

BENTHAM NEWS

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*These ducks look happy, but they don't realise what they are
swimming in near Benthams Wwtw storm outlet!*

See article on page 2.

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In a Froth about a Fishy Business!

By The River Wenning Group

Following local concern about the state of the River Wenning, several townspeople from our local environmental group, BEST 2030, and the fishing fraternity have recently formed the River Wenning Group, with the objective of helping to maintain the River Wenning catchment area as a clean and safe environment for people and wildlife.

The reason why this is necessary is clearly illustrated by figures released by the Environment Agency and recently published by the Rivers Trust UK Sewage Spills map for 2022, which make for very unhappy reading and illustrate a major reason why fish and other wildlife have declined in our river. The figures are for the three United Utilities Waste Water Treatment Works (Wwtw), each of which have permits from the Environment Agency to discharge into the River Wenning, as follows:

High Bentham Wwtw

Two sewer storm outflows discharged a combined total of 163 times for 855.12 hours.

Clapham Wwtw

This sewer storm outflow discharged 5 times for a total of 50.64 hours via 2 outlets into the river and wetland.

Austwick Pumping Station (this pumps sewage to Clapham Wwtw, but has a storm outlet for when the pipework cannot cope with the volume of wastewater):

This spilled 75 times for a total of 1516.65 hours, discharging into the Fen Beck via drying beds.

This means that last year raw sewage was pumped into the Wenning catchment for a total of 243 times and 2,377 hours - the equivalent of 99 days!

We know from United Utilities own published investment schedule that no works are currently planned in the short term to rectify this situation by upgrading their local treatment works, either by constructing holding tanks or increasing treatment capacity. The water company's standard response is that the problem is due to the combined sewer system in Bentham, which means that surface water runoff goes directly into the sewage system and the Wwtw cannot cope due to the increase in rainfall because of climate change. The excuse is that the discharges are therefore diluted, so it's not a big problem!

The truth is that years of under investment since privatisation in 1989 at a time of an increase in the UK population from 57 to 67 million coupled with increased water consumption per household (the average person uses 142 litres per day, an increase of 70% since 1985), and a rundown in Environmental Agency budgets, means that the latter openly admits it cannot perform its official function of policing water quality. So, every UK river is polluted to some extent.

It falls to volunteers to come forward and police the situation ourselves. We will shortly be introducing a river water testing regime and will be publishing a schedule of events, which we hope Bentham townsfolk will support to help us clean up our cherished Wenning.

Bloodshed on Newby Moor

By Shirley Brown in collaboration with the local farming community

On Monday 8th and Tuesday 9th May, 5 lambs lost their lives after being struck by a vehicle on the newly resurfaced B6480 across Newby Moor. Truly heart breaking.

This incident highlights the hazards associated with our rural roads, especially those with open grazing, such as Newby Moor, Keasden, Burn Moor and Storrs Common. Sheep have grazed these commons for decades, and farmers are dismayed at these increasing unnecessary deaths.

It is felt by many that this stretch of the B6480 is a forgotten stretch of road: hidden away from speed cameras and police surveillance, resulting in multiple road traffic offences, such as driving while using a mobile phone and overtaking on double white lines, being frequently committed.

Speeding was happening before the resurfacing, but now it is significantly worse as irresponsible road users regard it more like a motorway. North Yorkshire Highways Department and the police have been contacted by concerned members of the community, but so far, apart from sympathetic words, no action is being taken to make this road safer for sensible drivers, children waiting for the school bus, walkers, cyclists or the grazing animals.



“We live where we live: it’s a rural area, the roads are not fenced, animals are free to graze.”

It is a criminal offence under the 1988 Road Traffic Act if you do not stop and report that your vehicle has hit an animal (that is dogs, horses, cattle, pigs, goats, sheep), you must do so as soon as it is practicable and, in any case, within 24 hours of the occurrence of the road traffic accident. It is illegal to hit an animal and drive away without telling the police (tel: 101), punishable by a fine up to £5,000. When reported the police will notify the owner of the animal who can then act accordingly, either seeking veterinary treatment, or retrieve and dispose of the carcass. Leaving an animal that has been involved in a road traffic collision, undoubtedly results in a slow, painful death.

We want to be heard. We want action.

- The 60mph speed limit on this stretch of highway needs to be reviewed. North Yorkshire Highways need to perform an up-to-date risk assessment to protect the health and safety of the public using the road along with the welfare of the grazing livestock. Multiple injuries and deaths are seen to the livestock grazing the moor.
- In the last 12 months various vehicles have been sighted which have lost control and come off the road, including a Range Rover, a milk tanker, and several cars.
- Signage is inadequate (in previous years some hand-made signs alerting road users to the presence of livestock have been positioned but then have unfortunately been stolen).

**And while we wait for the authorities to act,
please can we all use our common sense and SLOW DOWN.**

Person of Bentham - Duncan Boston

Duncan was born in 1933 and celebrates his 90th birthday on 3rd June 2023. His daughter Kate has persuaded him to have a birthday party, which is at the Golf Club on Sunday 28th May with 'Simply Delicious' Mandy catering. Kate is making a cake. There will be people there from Duncan's past and present, and he's had quite a past. Please read on to find out more.

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

I moved here with my second wife, Janet, on a memorable date: 1st January 2000 and I've lived in this house, 41 Robin Lane, for 23 years. We could only afford it because it needed a lot doing up, but I like working with my hands and have made lots of changes and really like living here. We were living in Bethesda in North Wales, but I was never very happy living there, I tried to learn Welsh but didn't make much progress with it. We were both people who loved getting out into the great outdoors so started visiting the Yorkshire Dales, and because we came here so often, we, like a lot of other 'offcumdens', bought a caravan on Riverside Caravan Park, before finally deciding to move here. Age 57 I took early retirement, and we had a wonderful time for many years exploring the Howgills, climbing, skiing, sailing. I worked on the house and Janet made a beautiful garden.

When Janet got dementia, I looked after her for a long time but eventually she went into Threshfield Court where she died in 2021.

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

There's a lot!

I was born and brought up in Wakefield. My dad was head porter at Wakefield Hospital all his working life and mum was a nursing auxiliary. I had an older sister and a younger sister, and we lived in a tied house because of the hospital job. For that reason, it was a bit grander than we could have afforded on my parents' wages – it had a bathroom with toilet and bath actually inside the house: something that my schoolfriends marvelled at, and they'd come round just to see.

Although my dad had not received a high level of education, he taught all 3 of his children to read before we started school. I have always been an avid reader – my mum would find me lying on the kitchen floor in floods of tears reading 'Scott of the Antarctic': the story was so gripping and tragic.

I got a scholarship to go to Wakefield Queen Elizabeth Grammar School but that only lasted until I was 15. As my family couldn't afford for me to continue at school I left and became an apprentice at the National Coal Board. The NCB were good to me, and I had day release to get a technical education. Apprenticeships then were a complete education – I met a great group of people at the NCB, they weren't formally educated but they were clever, this was the "best university" I could have gone to.

In those days you had to do National Service, you didn't have a choice. I did my 2 years with the Royal Air Force based at RAF Leeming. The best thing about that was that I could go climbing in the Lake District.

After National Service, I was 22 and needed a job. With my mechanical engineering skills, it was easy to get work after the war because the country was rebuilding. I got a job with an American firm, Foster Wheeler Inc. which was building coal-fired power stations. This was a good job, and I became a 'junior site engineer' on a decent salary with a car. My parents thought I was "set for life". But I didn't like working in industry and had decided that I'd prefer to teach so I went to Alsager teacher training college to study English and Geography. I financed myself through college by working in a pub 3



Photo by Jon Brook of Bentham Imaging

evenings a week. Until then, school, coal board and RAF had all been exclusive male society so Training College with an excess of girls was very educational.

My geography lecturer showed me an advert he'd seen in the Telegraph that he thought I might be interested in. It was for a government sponsored scheme for "men wanting a life of adventure" to go to the Antarctic and join the 'Falklands Island Dependency Survey' for 2 years. And what an adventure it turned out to be!

The group of us had to get on, and it turned out that the British contingent were good at this. I was one of 16 during the summer and one of 6 in the winter. Between the ages of 24 and 26 I became Base Leader and Professional Mountaineer in this incredibly remote and beautiful place where the weather was absolutely terrible. The basics of living took up most of our time. It took one man 8 hours a day to keep us supplied with water – land ice (not sea ice which was salty) had to be gathered from the mountains and melted. There was no fresh food, and we took it in turns to make meals from our dried and canned stores. We were however supplied with plenty of "booze and tobacco" and dog sleighs, but the dogs were useless as we were in a mountainous region, and they wouldn't drag the sleighs uphill.

No women! A boat arrived twice a year, so one time we wrote a letter to the magazine 'Women's Own' explaining we were lonely young men and asking if anyone would like to write to us. When the next boat arrived, there were 300 sacks of mail, all from readers of 'Women's Own'! What an unexpected result!

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

The big one: the second World War.

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

I'd like to go back to the Antarctic!

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

Spreading barley in a malt kiln in Wakefield, I couldn't see for dust. I soon got the sack.

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

There have been plenty.

- My father.
- My two mentors at the National Coal Board, Sam and Austin. They not only taught me technical skills, but they also got me to read newspapers to understand what was going on in the world, and to broaden my horizons they took me to see the ballet and to classical concerts. I still enjoy all these things now. They were interested in me as a person – that's a true apprenticeship.
- My college geography lecturer who knew me well enough to suggest I answered the advert to go to the Antarctic.
- 'Big Hammer Joe' who was a brilliant engineer, an old-fashioned Engine Wright who could do amazing things with three different sizes of hammer.

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

Apart from my adventures in the Antarctic, it would have to be remedial teaching of children with learning difficulties, which was my career for 20+ years. I have taught in many schools, grammar and comprehensive, but when I discovered children going through the education system without learning to read or write I really wanted to do something for them. I did some additional training, learned skills from some excellent lecturers and became deputy head of a couple of special schools (in Manchester and Derbyshire) and finally head of Petton Hall, a residential special school in Shropshire. During the 20 happy years I spent there, I ensured that no child left school innumerate or illiterate, that they had good social skills. The first major change that I made was to ban corporal punishment in the school, which was still legal in English schools. I was the first head teacher to do this in England.

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

A doctor or an architect. The training for both was too long and too expensive, so out of the question.

Do you have any treasured possessions?

Possibly some photographs and pictures, but I'm not really very interested in possessing things.

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

I would help librarian John Frankland to make a magnificent library, big with many more books and a large reference section.

What does a perfect day look like to you?

When I was younger, I'd be sailing yachts in the Mediterranean, climbing or skiing in The Alps. But now, at 90, I'd be happy pootling around the quiet lanes here on my e-bike, looking at the lambs in the fields and flowers in the hedgerows and hearing curlews. I'd come home to a malt whiskey and if someone would cook it for me, a traditional Yorkshire Sunday lunch.

How do you relax?

I still read a lot, I'm a lifelong member of local libraries. I drive, play bridge and cycle.

How does it feel to be 90?

Of course, I'm lucky to be alive. So many of my friends have died. But it is really frustrating not to be able to do things I've always done, and done well. Like mending things. I've always been able to work with my hands, but now I've lost fine motor skills. I've found that Bentham is very community-minded and there are wonderful people here who help me (Tracey and Annie are just two of many). But I get tired, I sleep a lot. Maybe I'm getting near the end?

Up and Running Again – Lunesdale Arts (Studio) Trail

By Peter Osborne

After 2 years' closed for Covid and a further year against risk, the Lunesdale Arts (Studio) Trail is up and running again this summer. There will be ten artists' studios open for you to explore, with a variety of exciting work on display. What is more: it is free. Work will be for sale and the artists will be on hand to discuss it with you.

One attractive aspect is the wide variety of work to see in all sorts of media. There will be sculpture: metal animal pieces by Andy Kay, who is seen regularly in Country Life. You will see textiles, prints and drawings, and of course paintings in oils, watercolours, etc., as well as pastels. Even a new film!

The studios are set in all sorts of places, buildings and environments: converted barns, Victorian school buildings, houses and farms, in street, garden or landscape. Some are historic in themselves. One is set in a much-televised garden (extra fee for wandering in that) which is the subject of the film.

The artwork itself is quite different in the various studios. Some is based on our lovely local landscape. Some is more abstract including constructions. One is based around concern for biodiversity, another specialises in closely painted pictures of wild and farm creatures. You can find your favourites via the brochure.

There will be road signs to the studios from Farleton, in the villages and at road junctions. When you arrive at your first visit you will find waiting for you a brochure with a map and a list of all artists for you to visit. Starting in Bentham you can make your way first to the studio/home of Tony and June Roberts at the bottom of Robin Lane. In Tatham, Peter Osborne, David and Hannah Davies, John Hatton and Mike Barlow can set you on your way. At Burton there is Terry Hurd.

The main studio trail openings are in June, Saturday/Sunday 24th/25th, and in July, Saturday/Sunday 1st and 2nd. 11am—5pm. Make sure they are in your diary.

List of Artists on Lunesdale Arts trail:

Mike Barlow: Robins Barn Close, Mashiters, Tatham LA2 8PH

Peter Osborne: Clearbeck House, Mewith Lane, Tatham LA2 8PJ

Tony Roberts and June Gersten Roberts: 5A Robin Lane, High Bentham LA2 7AB

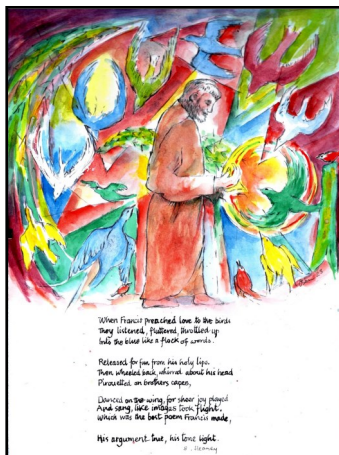
John Hatton, Foss Bank, Tatham LA2 8PS

David Davies, Hannah Smeds-Davies and Andy Kay: Maiden Bridge, Tatham LA2 8PR

Terry Hird: Waterside, 6 Brookland, Burton in Lonsdale LA6 3ND

Kevin Brown: 3 Harley Bank, Low Bentham Road, Low Bentham LA2 7BU

See: lunesdalearts.co.uk



A Calf Arrives “Out of the Side Door”

By John Dawson (a farmer)

At Bleak Bank we have a very small flock of hens, (which is different to having a flock of small hens) and, like many of our animals, they consider themselves to be on a semi-permanent holiday, like being an auctioneer, a vet, or premier league footballer. We get the occasional egg if they are feeling generous, but omelettes are few, very far between and often egg free. Incidentally, I cannot help thinking that laying an egg for the very first time must be the most peculiar feeling.

One hen in particular has a disability which she has suffered from all her life, I assume she was laid (no pun intended) funny in the egg. When she walks, she does the “goose step” (still no pun intended) in a similar way to that which Basil Fawlty demonstrated all those years ago. If she gets excited and tries to hurry up, she falls over.

One of the things this hen (Basil) likes to do is spend time in the feed passage amongst the cow’s silage, looking for tasty titbits. In particular she likes to be present when the mixer wagon is discharging the day’s feed into the passage, as the old saying goes, “the early hen gets the maize.” This is all very well but as the tractor approaches, she gets excited, tries to run, and falls over. I suspect to her it is a game of chicken if, indeed, a hen can play that game.

To avoid spoiling both our days I find myself operating tens of thousands of pounds worth of machinery feeding several thousand pounds worth of dairy cows but only concentrating on not running over the hen, which has no monetary value and would not know an egg if she laid one. Anyway, the other day we were going through our morning “don’t run over Basil” routine when I caught the tractor mirror on the building door and broke it, £60 for a new one. That’s a lot of eggs.

We also have three ducks. These ducks are getting on a bit meaning we do not get ducklings anymore. In fact, if they were people, they would already have been in Bowland View for several years. Daddy duck is called “Lucky” because he was rescued from his egg fourteen years ago when he was not getting on so well with the hatching process. Occasionally, he waddles up to the house and I lift him into the garden trough where he washes and preens himself before doing several lengths, eventually he unceremoniously gets himself out of the trough. Next, he stretches his wings and announces to the world he is content, before waddling off to join his harem of two. I am not sure what Basil and Lucky will do when I am no longer here to look after them and I am not sure that they have given this much thought.

The other evening, we had to have an emergency caesarean performed on a cow, this is quite rare for us, we have one every two years or so. The cow in question is the bovine equivalent of my mother, having babies is no problem, this was her fifth baby, the cow, not my mother who, incidentally, had nine. We always have one eye on our maternity field, I tell them not to worry, regarding their health we are never off duty. We have lots of experience and there is no occasion in which we don’t know what to do.

This cow was quiet all afternoon, so we investigated. This involves an arm length glove and a goodly squirt of lubricant (I always have some handy). My childhood hero was James Herriot and he once said that nothing tells you quite so much as putting your arm in a cow. I digress, but his writings captured a part of the nation’s cultural heritage that has slipped silently into history, I rank him alongside Dickens and firmly believe that he should be taught in school.

Back to the cow, I diagnosed a twisted calf bed as, even in up to my shoulder, I could not get through to the calf. This is now a job for the vet who was on the farm not long

after the phone call. When the vet is on our farm, they take charge of animal health and make decisions accordingly. Luckily, she agreed with my diagnosis and decided the calf needed to make an emergency exit. This is major surgery performed in far from ideal conditions, but it had to be done. In goes the local anesthetic, which we know as "numbing stuff." I am often surprised how cows cope with trauma, she stood and did her best to watch the operation without interfering. Within twenty minutes we had a live and healthy calf out of the side door. Only at this point did mum get a little agitated as she wanted to do her thing with the calf and did not understand why she needed stitching up. This takes a while as the womb, muscle and finally the skin must be sewn up.

By 12.15am all was well, the calf had been fed with colostrum out of our store in the freezer, the vet had loaded her gear and talk had turned to a well-earned cuppa and ginger biscuit. Then her phone rang and she was called to another calving, never off duty these vets, never mind, I had her biscuit....

Photo shows Basil the goose stepping hen



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around the premises.

Time For a Change?

By Peter Robinson, Low Bentham

High and Low Bentham need something to kick start any improvements in the town's future. Unfortunately, one of the biggest problems is the road network surrounding us, not a decent road in or out in any direction! But we can't do much about that, probably because we are on a B road.

One solution could come in the form of a new identity. Being located near the corner of three counties, Bentham is in something of a no-man's land. We are in North Yorkshire, but not in the Yorkshire Dales, close to Cumbria, but not in the Lake District, and even closer to Lancashire and an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, but not actually in it.

Since being in the 1086 Domesday Book as BEONET HAM, Bentham has had various spellings of its name; BENT HAIM, BENT HEIM, BENT HAME and BENTUM. Meaning "Homestead in the open Grassland" or "Home in the Bent Grass". So, we have not been averse to a name change in our past.

To fit in with our geographical location, an apt name for the whole of High and Low Bentham could be "BENTHAM-BY-BOWLAND", and to reflect the current names, Main Street in High Bentham could be renamed "HIGH STREET" and Main Street in Low Bentham renamed "LOW STREET".

If the Brecon Beacons can change its identity, why can't we?



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Bentham Masterplan Update – What's Happening?

By Elizabeth Adlington, Shirley Brown, Mark Dawson, Phil Gerrie and Jim Munday

Having analysed the data from the questionnaire that more than 10% of the population of Bentham completed, the provisional findings were presented to and received approval from both our partners, Bentham Town Council and Craven District Council. We are now in the process of putting together the final draft of the Bentham Masterplan which will be presented to North Yorkshire Council hopefully in July or August. This may all seem rather drawn out, but we have learned that this is the way in which we can get Bentham's interests, needs and concerns built into the future, long-term planning of North Yorkshire Council. It's no good just saying "We want" because for funders to take us seriously we must have a well-researched and formulated plan, so that is what we five volunteers have been attempting to produce for the last 7 months or so.

Some local groups have had initial meetings to see what progress can be made locally on some of the issues highlighted by Bentham people. These have included local public transport, access to high-fibre Wi-Fi, improved recreational facilities and improvements to the appearance of the town centre. Concerning improving the look of the town centre, something that a third of Bentham people who responded to the questionnaire mentioned under "What is the Worst Thing About Bentham", the Town Council are actively considering power washing the pavements. Despite this being what many people want, getting it done will depend how much it costs. What cost nothing was two of us spending an hour going along Bentham's Main Streets checking what was on notice boards, lampposts and telegraph poles and removing out-of-date posters, and plastic straps left behind when the notices were removed (*see photo, right*).

Doing this made us aware of the debris that collects in neglected corners and crevices of buildings, giving them an unloved appearance. Could residents and businesses have another look at the exterior of their premises? Would sweeping up, weeding, planting, repairing or painting make a big difference to how things look?

It has got to be good for business if the town is a more welcoming and attractive place.






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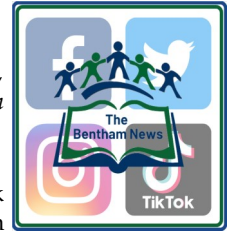
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Bentham Social Media Roundup

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.



Della Angel posted that it was lovely to see and hear the Swifts back for another year, and that we are so lucky to have these birds in Bentham. Like so many others they are declining in numbers due to lack of food, suitable habitat and places to nest. She suggested that getting involved in campaigns such as [#NoMowMay](#) can really help birds struggling to feed their young at this time of year. Even a small patch can make a difference.

Both **Mark Pearson** and **Hannah McGranaghan** were dismayed to find large amounts of dog waste on their doorsteps. Many comments all agree; if you own a dog pick up their mess!

Bentham Playing Fields would like to say a huge thank you to everyone that ventured to the Coronation Party. It was an amazing day, and everyone appeared to enjoy themselves. A big thank you to committee members and everyone that helped to make the day such a success. A particular thanks to King Charles for giving them an excuse to get the community together to celebrate.

Lynn Massey has been chatting to other dog walkers and local people concerning the number of dead rabbits in the fields. This may be due to Viral Haemorrhagic Disease. According to Animal Trust, it is the main killer of wild rabbits next to Myxomatosis. The virus is highly infectious and extremely contagious to other rabbits, often causing sudden death. It cannot be caught by humans, cats, dogs or other pets.

Finally, **Ian Edmondson** reports that a new rail timetable starts from the May 21st. Changes on the Bentham Line and the Settle to Carlisle Line are minimal, however the Lancashire DalesRail service will not run and daytime off peak services between Bradford and Skipton are reduced to hourly.


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THE *Bentham* HUB

Exciting Plans for the Future of The Bentham Hub

By Lesley Barker, Liz Brown and Sharon Haslam

The Bentham Hub is coming up to 12 months of trading, and during that period it has donated over £35,000 to local groups within the Bentham Community. No one could have imagined how successful and appreciated this venture would become.

The property we rent was on the market when we started and was subsequently taken off the market for a period of time. We always knew that the property would be relisted, and that time has now come. We want to keep the community informed of the next stage of The Bentham Hub's development which is in essence Bentham's Gem.

At the recent meeting of the volunteers, options were put forward and we are currently and actively looking into them.

The success of this project is due to the quality of goods donated and the dedication of the volunteers for which all the recipients of our funds are incredibly grateful.

Join The Bentham Hub Facebook page to keep up to date with developments.



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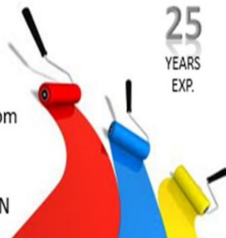
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Your Colourful Garden or Allotment in June

By Joyce Knapp

Wow it's June already and we are heading towards the longest day of the year later this month, so perhaps now is a good time to take a deep breath and take stock of what is going on around us in our gardens and allotments. Firstly, we should be surrounded by an array of colour as the perennials, e.g. geraniums, burst back into flower, aided perhaps by the addition of annuals either grown from seed or bought in as strong, young plants. These annuals can range from the strikingly bold bright oranges and yellows of marigolds to the much more subtle tones of white or pink cosmos. By the way, plants such as cosmos can be persuaded to grow in a bushier form and flower more profusely by simply nipping out their growth tips in the early stages of their growth. This is a very useful habit to get into because otherwise they will grow very tall and slim and are therefore likely to suffer damage during summer storms.

Moving over to the vegetable garden/allotment, I would like to share my latest development regarding the siting of certain categories of plants. I have been aware for a year or two that my young blueberry bushes are not producing much fruit and didn't know why. From regular observations though I have noticed that they are sometimes being battered by the bitterly cold east wind as it cuts through the middle of my allotment. Having searched for a more suitable location, I spotted an area in a border, next to the leaf mould bin, and decided to remove the perennials previously growing there. By re-homing the blueberry bushes in this place, they will be able to benefit from shelter provided on the one side by the leaf bin and on the other by an established holly tree. I then realised that they will also benefit from any goodness seeping from the rotting leaves in the



nearby bin as leaf mould is their preferred type of mulch.

June is the month when we can sow wallflowers outdoors to produce an array of colour next spring. They can be sown in close rows in any spare part of the vegetable garden and spaced out as they grow, finally being planted out in October, where we want them to flower. I grow a variety called Persian Carpet mixed and find they combine beautifully with red and yellow tulips that flower around the same time. Towards the end of June, we can put in our last sowing of root crops such as carrots and beetroot and this is the sowing that will provide us with food that can be stored for use in the depths of winter when vegetable prices are often at their highest.

Nature Notes

By David Fisher

I did a moth trapping session in a wood on Old Moor Road. I had a target species in mind, and on checking the trap it in the morning it was found. The moth in question was a rare one for the area, called the Lead-coloured Drab Moth. There were a few in the trap. I have also been trapping in the garden and got a Hebrew Character moth and a Common Quaker moth.

I keep seeing the Jays at Wennington and had two goldfinches in the garden. I have also seen a Peacock Butterfly and a Comma butterfly.

I am going to Windermere in June fishing in two tarns for trout and char, so it'll be good to see what we get.





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People Page

Personal Thanks

Sheila Percy

We as a family would like to say a huge thank you to Care Legacy for their outstanding care of Sheila, the love, the tears and the laughter they provided. Also to Pete & Karen Standing, Mabel, Joe and Jess, Jean and Mandy & Malkie for always looking out for Sheila and providing her with chats and happiness. To B&W Funerals and Simply Delicious for the organisation of the funeral and wonderful buffet provided. Special thanks to Liz Whitfield & Anne Duncan for a beautiful service and the methodist Chapel for all their love over the years to Sheila.

All our love from Sheila's Family.

Alan Bowers

Peter, Michael and family would like to thank everyone for cards and condolences on the death of their Dad, Alan Bowers on 22nd April.

Roger Wheildon

Margaret, Alison, Sarah, Trevor and families would like to thank friends, family and neighbours for all the support shown during this very difficult time. All your words of kindness, the volume of beautiful cards with comforting words and stories, wonderful flowers and the overwhelming attendance at Roger's funeral have helped more than you will ever know. A very special thanks to Jimmy and Tara at B&W Funerals for your unbelievable support, empathy, patience, guidance, laughter and big hugs. Forever Grateful.

John Hebblethwaite and myself would like to give a public vote of thanks to Christine Jennings and the Low Bentham WI for their hospitality and very friendly welcome for our April meeting talk They are a happy bunch! (Why not join them at a future meeting?). From my book sales, funds were raised for the 'York Against Cancer' charity. Many thanks. **Ian McCart**

The Victoria Institute got into the Coronation spirit and hosted an Afternoon Tea Party "Fit for a King"

The V.I committee and the volunteers decorated the hall and served a splendid tea for the community.

It was good to see people come together to celebrate this occasion! A big thank you must go to Bentham Town Council for funding this event and to all the volunteers, who played a valuable part, in making this event a success!

Diane Faraday-Williams



Don't grouse on the glorious 12th!
Swing along with

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Proceeds to St James's Church, Clapham

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.

Comments and Concerns

A timely reminder to our readers, that Bentham News is an open-access community publication, brought to you by a voluntary committee of Bentham residents. We pay two part-time consultants who coordinate the copy and the advertisements that we publish each month. We make every effort to ensure that information contained in the paper is correct. If anyone wants to comment on anything we have published, please feel free to contact us so that we can discuss the matter and try to find a way forward.

Here are a few **Comments and Concerns** received since the last edition of Bentham News:

BN's annual April Fool Story (page 10 of the April BN) received several positive and two negative responses, see the 'Important Community Notice' flyer in the May BN and the following email:

From Martin McCann, High Bentham:

Your "April Fool" joke.

A story that the Stone is slipping into Lancashire is a joke. A story that Bentham air is being bottled is a joke. A story that a vulnerable community building has been saved is not a joke. A story informing poor people that they are going to get a foodbank is not a joke. A story informing kids they are going to get a youth club is not a joke. "You're going eat! - April Fool!! - you're not!" What sort of sadist would do that? I think you need to print an urgent correction - if it is too late for the May edition, you need to print an insert to go out with the May edition. Suggesting that the affected people should organise and pay for an insert to rectify your oh so funny joke is despicable.

Note from BN committee: It is never our intention to cause offence, but to highlight the long-standing sad situation of an empty community building in a story that very clearly signalled that it was a spoof: we don't have a BN Political Reporter and references to F.O.O.L and J.O.K.E. and 1st April were giveaway clues.

Since September 2022, the **Youth Club** meets on Tuesdays at the Methodist Chapel: Juniors (8-11 years old) 4pm-5.30pm, and Seniors (11+ years old) 6pm-7.30pm.

The Pantry (as the Pop-Up Pantry is now known) moved to the Methodist Chapel in October 2021 and is open every Wednesday from 11am-midday and 3.30pm-5pm.

From a reader, name and address withheld on request:

Having just read the insert in the May BN I feel very upset for the team that produce our monthly Bentham News. Without attempting to resolve the issue through discussion, accusations are made, and an unpleasant situation is created. Whoever is complaining isn't aware of the decades of good work done by the BN team and the affection in which it is held by the community.

From a reader in High Bentham, name and address withheld on request:

A brief repost to some recent reports and opinions expressed in and through Bentham News. In 1906 Evelyn Beatrice Hall wrote, as an illustration of Voltaire's beliefs: *"I may disapprove of what you say, but I will defend to the death your right to say it."*

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



1922

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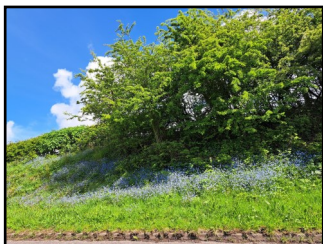
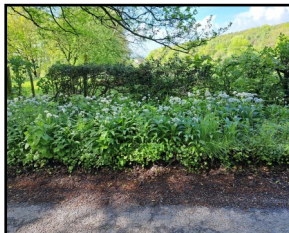
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Verges Around Bentham

Photos by Anne Preston during May
We'd like to celebrate our grass verges full of wild flowers.

We've gone verge-crazy on Bentham News so if any readers want to submit their photos of local verges, please do, and tell us where they are.



Bus link from Bentham to Hornby Starting on June 7th

By Sheila Kay

Following on from the petition submitted on October 19th, 2022, requesting the restoration of the 80/81 bus service, despite 918 people signing the petition the Council has decided not to restore it due to costs. They will however trial a bus to run from the Benthams to Hornby twice a week to connect with the 82-bus service.

This is a trial so if it is under-used the Council may take it off. Please use this meagre bus service; it's all that's on offer.

Below is the Councils' response:

Dear Sheila

Following on from the petition you submitted, it was agreed at the meeting of the Skipton and Ripon Area Constituency Committee on 9th March 2023 to trial a bus link on two days per week from Bentham to Hornby, timed to connect with Bus Route 82 to Lancaster.

I wanted to let you know that we plan to start the link service from the Benthams to Hornby after May half term week with first day being Wednesday 7th June. As proposed at the ACC meeting it will initially run on Wednesdays and Thursdays, but this can be reviewed depending on how well received the service is.

Plan is for the bus to run from High Bentham at approximately 9.15am, via Low Bentham to Hornby arriving to connect with the Service 82 bus to Lancaster which is due at 9.48am and getting to Lancaster at 10.22am.

A return journey will leave Hornby at 2.20pm allowing connection with the 1.35pm from Lancaster which is due at Hornby at 2.11pm, giving just over 3 hours in Lancaster.

We will produce a timetable a little nearer the start date when the final timings have been confirmed. I will send you a copy and it will also be advertised locally and shared with the parish councils.

Regards

Andy Clarke, Public & Community Transport Manager



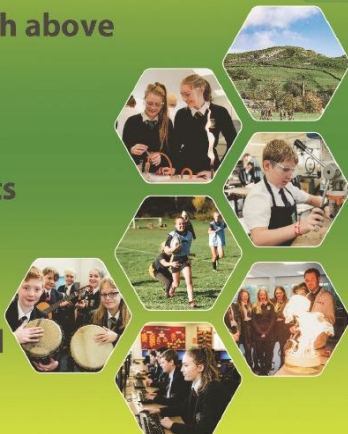
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Energy Update – Useful Information For All Of Us

By John Smithson – Local Energy Ambassador



Keeping up with what's happening in the Energy Market is difficult and sometimes confusing, so here's the latest information from our Yorkshire Energy Doctor April update. All this was correct at time of going to press and we hope you find it useful.

1 The Government's Energy Price Cap was due to go up on 1st April but has been held until 1st July at the previous level of £2,500. Your bill will have gone up following the end of the £66 per month subsidy. Some energy companies are asking households to increase their DD payments, but as current energy prices are well below the Price Cap and expected to fall further as the year progresses the advice is not to agree to any increase in monthly payments. The energy companies are very happy to use your money to finance their businesses! You can calculate your payments here; <https://www.moneysavingexpert.com/utilities/what-are-the-price-cap-unit-rates/>

2 Ovo has introduced a **Fixed Tariff** at £2,275 but more suppliers are expected to enter the market later and it is better to wait as prices are expected to fall - but this is not guaranteed!

3 If you were a **Bulb customer** (1.5 million were) you will be transferred to Octopus. You should:

- Give meter readings and take photos of meters
- Download most recent Bulb bill so can access it later if needed
- When the switch goes through, doublecheck that direct debit payments are still being taken, credit has been transferred and correct meter readings have been used.

4 If you have a **pre-payment meter** prices will be brought in line with DD from 1st July 2023, saving £45 per year. Remember - some suppliers will switch prepayment meters to credit meters free of charge (if you pass a credit check). From 18th April energy suppliers can force fit pre-payment meters again but must give more time to clear debts and high-risk vulnerable groups will be excluded by law.

5 Government cost of living help:

Anyone who receives means-tested benefits:

2023/24 - £900 split into 3 chunks:

£301 (25th April-17th May 2023), £300 (Autumn 2023), £299 (Spring 2024).

Recipients of non-means tested disability benefits:

2023 - £150 paid into bank accounts

Pensioners:

2023 - The £300 top-up to Winter Fuel Payment will be repeated in the winter 2023/24.

Households off mains gas who heat with oil, LPG, coal or biomass:

If you didn't get the £200 top up 2022/23 and are off grid or don't pay for your electricity to an energy supplier (e.g. if you pay to a landlord), you need to apply now <https://www.gov.uk/apply-alternative-fuel-bill-support-if-not-automatic> or 0808-175-3287.

Other Grants you may be able to get:

- ECO4 – low income

<https://www.connectedforwarmth.org.uk/>

- Green Homes Grant – household income under £31,000 and EPC D to G

<https://www.eonenergy.com/green-homes-grant.html>

P.S. We will be repeating our free Thermal Imaging surveys in the Autumn, helping you to pinpoint areas of heat loss in your home - watch out for further information.

Breakfast Club Plan Outing on Embsay Steam Railway

By Jonathan Scott, Practice Manager, Bentham Medical Practice

I run the Bentham and District Dementia Friendly Community Breakfast Club. We meet every other Thursday at Bentham Fire Station. We had a Coronation party on 27th April which went down really well (*see photo below*). We made posters about the Coronation which we will be putting up around the town. We are planning a summer trip for the group on Tuesday 27th June on Embsay light railway to Bolton Abbey with tea on board. Please come along to the Breakfast Club on 8th June or 22nd June to find out more.





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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.



Annual Report for Bentham between April 1st 2022 and May 12th 2023:

There were 547 reported incidents. For more information on crime and policing in England which allows you to search for incidents recorded in your area, please go to www.police.uk

28 incidents were reported between April 10th and May 12th 2023.

These included: Missing number plates, anti-social behaviour, a domestic incident, a crime of violence, highways disruption during tree felling on Mount Pleasant, a civil dispute, a vehicle speeding on Main Street, a two-vehicle road traffic incident after which a person was arrested as a suspected drink driver.

Other areas – Requests for information:

3rd May: Between 3pm and 5pm, theft of Stihl hedge cutter and trimmer from an outbuilding on Barnoldswick Lane, Burton-in-Lonsdale. Any information call 101 ref 0084.

5th May: Ingleton burglary, overnight a property on Croft Road was broken into and a vehicle stolen, blue Peugeot Rifter, registration PK72VKR. Any information call 101 ref 0056.

5th May: At 03.30 hours the Co-op garage alarm sound – burglary. Any information call 101 ref 0038.

6th May: Sometime between 4th and 5th May a white hardtail Boardman mountain bike was stolen from a garage on Laundry Lane in Ingleton. Any information call 101 ref 0481.

10th May: At 1pm a chain saw and Stihl saw were stolen from a property on Lowkber Lane in Ingleton. Any information call 101 ref 0429.

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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Town Hall

Friday 16th Bentham Dementia Friendly
Community Quiz 6.30 - 11pm

Every Tuesday,

WR, 10:00am - 12:00noon, Craft Club LH
(except Tuesday 6th) 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

Monday 5th

LH 7.30pm, Full Town Council Meeting

Monday 19th - Possible Council Meeting

Town Hall - Coffee Mornings

Saturday 10am - 12noon



10th - SELFA

17th - Bentham Area Refugee Support Group

24th - Bentham Playing Fields Association

1st July - Bentham Methodist Church

WI (see pages 36-37)



High Bentham

Thursday 1st 7:30pm, Bentham LH
Town Hall

Low Bentham and District

Thursday 15th 7:00pm in the Victoria Inst

Tatham Fells

Tuesday 13th 7:30pm, Old School
Tatham Fells

Bentham Golf Club



Every Friday

11:00am - 2:00pm, Age Concern Bentham
Friday Lunch Club

Events in June

Footpath (see page 35)



For June walks we meet first at Lairgill for 9.30am, except for the one on Thursday 15th where we meet at 9.00am, and the evening walk on June 20th where we meet at Bentham Bridge for 6.00pm.

Friday 2nd. Don Cartledge, 015242-64979, Wigglesworth/Rathmell circular, 6.5 miles.

Wednesday 7th. Ed Badley, 015242-62502, Pendle Hill, 8 miles.

Thursday 15th. Bryn and Sandra Craggs, 015242-62416, Keld to Muker Meadows, 7 miles.

Tuesday 20th. Mary Taylor, 015242-61672, Two Counties Walk, 6.5 miles.

Saturday JULY 1st. Kate Rowe, 015242-51402, Hawes Mosaics, 6.5 miles.

The Pantry

Every Wednesday (closed June 28th and July 5th to clean premises)

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.

Methodist Church

Every Monday 10:00 - 11:30am, **Toddle In**, £2.00 per family. For children new born to starting school, and their parents/carers.

Youth Club

Tuesdays Juniors 8-11 4pm-5.30pm
Seniors 11+ 6pm-7.30pm

Burton Village Hall films at 7.30pm, doors open 7pm. Tickets at the door.

Saturday 3rd June: 'Living' starring Bill Nighy
Saturday 1st July: 'Emily' about Emily Bronte

Victoria Institute

Every Monday

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

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

Light lunches 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 - 7:45pm, Helen Howard School Of Dance. Term time.

Every Friday

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

Saturday 10th, 10.00am - 12.00noon

Book Swap and every 2nd Saturday of month

Every Sunday

11.00am - 12:30pm Cornerstone Church Service.

Bentham Fire Station (*see page 22*)

Thursday, 8th and 22nd, 10:00am

Bentham & District Dementia Friendly Community Breakfast Club

Hornby Drama Group will present 'Crawl to be Kind' by Troy Banyan. A one-act comedy. Mrs Crawley finds an unexpected and scary resident when she moves into her new house!

Wednesday 14th June and Friday 16th June, 7.30pm at the Hornby Institute.
www.hornbydrama.org.uk



Pioneer Projects Looking Well Studios



Every Monday, Meet Lairgill carpark 9.20am Health Walks for Women

Every Monday, 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 13th, 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
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

Craven Warm & Welcome Place

during library opening hours with hot drinks, games, computers and of course lots of books!

Lowgill Sports and Sheepdog Trials, Saturday 10th of June. Fun for all the family! Find us on Facebook.

Rounders season starts on **Thursdays at 6.30pm** on the Playing Fields. All abilities. We are a very friendly bunch.

Lunesdale Hornby Probus Club - Boats, Bats and Battle of Britain!

For a full itinerary and further details on this or other Lunesdale Probus Club matters please contact Roger Carter on 015242-22283

On **Monday 5th June** we welcome **Commander Bernie Thompson RN Rtd.** telling us the incredible story of **XCraft**, miniature manned **submarines** and their use in wartime.

On **Monday 19th June** we have an illustrated talk by **Gail Armstrong** on the local bat population and why we should love them!

And on **Thursday June 15th** we travel to Squires Gate airfield **Blackpool** for a private guided tour of the Lytham St Anne's **Spitfire Collection** in Hangar 42 restoration workshop. There are several Spitfire replicas and a Hawker Hurricane MKI along with a unique collection of wartime RAF Airfield vehicles and equipment. After the workshop and display visit, we take a break at The Flower Bowl/Barton Grange Garden Centre on the way home. Coaching and admission just £20pp. Morning departure from Hornby and guests are very welcome.

LVCS Hornby Swimming Pool - Coffee Morning and AGM

For all Hornby Pool enquiries please contact Georgia or Scott on 01524-805666

The Lune Valley Community Pool in Hornby gets a great deal of support from local schools, families and friends. Recently we held an enjoyable coffee morning to meet up with the team and discuss the future. A fun quiz about the pool devised by Georgia and Scott caused a bit of head scratching. Sadly we were unable to establish the required 'membership' quorum for the 2023 AGM, and a new date for this will be announced shortly.



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'Bentham Beagles' Update

By Diane Armstrong



Members of Bentham Beagles Running Club have certainly been busy over the last few weeks. April saw the start of our annual Beagles Club Championship where members are encouraged to complete ten organised races over the year. We select a variety of local events to choose from with different distances and terrains. In April, the season started with a 10k organised by Lancaster & Morecambe Athletics Club as well as a 5-Mile Evening Event that was hosted at the Farm Yard Brewery, with all finishers getting a free pint of beer.

April also saw the launch of our new monthly social Parkrun at Morecambe. On the first Saturday of the month members meet to complete the 5k Parkrun on Morecambe Promenade followed by heading to one of the local cafés for coffee and breakfast. This is a great opportunity to catch up with everyone and even meet members you haven't had the chance to speak with before.

We've also had members that have run marathons and ultra-marathons during April. Congratulations to Jenny Beasant, Richard Halstead and Nick Armstrong who completed this year's London Marathon and Craig Perkins for completing the gruelling 61-mile Fellsman ultra-marathon.

If you're interested in joining the Beagles for a run, we meet twice a week on a Tuesday and Thursday evenings usually 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. If you are planning on joining us, please check the schedule on our website as we do have quite a few away nights and trail runs over the summer months.

On Sunday July 16th, 2023, we are again 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 the 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 We will be happy to answer any further questions.

Left to Right: Steve Arnott, Iain Povey, Kimberley Towler, Andrew Easterby, Diane Armstrong, Sarah Ingram, Zoe Macdonald, Janet Monaghan, Sue Arnott, Ian Wood, Jane Martin, Simon Denny, Nick Armstrong, Gayle Denny, Ollie Burton-Roe and Alan Chesters



Tatham Fells CE (VC) Primary News

By Fiona Ip, Headteacher



There is a lot happening here at Tatham Fells with work well underway for our new Forest School area at the front of school. The children have been delighted to see diggers in the car park! The transformation is taking place really quickly and we are hoping to be up and running with our forest Fridays next half term.

All toddlers and pre-schoolers in the local area are welcome to join us on **Friday afternoons** for our themed toddler sessions from **1-2:30pm** as follows:

9th June – Dandelions (The legend of the Dandelion)

16th June Beetles (How Beetles got their Gorgeous Coats)

23rd June Butterflies (How Colour came into the World)

30th June – Swallows (How the Swallow got its Tail)

7th July- Flowers Galore

14th July- Teddy Bears' Picnic

All the sessions will be led by Mrs Entwistle a qualified teacher, forest school leader and manager of 'Swallows and Amazons' forest school. Activities will be based around a story, including cooking, natural crafting and tool skills. Juice and snack time with tea/coffee for adults. Games and time to explore our lovely early years setting. There is no need to book although you are welcome to email bursar@tathamfells.lancs.sch.uk so we know to expect you.

Plants have been all around us this week as our reception children have been learning all about plants and life cycles. Our mini scientists have enjoyed books, deconstructed flowers, petal play dough and diagrams. Congratulations to our Upper and Lower Junior football teams for representing our school with great teamwork at the Lune Valley Football competition at Arkholme. A great experience and many teams to play against. Next week we look forward to hosting. Our Y1 and 2 pupils are busy with their rugby training and their skills are coming on fantastically, so we look forward to more great sports teams in the future. Thanks to our great sports coaches Amy and Edward.

I hope everyone got a chance to enjoy the Scarecrow Festival at Wray – our children certainly did and were delighted to pick up the school scarecrow award for the second year running with our 'Magical World of Reading Exhibit'. We made the scarecrow together with Melling School and every child contributed. Celebrations continued in school for the King's Coronation with afternoon tea for our families and Maypole dancing. We had Upper Junior, Lower Junior, Infant and Reception dances around our Maypole for everyone to enjoy with a fantastic spread of cakes and biscuits.



Bentham Primary School Report a Busy Year

By Mrs Besharati and Mrs McGregor, Co-Headteachers

As we start the Summer Term our children have been as busy as ever. It would be impossible to list all the educational opportunities they take part in, but hopefully the below narrative will provide a quick 'snapshot' of what has been and what will be going on at the school.

Over the past few weeks our very youngest children in nursery, our **Ladybird Class**, have been discovering where fruit and vegetables come from and even enjoying the vegetable soup they made. On Friday afternoons our Ladybird Class go outside in the school's wildlife garden and enjoy Forest School Activities. Our nursery provision does get full quite quickly, so if you do have a little one and are interested in a place, then please contact the School Office on 015242-61412 so that your child's details can be put on our admissions list. We take children from their third birthday and offer a 30-hour provision. **On Friday 9th June we are holding an Open Morning from 9.30-11am**, so why not pop along and have a look around our thriving school?

Our wonderful fundraising FOBS also hold a **Baby and Toddler Group** every Friday, term-time only, from 9.30 to 11.00am in the School Hall. This is a friendly, informal get-together of local families who love to welcome new faces.

Children in our **Butterfly and Hedgehog Class** have enjoyed looking at Mini-Beasts, measuring rainfall, planting seeds and much more! Moving through the school children in our **Rabbit Class** have been engaged in independent writing, comparing differences between capital cities in the United Kingdom and taking part in local field trips. This term, children in our **Badger Class** are having weekly swimming lessons at Settle Swimming Pool. Back in the classroom, they have been creating beautiful drawings of animals using water colour pencils, looking at local Geography and enjoying experiments in Science.

During the Summer Term our older children in **Fox and Owl Classes** have weekly tennis lessons with coaches from Skipton Tennis Centre. Children in Fox Class visited Tropical World in Leeds. In Science they have been learning about germination and enjoying class reading. This week, our very eldest children in Owl class took their national **SATs tests**. This can be a worrying time for children, and we do our very best to support and reassure children, hopefully alleviating any concerns they may have. On behalf of the school can we just say a massive WELL DONE to all our Year 6 children who have done their best and worked so hard. Later in June they will be taking part in a residential visit to Keswick.

As part of the King's Coronation celebrations children at school all enjoyed a picnic lunch. Their families were invited into school to join in the 'Royal' celebrations and take part in some outdoor games. Thankfully, the weather behaved, and the rain held off until after lunchtime.

This year we once again entered the **Wray Scarecrow Festival** with a rather fabulous 'Room on the Broom' creation! We were absolutely delighted when children's hard work paid off and we were awarded second prize.

Finally, have you ever considered becoming a Governor at a local school? We currently have a vacancy for a Co-opted Governor and are actively seeking a member of the local community to join our Board of Governors. Following an internal skills audit, it was identified that ideally an individual with knowledge and skills based within the construction and/or building industry would be suitable for the vacancy, but we would also welcome enquiries from individuals in other sectors. Whilst being a Governor is hard work, it is also very rewarding. Any successful appointment will be subject to an enhanced DBS check. For an informal chat about the vacancy, or for more information, please contact the school on 015242-61412.

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Ewecross Historical Society – AGM – followed by Jack Warbrick's talk on Cinemas in Morecambe in the 1950s.

By Mary Taylor

Mike Winstanley, Chair of Ewecross Historical Society, welcomed members and guest speaker, Jack Warbrick, to the Annual General Meeting held in Bentham Methodist Church on Monday 24th April.

Mike said that it had been a pleasure to be able to run a full lecture programme again, the first since 2018-2019. He gave a short resumé of events, thanked the committee and officers and paid tribute to longstanding supporter David Gibson who died recently. All officers were re-elected – Chair Mike Winstanley, Vice-chair Edward Huddleston, Secretary John Wilson, Treasurer Melinda Elder and Membership Secretary Jenny Charnley. Margaret Owen has stepped down from the committee. Committee members elected were Michael and Susan Bourne, Jenny Fisher, Alan Chesters and Jack Warbrick.

Jack gave an amusing and informative illustrated talk 'Going to the cinema in Morecambe in the 1950s'. He had frequented all the 9 Picture Houses in Morecambe, some more than others as the cheaper ones were known as flea pits or bug huts. The better ones including the Odeon and the Palladium were posh, also being used as theatres which hosted local talent shows. Jack showed before and after slides of the cinemas, some have been demolished but some others are now shops. He told of the films, like the three-hour Ben Hur with Charlton Heston, the double seats at the back for courting couples and formidable usherettes who kept order making it seem like a concentration camp at times. He finished by saying there is a memorial in Torrisholme Cemetery to 'All who worked in the Cinematographic Cinema in Morecambe', happy days.

The evening concluded with a Jacobs Join supper, where members mingled and had a chance to talk. Summer outings are to be planned. The next meeting is 25th September.



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Town Council Meeting on 2nd May

By Jane Proctor

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

All councillors were present for the first meeting of the new civic year, along with North Yorkshire Councillor Ireton, Jo Burton as acting Clerk, 12 members of the public and your BN reporter.

Being the first meeting of the new council year, the agenda was daunting in length, but fortunately most of the items were procedural rather than substantive. Cllr Adams indicated that for the sake of continuity he was willing to remain in post as Mayor and likewise Cllr Hill as the Deputy Mayor. Cllr Adams also reported that Leonie Pearce had stood down from being a Town Councillor. This leaves three vacancies to be filled and if you want to volunteer contact townclerk@benthamtowncouncil.co.uk. Cllr Pearce's resignation also means the Town Council comprises only men.

Comments and Concerns - Community Youth Building

The only matter raised by a member of the public was in relation to the Youth Café or Community Youth Building, an item on the agenda but for discussion at the end of the meeting after members of the public and press had been excluded. The member of the public floated the idea of a Community Forum being established with the council to look at future potential uses of the building which remains on the market for sale more than six months after the council made the decision to sell.

The position appears to be that the future of the building cannot be discussed unless a proposal is put on the agenda, and the member of the public wanted to gauge public interest before making a proposal, a position he described as a 'Catch 22' situation. Cllr Adams pointed out the decision to sell had only been made after a public meeting to determine the future of the building when no viable alternative had been identified.

The Running of the Council and Representation in the Community

There is more to being a town councillor than just turning up to meetings of the council. Positions were filled on the three sub committees, Buildings, Finance and Open Spaces. Additionally, councillors are represented on many of Bentham's Community organisations, and if you want to find out who is doing what the minutes of the meeting will have a full list or alternately Jo Burton will let you have names.

A Bus Service for Bentham

This was Cllr Ireton's first Town Council meeting as our representative on the newly formed North Yorkshire Council, and he came bearing tidings of great joy. From 7th June, every Wednesday and Thursday there will be bus from High Bentham leaving at 9.15am, via Low Bentham to Hornby arriving at 9.38am and linking up with the service bus 82 from Kirkby Lonsdale leaving at 9.48am and arriving in Lancaster at 10.12am. The return leg leaves Lancaster at 13.35pm to link up at Hornby with the bus back the Bentham at 14.20pm.

This is a trial for 6 months; if the take up is low it will be scrapped but if the take up is good it could be expanded. It was conceded that the service is limited in scope but far better than the current arrangements, although this service is in addition to the existing one. Fares will be charged but bus passes can be used.

Planning Applications

New

ZA23/24928/OUT Outline application for residential development with access, layout and scale for consideration. Green Head Farm, Cross Lane, Low Bentham LA2 7ES

ZA23/24947/FUL Retrospective change of use of domestic pool house to single residence. The Wenning, Station Road, High Bentham LA2 7LS

Planning Decisions Received Since 31 March 2023 (Date of last clerk's report)

Granted - None

Withdrawn application – None

Appeal Decision - None

Highways Matters

Burton Road – is going to be closed on 1st and 2nd June

Road Markings and reinstatement of road surfaces – it has not escaped councillor's attention that the road markings at the 11 'Give Way' signs and 1 'Stop' sign, all within a mile of Bentham Town Centre, and the yellow lines were badly faded and needed refreshing. Also, and in contrast to the wonderful new road surface of the B6480 across Newby Moor, once in Bentham motorists and cyclists were exposed to roads both badly potholed (7 in Mount Pleasant alone), and in areas badly sunk where utility repair works had 'settled'. The council felt this was a public safety issue and resolved to write to NYC Highways with copies to the police and Cllr Ireton seeking remedial action.

Top Tip – If you go on the NYC website to report a pothole DO NOT accurately measure the hole or send photos. If unsure about size err on the side of exaggeration. This is after the experience of Cllr. Gerrie who helpfully sent photos with his report only to receive a response within 3 hours saying the defects reported 'did not meet the criteria for repair'! It helps if several people make similar reports.

Auction Traffic – concern was expressed about the highway being used as a car park for cattle transporters and auction traffic causing considerable inconvenience to other road users and a potential life-threatening hazard to emergency vehicles. The situation had been particularly bad one Wednesday in mid-April when vehicles were backed up to the top of Robin Lane; up through 'the narrows' and in the other direction to the top of Station Road bringing the town centre to a complete standstill. It was acknowledged that Bentham Auction Mart was the second busiest in the country and on the day in question had over 8,000 lambs to sell. The council resolved to write to the Auction Mart and copy Cllr Ireton and the police into the correspondence asking that they find a solution to the problem which does not cause significant inconvenience to the town.

Other matters discussed:

The Clock – whilst the repairs were welcomed some residents were less than enthusiastic about the bells sounding all through the night. It was resolved to authorise the installation of a 'controller' to silence the bells after midnight and before 6am at a cost of £1,670 + vat.

Tidy Up Bentham Campaign – The Bentham Masterplan team and the Town Centre Development Group jointly sought sponsorship from the council for a campaign to Tidy Up Bentham whereby prizes would be given to retailers and residents who live in the town centre to improve the appearance of their premises over spring and summer. After

...../Continued on page 34

Continued from page 33

discussion the council agreed to get quotes for the cost of power washing pavements and applying weed killer, but felt it was up to individual owners to improve their premises without incentives from the council. Cllr Paige helpfully suggested there may be some funds in the 'We Are Bentham' account which might be applied.

Coronation Funding – The £1,000 made available in the April meeting for organising an event for the benefit of local people was shared between the Victoria Institute and The Playing Fields, who were the only two applicants, with the Playing Fields receiving £600 and the Victoria Institute the balance.

Town Hall new windows - if all goes according to plan by the time this issue of BN is published new windows and all associated making good will have been completed to the upstairs ballroom.

Formalities – all orders, regulations and procedures applicable last year were adopted for this year without amendment and are available for inspection on the Town Council website. Similarly, the Code of Conduct published by North Yorkshire Council was adopted and is available for inspection on its website. Good governance and good manners assured over the next 12 months.

The next meeting of the Town Council will be on Monday 5th June at 7.30pm.

February Town Council report – Clarification

Thomas Marshall has requested that Bentham News clarify that when he spoke during the 'Comments and Concerns' agenda item at the Town Council Meeting on 6 February 2023 he did so as a member of the public and not in his capacity as a Town Councillor. Bentham News is happy to clarify the position, and in no way does Bentham News suggest otherwise. Further, Bentham News is happy to confirm there is nothing to prevent a councillor speaking as a member of the public during the course of a council meeting as Mr. Marshall did on this occasion provided the speaker makes clear in which capacity they are speaking, as Mr Marshall did. Bentham News offers a sincere apology for any offence it may have inadvertently caused Mr. Marshall.

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Four Walks in June, Including a "Two Counties" Evening Ramble

By Don Cartledge



We have four walks in June and include advance notice of one on 1st July.

For all walks meet first, as usual, at Lairgill for 9.30am, except for the Thursday 15th walk where we meet at Lairgill for 9am. Also, the evening walk on Tuesday 20th starts from Bentham Bridge at 6pm.

The first walk covers **6.5 miles and is on Friday 2nd**. The leader is Don Cartledge (tel. 015242- 64979) and the walk starts at the lay-by just before Wigglesworth on the Rathmell to Wigglesworth road. Walking along the short stretch of road, we turn right, past the Plough Inn and right again at the footpath sign to cross several fields heading towards Rathmell. Eventually we reach Layhead Farm at Cappleside where we start the return journey, heading for Cow Bridge via Wigglesworth Hall Farm and the Ribble Way. Finally, it's field paths back up to Wigglesworth and the cars.

Ed Badley (tel. 015242-62502) takes us on an **8.5-mile Pendle Hill walk on Wednesday 7th**. The start point is near the Nick of Pendle from where we branch left to Mearley Moor and travel along the northern edge of Pendle Hill to the summit, which overlooks the wonderful East Lancashire conurbation. We then descend via Boar Clough to Ogden Clough where the path turns right, back towards the summit, then cuts left, back towards the Nick. Before reaching the Nick, we turn off the main path towards Churn Clough reservoir and return to the start by contouring along the hillside. Ed suggests that waterproof boots are advisable and to ring him if any further details of the walk are required.

This **7-mile walk** starts at Park Lodge Farm in Keld (honesty box) on **Thursday 15th**. The walk leaders, Bryn and Sandra Craggs (tel. 015242-62416) have indicated that, due to parking constraints, we should try to use as few cars as possible. We set off along a clear path part way up the slope of Kisdon Hill (Pennine Way) which provides us with great views of the valley below and into Swaledale. Passing below the top of Kisdon, we should again have great panoramic views of the haymeadows and the River Swale below. There follows a gradual descent into Muker before heading through the meadows and crossing the Swale to return to Keld via Crackpot Hall and the waterfalls.

The **"two counties" evening walk on Tuesday 20th** starts at 6pm from Bentham Bridge on Station Road. It is led by Mary Taylor (tel. 015242-61672) and is just over 6 miles. From Bentham Bridge we zig zag uphill crossing into Lancashire at Moorlands, then we walk back downhill on different field paths, back into Yorkshire at Kirkbeck - a bit like the grand old Duke of York!

On Saturday July 1st, Kate Rowe (tel. 015242-51402) takes us on the second of two walks looking at the Hawes mosaics (1 to 12). Parking is on the roadside in Hawes, but we may have to use the car park. We head first to Burtsett, looking for the mosaics - created as a community project for the millennium. Shaw's Lane then field paths take us down to Gayle and we follow Duerley Beck past Aysgill Force, where small roads lead to the final mosaic. It's then back to Hawes. The walk covers 6 miles.

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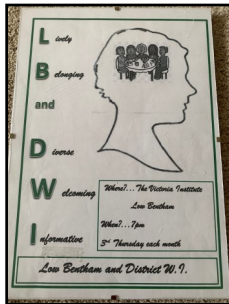
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Low Bentham & District

By Kathryn Brownsord

At our April meeting "Through the Dormitory window" was the title of our speaker, Ian McCart's talk as well as being the title of his book. He reminisced about his wonderful childhood living abroad and of being a boarder at Bentham Grammar School, where he met his late wife who was a local girl. He brought his friend John Hebblethwaite with him who spoke about the importance of recording memories. Ian very kindly brought gingerbread cake for us all and after the meeting he sold several copies of his book. The raffle was drawn by Ian, and he judged the competition, which was of a photograph through a window.

Luncheon Club was held at The Red Well where a few of our members enjoyed an excellent lunch at a lovely venue. The Craft and Chat meeting was held at Jennifer Watkinson's house, although there were fewer members there than usual due to holidays and illness.



The North Yorkshire West WI federation competition to design a poster advertising our own WI was won by Low Bentham and District (see photo). Four members attended the Federation's Spring Council meeting at Tennants

of Leyburn where the annual report was given. The morning was on Climate Change and what we can do to help, this was followed by a tasty lunch. David Harper the antiques specialist from Bargain Hunt gave a talk entitled "A romp with the Georgians" which is the title of his new book. A very enjoyable day was had by the 210 members attending.

As always do look out for our posters advising our next meeting. We meet on 15th June, the third Thursday every month at 7pm in the Victoria Institute, Low Bentham, and we hope to see you there.



High Bentham

By Jan Stuiver

On Thursday 4th May High Bentham WI had their birthday party meeting.

Members provided a delicious cold supper for us to share with our speaker for the evening, Chris Pilkington. Chris works as a fund raiser for Unique Kidz and Co, a Morecambe-based charity, which does valuable work supporting children and young people with a range of disabilities. They run regular after school and holiday clubs for children from nursery age to the late teens, continuing to support young people, even after they have left school. Members of staff and volunteers support the children in joining in with trips and experiences, helping them to develop life and social skills. They also have a regular club for the other siblings in the families they support, where they can enjoy spending time and doing activities with other young people who understand the stresses of living within a family where one or more children have special needs. Parents and carers can also meet and discuss issues and problems with other people who understand both the joys and the worries of raising a child with special needs. Our members were very impressed with what they learned about the work of the charity and were extremely generous in donating to a collection and buying raffle tickets for a coronation hamper.

A big thank you to all members and visitors who supported our coffee morning on Saturday 15th April, which raised almost £300 towards our fund for the community garden we have planned for around the WI bench outside the Medical Centre. We would also like to thank the Town Council and the two Craven District councillors who between them have given a grant of £450 to help us with the cost of materials and ground works. We are currently looking for a contractor able to build us a large raised bed behind the bench and put in a stone paved area in front of it. We hope to start preparing the ground soon. Anyone wishing to be kept informed so that they can provide help

with the digging and planting when we have a date for beginning, please get in touch with me by e-mail janstuiver@hotmail.co.uk or by calling/texting 07807-360835 with your name and contact details.

Our next meeting will be on Thursday 1st June, when our speaker, Rowena Lee, will be talking about "A life in Service in the 21st Century". Visitors are very welcome to join us. On Thursday 6th July our speaker will be Helen Thurston of the Yorkshire Dales Millenium Trust.

Tatham Fells

By Mary Taylor



Tatham Fells Women's Institute members celebrated the Coronation in the Old School which was decorated with flags and bunting on Tuesday evening, May 9th with fizz and a cake made and immaculately iced by Kath Coates. Margaret McIntosh cut the cake; all raised their glasses in a toast to King Charles III, Duke of Lancaster, rounding off the toast with three cheers for His Majesty.

The speaker, Fiona Smithson, had brought 50 items which she said some of us, our parents or grandparents may have used. These were in baskets to be passed round teams of members who had to try to identify the items in nine minutes before the basket was passed to the next team. These included an apparatus for straightening the horns of a bull, a pretty Victorian gadget for taking the top off a boiled egg and a long black pipe with a funnel at the end which turned out to be a hearing aid. There was also a wooden thing, but no one, not even Fiona, knew what it was. She found some of the ingenious answers quite amusing, and after a great deal of hilarity from the members the President's Team won the prize. The speaker judged the competition for a Vintage item; winners were first Olive Beard, second Ruth Garstang and third Mary Kidd. President, Ruth Garstang welcomed and thanked Fiona and told of future events including the summer outing at the end of August.

The next meeting in the Old School on June 13th will feature Karen Bond with "It Shouldn't Happen to a Vet."



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News from the Fells of Coronation Celebrations and Birds Nesting

By Helen Wilkinson

On 24th April, Rev Jane led our Sunday @four service; a very lively lambing service; with fifteen enthusiastic children helping to feed the four hungry lambs that Mary Myers and Martin Knowles brought into church. The lambs were well behaved and looking very full and sleepy as they were carried out of church. On 7th May Peter Osborne led a service to celebrate the coronation of King Charles III. The service of readings and music included an account from Jessica Lofthouse who had visited the very remote and out-of-date village of Lowgill in the year of our new king's birth, a humorous sketch - The King's Breakfast and readings about previous coronations. The service was followed by a Jacob's Join lunch in the old school. Starting with a toast to the new king a fabulous feast was enjoyed in the sunshine. The occasion was also an opportunity to start our fund-raising efforts for the Old School roof by asking people to sponsor slates for £10 each or £5 for a half slate. Martin Gillibrand had created a chart and several slates have now been sponsored.

I have been out inspecting the hedgerows again as it is time to start recording breeding birds for the British Ornithology Society. I was very pleased to see my first Pied Flycatcher this week, sadly not using our nest boxes but there does seem to be an increasing number in the area. We also seem to have more lapwings than last year. One pair of swallows returned on 5th May and they are busy rebuilding an old nest, but I have only seen one pair of House Martins flying in the evening and no sign of them nesting.



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Award for Community Rail Chairman

By Rod Tickner, vice chair and Press Officer of Leeds-Morecambe CRP, rod.tickner@cloud.com

At the final meeting of the Craven District Council, 30 individuals and organisations from the Craven District were honoured with Legacy Awards, amongst them was the long-serving chairman of the Bentham Line, Gerald Townson. This marked the end of an era, as the District Council was subsumed within a new North Yorkshire Council.

Gerald was nominated by the members of Bentham Town Council for his services to the Bentham Line not just at Bentham but across Craven and beyond. The Legacy Awards were presented by Councillor Simon Myers, chairman of Craven District Council, at the ceremony held in Skipton Town Hall. They were designed to recognise those who have gone above and beyond to serve the Craven community and who have made a difference to the lives of Craven's residents.

Gerald joined the CRP in 2011 on his retirement from teaching on the South Coast and since then he has devoted countless hours to ensuring that the Bentham Line, through the Leeds-Morecambe Community Rail Partnership, plays its part in developing a wide range of community activities that benefit the local communities and improve and promote the line. These have included educational work with hundreds of school children, the pioneering award-winning dementia initiative for the route, as well as community initiatives with university students from across the country, on year-long placements with Northern Trains Ltd. He became chairman of the partnership in 2013 and has determinedly driven the organisation forward since then.

The photo shows Gerald with his framed certificate seated at Bentham Station which is home to the Community Rail Partnership. Gerald said: "I was surprised and delighted to receive the award and pleased to know that the profile of this much-loved route has been raised reflected in continued growth in passenger numbers. However, it has been a great team effort by the directors and officers to bring the many positive initiatives to fruition."

Photo of Gerald Townson at Bentham Station with his award (photo: Brian Haworth)



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Community Link Café Trip to Brief Encounter, Carnforth

By Julie Bridgeman

On Wednesday 26th April, the Community Link Café went for a trip to Brief Encounter in Carnforth. The group, made up of a happy band of CLC users, hard-working staff and volunteers, travelled from Bentham to Carnforth by train. We would like to thank Northern and Bentham Line Community Rail Partnership, railway staff, Brian and Catherine for their invaluable help and support without which trips of this nature would be nigh on impossible. Special thanks go to Gerald Townson who was absolutely brilliant in the planning and execution of the trip.



While at Brief Encounter, everyone had a scrumptious meal (thanks to the Brief Encounter staff) and looked around the heritage centre. No news has come through of any brief encounters that occurred during the visit! The happy, smiling faces seen in the photos are testament to the enjoyment that CLC users had while on the trip. A fantastic and memorable day for all concerned.

These trips, along with the twice-weekly sessions of the CLC help alleviate the potential loneliness and isolation which some people may

suffer and are a lifeline to many. The Community Link Café sessions are Mondays and Wednesdays, 12noon – 2pm. Group users are guaranteed a nutritious dinner in good company followed by activities. The CLC employs four people, but this number is at least doubled by volunteers who drive, escort on the bus, prepare and serve food, wash up and provide activities that are physically and mentally stimulating. If anyone would like to join us, please let us know on 015242-63162 or julie@lowbentham.plus.com.



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What to look for in June

By Sue Halsall

There's so much to find out there in June, so here are a few things to look for. **Cotton grass** (see photo right) which is a sedge, not a grass, grows up on the moors near the Big Stone. It likes acid, peaty soils, where heather also grows.

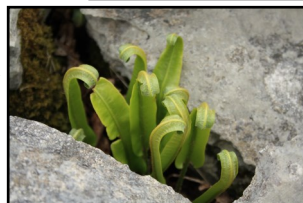


Wildflower meadows will have many species growing in them and if you want to allow your lawn to become a meadow (after 'No Mow May'), you will need to sow **yellow rattle** (see photo right), which is a parasite on grasses and helps to suppress them. Once the seed pods are ripe, the seeds do actually rattle inside.



If you manage to have a walk through some woods, especially Gisburn Forest, you can find **wood sorrel** (see photo left) growing, often on mossy tree stumps. It has clover-like leaves with three leaflets and delicate white flowers.

Also in woods, you can find **hart's tongue ferns** (see photo right), unrolling as they lengthen. They also grow in cracks in limestone blocks, sheltered from the wind.



Hopefully, you will have **ladybirds** in your garden, helping to eat the greenfly on plants. The most common species is the two-spot, followed by the seven spot (on this photo, left, seen on yarrow) and it's easy to see the difference. However, their larvae look nothing like the adult beetles and here's a **seven-spot ladybird larva** (see photo right), which has more yellow spots than the two-spot larva.



Bees are likely to swarm in May and June if their hive becomes overcrowded. It is an amazing sight and sound to witness a **swarm** in the air, and when it lands the thousands of



workers surround the queen (see photo left). Before leaving, the worker bees have loaded up with honey and are quite placid because they have nothing to defend, so don't be frightened of them. Find a local beekeeper to come and take them away and they'll put them into an empty hive.

Finally, **Wednesday June 21st sees the summer solstice**, when we get the most hours of daylight, and if it is fine, you can see lightness in the sky late into the night.

All photos are mine except the bee swarm which is John Vandy's

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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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New 'Allotments for All' Community Use Growing Space Opens

*By Sarah Hardman, Chair,
Bentham Allotments Association*

Bentham Allotments is pleased to announce our purpose-built 'Allotments for All' growing space is now complete and invites applications to use it! The growing space has been created to make the allotments site accessible to the wider community. It consists of four large, raised beds and at the time of writing in early May, we are working on the addition of a shed for storage, a toilet, and a seating area (next to the wildflower meadow we planted last autumn with the support of the Yorkshire Dales Millennium Trust). There is space to sit for picnics, a water supply, and a great view!

Any local community group or institution is welcome to use the space to sow, plant and grow produce – we do not have specific restrictions or requirements, but it could be as part of a project with charitable aims, or a learning opportunity for people of any age or ability. Our allotmenters are growing an amazing range of produce, in imaginative and creative ways, and the site has become a haven for wildlife, so using the 'Allotments for All' growing space could be combined with learning from observing what else is growing and living on site.

BAA will make no charge for using the space, although donations towards the maintenance of the area would be appreciated where possible (BAA receives no local authority or statutory funding and must raise the money to cover the costs of its projects and maintenance). **All groups must be pre-booked to use the space so please contact us on benthamallotments@gmail.com to discuss further.**

We would like to say a big thank you to our brilliant contractor, Thomas Brown, who has worked so hard. We are particularly pleased that this project has been made possible by two funders who are ensuring that money spent by the people of Bentham is being re-invested in local community projects. They are The Bentham Hub and the Co-op. A huge thank you to both, and to all those who have chosen us as your Co-op cause; your money has been spent on a project that will benefit the community for years to come.

Photos show the Allotments for All community use growing space at Bentham Allotments, still under construction in early May.



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