.

Originally scheduled pre-Covid this perspective of local history is eagerly anticipated.

Advance notice: Hornby Probus club visit the **Spitfire Collection** at **Squires Gate airfield Blackpool** on **Thursday 15th June**.

During June we will have 2 sessions as normal along with this interesting 'away day' when we tour **Hangar 42** workshop collection of the **Spitfire ground display team**. There are several Spitfire replicas and a Hawker Hurricane MKI along with a unique collection of wartime RAF Airfield vehicles and equipment. There are also exhibits recording local history including salvaged items from a P51 Mustang and a Junkers JU88 Bomber. Coaching and admission are included, and guests are very welcome to join us on this trip. For itinerary, price and further details on this or other Lunesdale Probus Club matters please contact me (details above).

Jazz in Hornby: TIM Kliphuis Trio on 26th May. Usual venue: the Village Institute, Main Street A683) Hornby LA2 8JR. 015242 22227.

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Walks Among the Bluebells in May

By Don Cartledge

By now the delightful displays of golden daffodils along our lanes and roadsides will have disappeared for another year. However, nature now provides us with the opportunity to travel along wooded paths through deep blue carpets of glorious bluebells, and our walk on May 13th enables us to do just that. For the walk on Wednesday 17th, meet first at Lairgill for 9am, for the other three walks meet, as usual, for 9.30am.



Our first walk on **Thursday 4th** starts at Langcliffe car park, by St. John's church (£2 honesty box) and is led by Bernie and Sheila Garrett (07805-296711). The walk covers 7 miles, and the route takes us to the western side of the River Ribble and follows the riverside path past Stainforth Force and on to Stainforth. A short detour allows us a visit to the Hoffman Kiln site and, back to Stainforth, we ascend the track up to Catrigg Force, returning to the start via High Winskill. The footpaths are well established, and stiles are in good order. Bernie points out that Sir Isaac Newton is believed to have visited Langcliffe Hall and Edward Elgar (Land of Hope and Glory) was apparently very fond of Catrigg Force.

Kate Rowe (015242-51402) takes us on a 7-mile Roeburndale bluebell walk on **Saturday 13th**. Parking at Wray tea rooms we head up the steep hill to a small track which crosses a stream and then aims for Alcocks Farm. Turning left up the road, a path across fields leads to a gate where we soon enter Outhwaite Wood and, following the upper (uneven) path, we should be surrounded by bluebells. A steep descent takes us to a bridge over the Roeburn where we turn left to Blacksbottom Farm. It's then a longish stretch of road past Cold Park Wood and a path right, more bluebells, and the road back to Wray.

There is a strenuous 9-mile walk on **Wednesday 17th** covering Ullswater and Place Fell. Led by Ed Badley (015242-62502) it starts about a mile south of Patterdale on the Kirkstone Pass Road and crosses the valley of Goldrill Beck, then turns left towards the lake. By the lake, we take the higher of the two undulating bridleways to Silver Bay, then on beyond Scalehow Beck to climb about 1,500 feet to the summit of Place Fell for spectacular views. The ascent goes past Scalehow Force and a ruined quarry building to the renovated sheepfold on Low Moss. We then descend steeply via Bordale Hause back to the cars.

Our final May walk is on **Friday 26th**. Covering about 9 miles, the leaders are Bryn and Sandra Craggs (015242-62416). Free parking is at the end of the road/track out of Grassington at Yarnbury (Main Street/Moor Lane). Initially we walk along a clear track to meet the Dales Way by Conistone Dib and turn uphill to follow Bycliffe Road then right towards Kelber Gate and Bycliffe. A short detour takes us to Mossdale Scar before returning to climb gradually through the moorland and spoil heaps towards the chimney at the old lead mine workings. Depending on the weather and time, we will examine the industrial remains before heading back to the start.

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Low Bentham and District

By Kathryn Brownsord

At our March meeting we had a lovely talk about walking the Camino del Santiago Trail by Cathy Rowland. She had already walked four of the routes and is due to undertake her 5th route this spring. She explained how invigorating the walks were and of meeting a wide selection of people of varying ages from around the world, staying in hostels, meeting locals and how she enjoyed walking, mostly on her own, feeling very much in tune with nature.

Cathy drew the raffle and judged the competition of a postcard.

The lunch club in March was organised by Wendy Dowbiggin and held at the Tatham Bridge Inn where 12 members enjoyed a tasty meal. The Craft and Chat meeting was held at Christine Jennings home where we enjoyed a lovely lunch and a few hours of crafting.

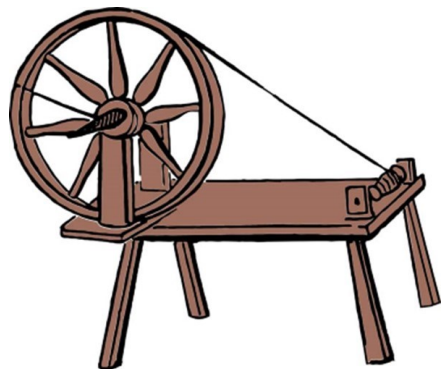
Our meeting on 18th May will be "Forest of Bowland Moorland Group" by Charlotte Hayle, and as always look out for our posters advising our next meeting. We meet on the third Thursday every month at 7pm in the Victoria Institute, Low Bentham, and hope to see you there.



High Bentham

By Jan Stuiver

On Thursday April 6th High Bentham WI enjoyed learning about spinning and weaving from local resident Lynn Massey. She demonstrated her spinning wheel and allowed us to handle the different yarns she has created for use in either weaving or knitting. We were interested to discover how she got started with spinning, and how she developed her skills and experimented with using different kinds of wool, even spinning yarn from dog and cat hair. Members were intrigued by the clothes Lynn has made from her hand-woven fabrics, with their range of complementary colours and textures.



Next is our birthday party meeting on Thursday 4th May, when we will enjoy a buffet supper provided by the members and learn about the work of Unique Kidz and Co, a Morecambe based charity which supports children with a range of special needs, and their families. On Thursday June 1st we will welcome Rowena Lee who will give a talk entitled 'A Life in Service in the 21st Century'. Members of the community are welcome to join us for the evening. Meetings start at 7.30pm and are held in the Lower Hall of the Town Hall.

Don't forget the BN deadline date is 12th May for the June edition



Tatham Fells

By Mary Taylor

Sue Dawson solved the mystery 'Why Does Your House Look Like This?' at Tatham Fells Women's Institute meeting, held in the Old School on Tuesday 11th April. Sue, an architect, showed slides of houses in Tatham, some belonging to members, dating from the seventeenth century. All the houses are built of local stone, some still have stone instead of slate for the roof, and all the older ones have small low mullioned windows. This was because glass was scarce and expensive; Sue had discovered a reference to 'window cloth' which was used to let light in but was not clear. As panes of glass became larger and less expensive the architecture of the houses changed, with larger sash windows. Sue showed slides of the buildings of ancient Greece and Rome, saying that copies of these can be seen on local doorways. She showed modern bungalows and up-to-date local conversions which incorporate vast quantities of glass as people now want to see the view. She concluded by showing the latest buildings (not in Tatham) using Glulam, planks of wood glued together to form beams that are stronger than steel or concrete. She was thanked by Dawn Johnston.



Kath Coates won the competition for a photo of an unusual building, with Olive Beard second and Mary Myers third. During business, President, Ruth Garstang welcomed a new member and gave a report on the delightful Lancashire Federation spring council meeting which she had attended. Three teams had enjoyed taking part in the Federation fun quiz held at Whittington. All Tatham Fells' members were in favour of the National Federation resolution to Clean Rivers for People and Wildlife. Mary Kidd led an interesting walk last month. Two Platinum Jubilee Roses have been planted at the Old School. The evening concluded with refreshments provided by Dawn Johnston and Olive Beard.

The next meeting on 9th May will be a Coronation celebration, and the speaker will be Fiona Smithson with a quiz, guessing antique items.

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News from the Fells of Big Stone at Easter, Tadpoles and Plans for a Coronation Lunch

By Helen Wilkinson

The Old School committee held their Annual General meeting on 22nd March. It was agreed that some internal decorating would be done, and we will continue to look at ways of funding repairs to the roof. Gillian Middleton agreed to continue as Chair of the committee so please contact her with any enquiries and bookings. The school children enjoyed a visit to church on 31st March to learn about the Easter story through the six activities that Rev Jane had set up. On Easter Sunday a sunrise service at the Big Stone was led by Bentham Churches Together. At 6.15am the wind across the moor was bitterly cold and dense clouds rolled across the top of Bentham obscuring Ingleborough and the sunrise; however, the views were still worth the early rise with layers of pink light across the sky. A short service of readings and hymns was accompanied by Claire and Olivia playing the guitar and ukulele, and by the staccato call of the startled grouse that probably wasn't expecting to meet a crowd at the Big Stone.

Work to redevelop the pond area at school as a Forest School will be starting this month. In preparation the wildlife from the pond has been moved and I now have a lot of tadpoles in my new pond. As the bid for a grant from the Parish Council was successful, we should be able to purchase a camera for the children to learn more about the wildlife in the area.

We have had an initial planning meeting for our Coronation lunch which will be a Jacob's Join and take place in the Old School on Sunday 7th May after a celebratory church service led by Peter Osborne.

It was with sadness that we heard of the loss of Pat Tunstall; before moving to Bentham, Pat lived at Bracken Bottom. Our thoughts are with her family.

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Peas Have Potential - Christian Aid Week 14th-20th May

By Timothy Fox, tel. 62575,

Email: wenningfoxes@btinternet.com

"Pigeon Peas are a food that can be farmed in the harshest conditions," say Christian Aid. "In a land stricken by merciless droughts, they are a ray of hope."

Christian Aid are supporting farmers like Jen Bishop in Malawi with seeds, equipment and training in drought-proof agriculture. Two of Jen's sons have won rare college places to continue their education, but at the moment she can only afford to send one of them. With our donations to Christian Aid, Jen, with the cooperative she helped to set up, could transform her family's future by producing and selling baked goods made from the peas.

Envelopes for our donations will be available in Bentham Churches as announced. Enquiries contact Timothy Fox, see details above.



Pigeon pea farmer Esther Saizi bakes bread and snacks using her crop. Since joining a farmers' collective, her profits have gone up

Clapham Art Group's 70th Annual Exhibition

By Judith Bellfield

The highly acclaimed Clapham Art Group will be celebrating its 70th year of exhibiting this May/June.

This year's exhibition runs from Saturday 27th May through to Sunday 4th June and will again be held in Clapham Village Hall between 10am and 5pm daily. There will be an exciting and eclectic selection of all new framed paintings, mounted works and drawings on display and for sale (*see above and below for examples of work on sale*). All work is by local artists who are members of the group.

Originally founded by the artist Peggy McDonald and art teacher Cyril Harrington shortly after the Second World War, the Group first showcased their work in 1951. Its aims of fostering and encouraging the practice of drawing and painting informally among like-minded people from the North Craven area have stood the test of time and still serve the membership well today. The Group, which now meets regularly in Clapham Village Hall, come mainly from the North Craven area. Meetings comprise a programme of artwork plus experimental workshops, all devised and run by members.

Entry to the Exhibition is 50p and accompanied children are free. Delicious homemade refreshments will be available in aid of St James's Church, and everyone is very welcome.



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What to look for in May: including a Lunar Eclipse and returning Swifts

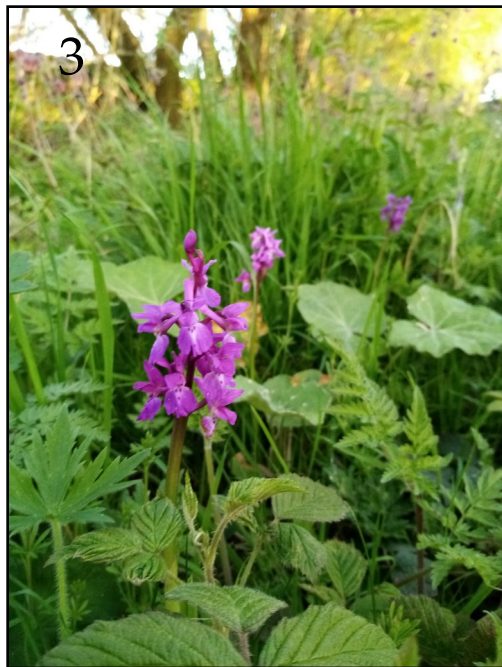
By Sue Halsall

There is so much to see in May, so I shall show you a few lovely plants to look out for. Ragged Robin (*see photo 1*) grows in damp soils, looks similar to red campion and is a member of the carnation family. Bees and butterflies love it, so if you have a slightly boggy area in your garden, why not grow some there?

Dog Roses (*see photo 2*) are easy to spot and identify in hedgerows and are great for wildlife – flowers attract bees and the rose hips are food for blackbirds and redwings in autumn. They have curved prickles to provide support as they grow upwards.



Early Purple Orchids (*see photo 3*) are generally the only orchids in flower now and appear in grassland and verges. There are lots of individual flowers in a spike and the glossy leaves have purple splodges on them. Cowslips (*see photo 5*) can be found growing in the same areas as this orchid, especially on limestone grassland and were once much more common because they grew in hay meadows which are sadly much rarer now. The name originates from the fact that they grew where cows had been – cow-slop – meaning cowpats. They are quite easy to grow from seed and I have planted the seedlings into my lawn. This is a good time to mention No Mow May, an annual scheme where people are encouraged to stop mowing and allow plants to flower, providing



maybe ten times more nectar for insects. If you are able to leave some areas uncut all summer, then this will encourage a range of wildflowers, some preferring long grass and others preferring short (see article and photos from 'Friends of the Dales' on page 19).

You may have seen small holes surrounded by a ring of excavated soil on your lawn or in grassy areas and these are the work of mining bees, most likely tawny mining bees (see photo 4). They are solitary and create the holes, then lay their eggs in them. They feed on tree blossom (helping to pollinate your fruit trees) plus dandelions and daisies. They are about 1cm long with gingery hair and a black head.

There is a full moon on Friday 5th May and it is actually a lunar eclipse, but you'll be lucky to notice much dimming even if it's a clear sky as the moon isn't in the main area shaded by the Earth.

Also look out for returning swifts along Main Street and if you spot any planning applications, ask North Yorkshire Council to ensure swift bricks are used to help them find nest spaces.



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Email to: info@thebenthamnews.co.uk or hand in to Daisy Hair and Beauty in the Main Street or use our website www.thebenthamnews.co.uk

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Music for a Spring Evening 20th May – Arias for all Ages

By Jane Proctor and Dawn Johnston

Nicola Mills who brings **'Opera to the People'** is performing in concert at The Church of the Good Shepherd on Saturday 20th May at 7.30pm. Nicola is a classically trained opera singer who has worked extensively in Europe and the USA but there is nothing stuffy or 'highbrow' about her performances. Nicola combines her love of opera with her northern roots, for which read, 'down to earth'. *"Keep doing what you're doing. Brilliant – spread the word Music is for All"* which is the vision and driving force behind Music in the Fells - for music to come to people in their own environment.

The Church of the Good Shepherd provides a beautiful setting for concerts, and after the performance you will have the opportunity to meet with and chat to Nicola over a glass of wine and light refreshments in the Old School. This is set to be a memorable evening and tickets, to include wine and nibbles after the concert, are £15 for adults and £5 for children under 18. Available from Jane Proctor (07508-981299) or Dawn Johnston (07712-087412).

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