

BENTHAM NEWS

August 2023 | Issue 442 Recommended price £1



Photo by Jon Brook of Bentham Imaging

Closure of Bentham's Branch of Barclays Bank

With the closure of Bentham's branch of Barclays Bank at 12 noon on Wednesday 12th July 2023, Bentham, which 10 years ago had 3 banks (Barclays, NatWest and HSBC), now has none. Many people have been asking how they are going to manage without a bank branch in Bentham, so thankfully we do still have our wonderful Post Office. Bentham News asked Pamela, Kathryn and Andrea to remind us of what banking and other services they are able to provide for the residents of Bentham and the surrounding area. Their report is on page 2.

...../Continued overleaf

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

At Bentham Post Office, along with Bentham News, we wish to supply the residents of Bentham with a recap of the services we offer in the Post Office, in particular a banking update for the newly concerned Barclays and HSBC customers, as both local branches here in Bentham or Settle are now closed or closing soon. If you have a personal or business account, many major banks (including Barclays and HSBC) support transactions at the Post Office. We have some leaflets, so please pop in and grab one if you wish.

You can make cash withdrawals using your debit card and pin number, and your cash withdrawal limit is the same as it would be if you were using a cash machine. These can sometimes be increased but you will have to contact your bank to discuss your limit. You can also deposit cash into your account again using your debit card (some banks require a pin number to pay in) or alternatively you may have a cash deposit card. Again, there are limits both for business and personal use and these are determined by your individual bank so you will need to contact them.

We can accept full bags of coins to deposit into your account and we can supply you with the coin bags if you ask at the counter. We are unfortunately not able to order bank statements, however using your debit card and pin with us we can get you a balance printed on a slip of paper.

You can pay in cheques at the Post Office using cheque deposit envelopes which we can supply you with. Simply pop your cheque in the envelope with a paying-in slip for your account and bring it to us and we will send it off for you. Cheques deposited this way will take 2 working days to reach your account.

We can take payments for many bills here at the Post Office, please bring your barcoded bill or payment card into us and we can let you know if they are ones we support in the branch.

Unfortunately, we can't offer bank transfers between your accounts. For business customers we offer a change giving service. You may need to speak to your bank about setting up a Change card or a Change Lite service, please pop in to discuss with us if you want further advice.

For Barclays customers if we cannot help you with the service you require, there will be a representative from Barclays at Pioneer Projects every Wednesday and Friday from 9.30am to 4pm and you can discuss other financial matters with them.

At this time, we are not able to take on any new staff to cover the extra business we may receive as we are unsure of the volume of customers we may get. We have discussed this, and if required it will be something we will act on as and when necessary. In the meantime, if you wish to come on a quieter time then Tuesdays (except after a Bank Holiday), Thursdays and Fridays are, overall, less busy than Mondays and Wednesdays.

Alongside the banking services we have hopefully addressed here, we also offer Royal Mail postal services (selling of stamps, sell postage in store, accept pre-paid parcels returns and offer in store label printing). We are an outlet for Parcelforce, Amazon Hub (to collect your parcel or returns), DPD and possibly sometime soon EVRI is coming on board too. We have Euros and US Dollars on demand and can sell multi-currency cards in branch too. We can offer a pre-order service for all other currencies that are available to order for delivery the next working day, if ordered before 2pm, although please note that occasionally some countries do have closed currency borders. We sell E top-ups for mobile phones and have Gift Card Vouchers. We can sell postal orders, offer MoneyGram, and currently sell car tax, although the DVLA contract with the Post Office is currently under review.

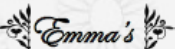
Here at Bentham Post Office Pamela, Kathryn and Andrea are happy to help you where we can.

BN Editorial Note:

NatWest has a mobile bank which comes to Bentham Auction Mart car park on Mondays from 10.45-11.30am. There are branches and cash points in Kirkby Lonsdale, Lancaster and Morecambe. The nearest **Barclays** Bank branches are now in Lancaster and Kendal although the branch in Kirkby Lonsdale opens on Tuesdays between 9.30am and 3.30pm (closed 12.30-1pm). With the **HSBC** bank branch shortly to close in Settle, the nearest branch will be in Lancaster. It is extremely difficult to give up-to-date accurate information here, so please check websites for details of opening times and services which vary greatly, or phone **Barclays** on 0345-734-5345, or **NatWest** on 0345-7888-444.



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Person of Bentham - Iris Malkinson

Interviewing Iris was a delight. Suntanned from having been out and about on a wonderfully sunny day gathering fruit from a neighbour's garden for her legendary jam-making, she came across as a woman content with her life in Bentham, always on the go but happy to sit and talk to 'Bentham News' as our 65th 'Person of Bentham'. She has a lovely smile and infectious laugh – she laughed at some of the questions, before saying "I'm not very interesting!" We don't agree so please read on to decide for yourselves.....

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

Born on 10th May 1943 in Settle, Iris went to school at Settle Primary and Ingleton Secondary schools before leaving as soon as she could and starting working life. She worked for a while at the bakery in Settle and then for Johnson & Johnson at Gargrave before, aged 19, joining with her parents when they took over a shop which used to be a 'provin' store, and then became Sanderson and Co. Her dad (George Sanderson) had always wanted his own shop. He quite fancied selling Fish and Chips, but Iris said she didn't want to work in a shop where she would always smell of fish or fat, so instead he stocked his shop, just down from The Naked Man Café, with fruit, vegetables and plants.

In 1973 Iris married Robin "Robbo" Malkinson. They had 3 children: Carol, James ("Malky") and Sarah. After James was born the family needed a larger house with room to park cars and a van so in 1981 moved to Austwick. It was here that Sarah was born. Their happy, busy, family and working life continued until tragedy struck.

In 1998 Robbo fell over a wall near his home and broke his neck. He was in Airedale hospital and Leeds General for an operation and with physiotherapy he was able to get walking again and had a few more good years before dying of cancer in 2005.



Photos by Jon Brook of Bentham Imaging



Meanwhile Carol developed Ewing's sarcoma, a rare cancer that comes on during teenage years and can sometimes be mis-diagnosed, as it was with Carol, as 'growing pains'. The cancer diagnosis was confirmed on 2nd March 1999, the same day that Dusty Springfield died, Iris can still remember that being a news item on the TV. Carol was in and out of hospital many times after that, and died of a heart attack, aged 23, on 7th July 1999. For many months, Iris was caring for both Robbo and Carol at home, this was a tough time.

After 2005 Iris continued living and keeping herself busy working on her own in Austwick and both James and Sarah had settled happily in Bentham. James worked in the building trade, met and formed a relationship with Mandy while Sarah had set up in her own business "Total Wellbeing". In 2012 Iris asked if the children minded her coming to live near them in Bentham! They told her to come, so she did, and has been happily here among friends and a large circle of friends for the last 11 years.

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

Most people know that I make lots of jam and marmalade to sell for charity, in fact I've raised more than £60,000. It started with money for Jimmy's, St James's University Hospital in Leeds, which is where Carol spent her last months. And then for Airedale hospital, which needed special chairs for patients having chemotherapy. I also take my jams and other goods that people donate to Car Boot Sales to continue raising money for a variety of charities.

Apart from being keen on baking and preserving, I also am quite crafty! I have made dresses, knitted coats and even learned smocking, and have some precious photos of Carol as a young girl wearing one of my smocked dresses.

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

In my 20s mum and I went to Jersey a few times, and I also went there with Robbo and Carol when she was about 3 years old. Since then, I've had a very happy holiday in

...../Continued from page 5

Switzerland with my friend Ruth, and been to Florida, twice to Disneyland and to the Niagara Falls and to Canada where my brother-in-law lived. Nowadays I just go to the Canaries with my friend Pat to get some winter sun, and especially like Gran Canaria, Tenerife and Lanzarote.

However, I'm flying off to Jersey again soon! It was an unexpected present from the family after the surprise 80th birthday party they threw for me at the golf club in May. I had no idea what they were planning, I thought we were going for a meal at 'The Game Cock' then ended up surrounded by a crowd of 60 people having a fun time to music from 'Alfresco' and enjoying Mandy's buffet.

What does a perfect day look like to you?

We had some very happy family holidays at Butlins in Skegness, but now I'd like to be with friends and family in the Lake District, which is beautiful. Sometimes in July I've really enjoyed going to the RHS Hampton Court Palace Flower Show, which is massive. I'm on a promise for afternoon tea at The Midland Hotel in Morecambe, and am looking forward to that, and a wander along the prom.

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

I'd like to have been at Queen Elizabeth's coronation, seeing all the spectacle around it. I enjoyed watching the coronation of King Charles on TV.

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

Both my parents worked hard at lots of jobs, whether it was delivering milk, driving, cleaning, weaving, baking or shop work – that was how our family life was, I hardly saw my dad, so I grew up knowing that work would always be an important part of my life.

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

I have always enjoyed my work, whatever it was. I like to work at my own pace and think "why mess about when you can crack on".

Do you enjoy watching anything on TV?

I like documentaries about nature and train journeys where you get an amazing view of life in other countries.

How do you relax?

I get bored if I'm not busy, but I do enjoy wandering about with friends, all the chatter at Car Boot Sales and helping my friends. I walk Malky's and Sarah's dogs with Sarah most mornings, the earlier the better, often soon after 6am. I keep very well. I'm 80 and don't take any medication, except turmeric and glucosamine tablets. I don't bother the doctor.

What's your most treasured possession?

I have a few bits of jewellery and some lovely China dishes in an old dresser, but probably the kids will just get rid of it when I'm gone. These things are only valued by me.

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

I know Benthams needs investment, but I'd just split the money between my 2 children, and they could decide what to do with it.

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

Nothing came into my head when I was growing up, but I've always loved baking and still make lots of shortbread and mince pies, and I make "Brighton Sandwich" – you'll have to ask me if you want to know what that is! I've carried on making jam and chutneys like my mum, sometimes 6 boilings a day. I keep saying I'm going to do less and just sell through coffee mornings, 'The Byres' and 'Total Wellbeing', but that hasn't happened yet!

THE *Bentham* HUB

'The Bentham Hub' Update

By The Hub Team

Hello Bentham! We are hoping to put a monthly column in Bentham News to keep you all up to date. There is a lot happening.

Our BIG news this month is that the Town Council has agreed that The Bentham Hub can buy the Bentham Youth and Community Centre for Bentham. This is really exciting, and of course a little daunting because we have to raise the extra money we need to do this. We know we can do it, so are now actively fund raising and have a £35,000 mountain to climb. Thanks to all your donations we have raised the first £5,000 towards this in the first week. How amazing is that? A big thanks to all of you.

We are receiving an incredible amount and variety of donated goods for sale in The Hub, so if there is anyone out there with a couple of hours to spare who would like to be involved, we are always in need of extra hands to help us sort and sell the items. Come in for good company, good laughs and just to be involved in this amazing project. It's not difficult, just pop in, we would love to see you.

Breaking News: Angus Fire Armour have just announced that they are donating £5,000 pounds to The Hub towards our cause. We are so grateful – such support from a locally-based business means a lot and will help make a major difference to the whole Bentham community. Well done Anguses!

New Pastor for Cornerstone Church

By Alan Parkinson (Pastor)



As a newcomer to the Bentham area since starting as pastor of Cornerstone church in February, I am really enjoying getting to know the local people and appreciating the fantastic scenery that surrounds us. In comparison with my home city of Preston and the flat Fylde coast, the hills and valleys are an impressive sight.

As a family we have, of course, been introduced to the 'Big Stone' and scaled it a few times! Last time, as I stood at the top admiring the amazing view of Bentham and the surrounding hills, I was reminded of the old Christian hymn 'On Christ the solid Rock I stand'. This is the privilege of every follower of Jesus: a solid foundation from which to live out our lives and a hope for the future that is firm and secure. In a world that is changing so rapidly, I find that very reassuring.

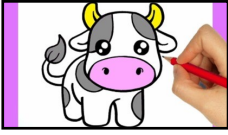
I am really looking forward to further discovery of this beautiful area, to discovering more unique places like 'Big Stone' and of course meeting and getting to know more of the people who make up this wonderful community.

Fancy A Flyer?

Send your flyer hand delivered to Bentham residents in the BN for impact advertising. We also deliver to central points in outlying villages and towns

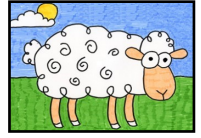
A5 or folded A4 flyer inserts
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Moos and Ewes - An Exciting Time Ahead

By Michelle Hodgson



As we get into August, many of you will be thinking ahead to the start of next month and the 149th Annual Bentham Show on Saturday 2nd September, and which handicraft section you are considering entering. Or you might be getting excited about the Music event being held on the playing fields the following day Sunday 3rd September? Whichever it is, we have something else for you to get excited about that weekend. Moos and Ewes.....

A small bunch of local folks have decided to dress the town with cows and sheep to create some public art to help promote this exciting weekend in our little market town. We are hoping everyone will get involved as we are looking for the community to get creative and celebrate all that happens at the auction mart where the annual show is held, by creating your own cow or sheep. Or to put it another way, create your own **Moo** or **Ewe**! You can put your creation in your garden, window or anywhere it can be seen. Ideally, we would love to see them process to the Show but with limited volunteers we are asking that you bring them with you when you visit either the Show on the 2nd or the Music event on the 3rd. We will judge the best Moo and Ewe at the playing fields event on Sunday 3rd September.

The idea is that you free style your own creation of a cow or a sheep. If you're not sure how to start, then you can grab a template to work from which will be available from The Bentham Hub on Main Street. Then there will be some FREE making workshops at Looking Well at the end of August, the week before Bentham Show, to help you get started or to provide you with a bit of paint and inspiration. More information on times and dates of the workshops will be posted on Facebook as well as local noticeboards or you can email me at studio42arts@gmail.com.

Bentham Agricultural Show: Saturday 2nd September

By Janet Greenwood – Show Secretary

The 149th Bentham Agricultural Show will be held on Saturday 2nd September in the Auction Mart, by kind permission of the mart directors. The show schedules are available from the end of July in many local shops, including the Spar, Flowerfields and Tourist Information, so please pick one up. There are classes for everyone, both adults and children, so why don't you give one a go! Entries for all classes close on Friday 20th August 2023.

The fun dog show will start at 12noon in the bottom ring, with entries taken on the day. There will be lots to see and do, including a children's entertainer, vintage machinery and a variety of trade stands and craft stalls.

Any queries please contact me on 07530-798221 or email:

benthamshow@hotmail.com



Messing About on the River

By The River Wenning Group

June was an idyllic month for spending time by the river. Families enjoyed picnics and splashing about by the Wenning Oak. Some hardy souls plunged in for a swim to cool off.

But on more than one day the idyll was ruined by a stream of grey polluted water which ran down the river through Bentham from a source upstream.

This photograph was taken on June 14th of Fowgill Beck, which joins the Wenning near the bridge down Station Road. The colour of the water suggests that United Utilities are not alone in allowing pollution to spill into our beautiful Wenning. When a river is poisoned, so is its wildlife and the community it sustains.

What Can We Do To Help?

Pollution will be caused by many things, and we can help to minimise the damage. For example, installing a water butt helps to reduce the flow of storm water into drains and gives water treatment companies less justification for releasing overflows of raw waste.

A significant cause of water pollution has been found in microplastics. The plastic particles come from many sources, including some cosmetics, detergents and shower gels, litter breaking down in soil and even synthetic fibres from tyres on the roads which get washed down into the rivers.

We can make choices to help reduce the pollution and benefit the river, its wildlife and the people who enjoy it.



***Don't forget the BN
deadline date is 12th
August for the
September edition***



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Who ate all the Pies?

By Nick Armstrong

Bentham Beagles didn't quite eat all the pies, but certainly a fair few of them at this year's Caldervale Supper run which was held on 4th July. This is a fun midweek race that is just under 4 miles. Held in the small hamlet of Caldervale, runners are treated to a Pie & Peas Supper after the event. Another great turnout from the Beagles saw Bentham well represented and we certainly did our bit to finish off the pies when seconds were offered!



As well as Caldervale, other club championship events over the last month have seen the Beagles running at Lowgill Sports Fell Race, Hawkshead 10k, Endmoor 10k and Morecambe Park Run. Congratulations to Alan Chesters who completed the half marathon distance at this year's Settle Saunter event, as he continues his pursuit of clocking up 100 half marathons.

Our summer away club nights have continued over the past month with trips to Clapham, Lowgill, Cross of Greet and Bowland Knotts, as well as completing the long route of the Bentham Heritage Trail. Plenty more is planned for August, including 3 peaks in 3 weeks. If you are interested in joining us for one of these runs please get in touch or check out our training schedule page on the website to see where we will be meeting.

By the time you read this the Bentham 10k will have been held on 16th July. We will include a full race report in next month's article. But thanks in advance for anyone that came out to cheer on the runners, all our fantastic volunteers that give up their time to ensure the event happens and Bentham Golf Club for their continued support of the Beagles. For further information on the Beagles please visit our website

www.benthambeagles.co.uk or email benthambeagles@live.co.uk

where we will be happy to answer any questions.

***Don't forget the BN deadline
date is 12th August
for the September edition***



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Ballet for Adults

By Fraggle

On May 21st, 2023, history was made. Ballet dancers from Blue Moose Dance Company took their first ballet exam with the British Ballet Organisation: grade 1 in Classical Ballet Performance Award.

For more than a decade there have been ballet classes for adults at Bentham Town Hall. Started originally by Zanna Dennis, it is one class of many run by Blue Moose who seek to bring music and movement for all ages into the community. Now with our delightful teacher, Christina, on Tuesday mornings (in term times) there's an adult ballet class at 10.45am.

Things changed when the ballet class, wanting more, discovered the BBO syllabus and decided to go for the exams. Our group is small but there is always space for newcomers. Our ages range from 50+ to nearly 90. For some ballet has been a later life choice. *The photo shows our group: left-right Jean Ann Naylor, Judith Jones, Fraggle, the examiner, Doctor Fanny Leech and Pamela Warbrick.* This was a tough path to choose but with extra tuition under the expert experienced eye of Sharman Robinson we took on barre work, floor work, and each did a solo. We all passed with either merit or distinction grades.

Easy? No. Thrilled? Oh yes! Do it again? What do you think? Yes, we are aiming to go up to grade 2.

None of us is a professional, but we are ballet dancers. Why not join us Tuesday mornings? If ballet feels too much, I know that 'Blue Moose' has a very friendly 'Mature Movers' class also on Tuesday mornings, at 9.30am, for contemporary dance. Our classes were visited one June morning by Clare Granger, the High Sheriff of North Yorkshire. She wanted to find out more about what went on in Bentham, and when we showed her, she joined in. You could too!

A lesson today: NEVER let fear or society decide what you cannot do.

Take your passion. Make it happen.

Bentham Community Library

By Lynda Graveson

Ready, Set, Read! The 2023 Summer Reading Challenge at Bentham Community Library

Children can once again sign up for the Summer Reading Challenge at Bentham Community Library during the summer holidays. This year the theme is the power of play, sport, games and physical activity. The challenge for children is to read 6 library books of their choice and collect special stickers and other prizes along the way – everyone who finishes will receive a limited-edition Ready, Set, Read! medal and a certificate. Any child aged 4 - 11 can join in, and the challenge runs until Saturday 9th September.

Watch Fox Class from Bentham Community Primary School tell you all about it., using this link <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qViVZjyKdSQ>



Photo of Leonora, Dora and Murray of Fox Class (Y5) from Bentham CP School

Lego Workshops

We will be running two Lego Club Workshops in the holidays on Thursdays 3rd and 24th August from 10.30am – 12 noon. Everyone welcome!

Library Volunteers Needed!

Help us to keep our library open. Full training is given, volunteers work in pairs covering 2-hour slots. For more details email office@pioneerprojects.org.uk or Tel 015242 62672.

Music and Fun sessions

Good news! The extremely successful free Music and Fun sessions with Sally-Anne Brown from [Note Weavers CIC](#) will continue every Tuesday, 9.30 - 11am from September until July 2024, term time only. If you care for a pre-schooler who loves music - then this is a great session for you. Due to the size of the library, places are limited so please register by email office@pioneerprojects.org.uk or Tel 015242 62672.

Bentham Library Book Group

By Sue Bloxham

Do you love reading and enjoy talking about what you have read? In that case, you'll enjoy Bentham Library Book Group. It meets at 2pm on the second Tuesday of the month to discuss a book that we have all read.

An annual list of books is put together by our librarian, John Frankland, using suggestions from the group and his extensive knowledge of books. We read a great



variety including one non-fiction and one 'classic' each year. Copies of the books are available about a month in advance in the library. You don't even need to be a member.

John facilitates the discussion and often brings other materials, for example last month we watched a short YouTube video where the author described the ideas behind her novel.

I asked the group members why they liked coming and these are some of the things they said: "It's friendly and welcoming", "it's not too threatening or highbrow", "it makes you read things you probably wouldn't choose, but really enjoy", "I like the way everybody notices something different in a book", "it makes you think about what you've read", "you don't need to worry about getting hold of the book as the library provides them".

If you are interested, just call in to the library to get a copy of the next book, or email John on John.Frankland@northyorks.gov.uk. September's book is 'The Twyford Code' by Janice Hallet and can be picked up from the library during August. We will meet at 2pm on Tuesday 12th September in the library.

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Your Garden or Allotment in August

By Joyce Knapp

As we move into the month of August, we gardeners might start to think about the approach of autumn, especially as we continue to harvest our crops which this month may include lettuce, cauliflower and broccoli. Although we tend to use lettuce as and when they are fully grown, we can, however, preserve both cauliflower and broccoli simply by dividing them into individual florets which can then be blanched for a couple of minutes in boiling water, before being cooled, dried and frozen. By freezing them on trays and then packing them in containers or bags, they can be taken out and used individually throughout the winter months when the price of vegetables is at a premium.

Other crops coming ready this month are carrots and swede and over the years I have developed the habit of keeping all the big, regular shaped carrots to cook on their own, whilst separating off all the rather odd-shaped ones to cook with swede. Once cold, this combination of vegetables can be mashed, divided into useful-sized portions and frozen to be used later when it will prove very handy as a ready-made vegetable, especially on busy days. If we are fortunate enough to have space to grow onions, we may already have been using the largest bulbs for a few weeks and the next step is usually to tip the leaves of the remainder of the crop over, so they are laid on the soil. This will allow the bulbs to ripen over the course of a few weeks and their skins to toughen up before we take them inside to store for use during the winter. Just a note here, that if we experience a long, wet spell of weather it may be worth trying to dry the bulbs under cover either in a greenhouse, shed or cold frame.

August is the month when we can do some work on summer fruiting raspberries as they finish fruiting and the main task here is pruning. This is best achieved by undoing any string supporting the canes and then identifying all the old (darker wood) canes, before cutting them back as near to ground level as possible. It is important not to leave any stumps when cutting back as these can potentially house pests through the winter which may then go on to attack next year's fruit crop. Once the old, fruited stems have been removed we can identify the new shoots and, perhaps, remove a few of the weaker ones, aiming to leave three or four shoots per root. We can complete the task by simply removing any weeds before applying a mulch of garden compost if available.

Nature Notes

By David Fisher

I've seen a lot of nature lately. I saw a Honey Buzzard at Wennington. I had five Elephant Hawk-moths at our place on Low Bentham Road. And a Small Copper, Essex Skipper and Meadow Brown butterflies at the allotment. I also saw a Holly Blue butterfly in Bentham.

I have been fishing at Goat Tarn. My brother's mate had a 7-inch Brownie - he returned it. There were supposed to be Char in, but neither of us got one.

My chrysalis of a Poplar Hawkmoth did not emerge as a moth in captivity. It must have dried out or something. There have been Speckled Wood butterflies about as well.





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phone 015242 71077.

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Collingwood & Longstaffe's Charity

A vacancy has arisen for a paid part-time position as Clerk to the Charity.

Projected average of
20 hours per month.

The clerk will be responsible for the internal administration of the Charity in its management of the nine almshouses at Collingwood Terrace, Mount Pleasant, High Bentham.

The Clerk will need to have the ability to work independently, have good communication, literacy, numeracy and basic IT skills.

For further information and job specification contact Ian Wood on 07793 281 156.



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Pictured (left to right) are Kathy Swinscoe, Lucy Cufflin (this year's sponsor of the award - Chiswick Cheese Market) and Andy Swinscoe

Local Cheesemonger Takes Prestigious 'Hard Cheese' Award

Press Release

The Courtyard Dairy has been awarded 'Affineur of the Year' for the 'Hard Cheese' category at a national event in London celebrating skills in maturing cheeses to bring out their best flavours. The event, run by The Academy of Cheese, pits the best cheesemakers and cheesemongers against each other, testing their ability to mature and age a range of cheeses. All the competitors are delivered the exact same cheese the day after it is made. They then have to mature the cheese to the best of their ability using their own knowledge and expertise. Cheeses are then judged blind by a panel of industry experts on appearance, flavour and aroma, rind development and condition of the cheese. Additional marks are awarded for innovation in maturing techniques and their record keeping.

After a year of looking after a brand-new Quickee Cheddar, The Courtyard Dairy (near Settle) was the outstanding winner for their class, with their Cheddar taking home the prize of best matured hard cheese. *"We were thrilled with the end result,"* said Kathy Swinscoe, co-owner of The Courtyard Dairy, *"It just shows you the quality of our maturation facility and skills we have here in Settle. It is nice to be recognised for the craft of how we keep and mature cheeses at The Courtyard Dairy. It demonstrates how we really do bring the very best out of the cheeses we stock in order to make sure they reach their full potential and taste a class above."*

At the beginning of his career, many years ago, co-owner Andy spent 6 months working in a cave in France, learning to mature cheese from the very best regarded cheese maturer (*Affineur*) in the world: Herve Mons. *"That apprenticeship set me up for life, but I'm pleased that I took those skills, and refined and honed them over my career. It has allowed The Courtyard Dairy to make a difference to British cheese and to make sure we can compete on a national stage."* But The Courtyard Dairy can't rest on their laurels. Next year's competition has already begun, with young Cheddars arriving this week to be matured and kept ready for judging in 2024!

Launch of the ALL NEW Bentham Pantry Club

By David Bayes (Chair, Pantry Steering Group)

Need a bit of help to stretch the weekly shop? Come and join the new **Bentham Pantry Club** opening **Wednesday 30th August** in the Methodist Church Hall, Station Road (entry on the left of the building). The Club will open 11am-12 noon and again in the afternoon from 3.30-4.30pm. Free refreshments available.



Membership is £5 and covers the cost of your first shop. For single-person households, each subsequent shop is £3 and for multi-person households £5.

Club members choose from the stock of basic foods (bread, milk, eggs, tins, cereals etc) and household goods (washing up liquid, shower gel, toilet rolls etc) up to 9 items for single members or 15 items for multi-person members. In addition, you may select from any fresh fruit and veg that is in stock each week.

The **NEW** Bentham Pantry Club replaces the Pantry that has been open since the start of the Covid pandemic. This change will help keep us sustainable for the future.

A Big Thank You to the lovely people of Bentham who have been incredibly generous these past three years with donations of food and cash. Please continue to support us as we meet the increasing demand. And you can volunteer with us! From September we will need car-drivers to collect stock from Settle or Skipton - this suits someone with a large car and who is able to lift heavy boxes.

Please note: the current Pantry closes after 26th July for essential maintenance and cleaning before the **Bentham Pantry Club** opens on 30th August. For any who need help during the closed period, we have arrangements with the Skipton Food Bank for emergency supplies. Please call our Pantry phone number 07942-364606 for assistance.

We look forward to seeing you when the Club opens at the end of the month.

(The Bentham Pantry Club is a ministry of Churches Together in Bentham)



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People Page

Letters /Messages/Thanks

Bentham Craft Club

By Julia Collins (07808-853414)

A good time was had on Tuesday 4th July at Craft Club when Amanda led a work- shop making felted soap. We had lots of fun and laughter over tea, coffee, biscuits and plenty of soap suds! Everyone made a beautiful, felted soap to take home.

Amanda had a donation tin and raised £40 for a brain tumour charity that is close to her heart.



We have lots more activities coming up soon, Dorset Buttons and Christmas Tree Decorations to name just a few. Why not join us on a Tuesday morning at The Wenningdale Room at the back of The Town Hall. It's £1.50 a session lasting from 10am to 12 noon. You can bring your own projects if you want and join in our weekly, free raffle. Contact me if you'd like to have more information.

The NSPCC open garden that was held on 9th July, by kind permission of Mr and Mrs Jack Warbrick, **raised £375 for NSPCC funds.**

The committee would like to thank all who helped on the day, those who donated so generously, and, of course, Mr and Mrs Warbrick, who opened their lovely garden for all who attended to enjoy.

As always, a warm welcome awaits anyone who would like to join us on the committee.

Sheila Brown

Quiz Night Bentham Town Hall Friday 25th August 7pm £10 per ticket. 4 members to each team. Buy your own food and drinks. All money raised going to support The Bentham Hub. Tickets available at The Black Pig and The Hub.

Julia Collins

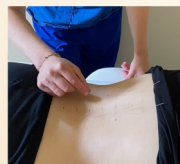
Don't forget if you contact Bentham News via telephone be sure you get an acknowledgement if you want your article in!!! If not ring or email again.

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Ofsted: Remembrance of Things Past (Part 1)

By Pete Eastman (who taught English at Settle High School from 1974-2006)

The recent awful tragedy of the primary school headteacher who took her own life after she was told the damning result of the Ofsted inspection of her school, has brought into focus the cruelty of the single-word judgement dished out by an organisation that insists that this simplistic offering is what parents want or perhaps, even worse, all that they can understand. The Chief Inspector Amanda Spielman insists that behind this single word lie nuanced and complex judgments which accurately reflect the quality of education in a school. But if this single word is 'Inadequate', and if it is splashed around the local newspapers and talked about in the community, then that single word can utterly demoralise the teachers in the school it is applied to and may make them want to leave, or in the case of Ruth Perry send them to take their own life. Her school was a good school and as far as can be gathered from reports, she was a greatly respected Headteacher, but because one element of the inspection did not reach a certain standard that one-word judgement emerged as 'Inadequate'. How nonsensical and disgusting is that?

Of course, it goes without saying that schools need some kind of monitoring. It is vital that children get the best education available and that teachers are helped to develop the best practice. Notice 'helped', not frightened or bullied. There are many ways such a monitoring system could have been set up in the 1990s and Ofsted is probably one of the worst of them. It was constructed deliberately to make teachers afraid; to undermine their sense of autonomy and professional independence; it was set up to teach them their place. There is no real right of reply to Ofsted judgments so there is no arguing with them: they know the answers and you need to learn to accept their judgements. You are taught to be 'compliant.' It is no good arguing that Ofsted has done a marvellous job raising standards (has it, really?) because another more humane system might have achieved the same or better results without all the collateral damage that the current regime causes.

This recent focus on the nature of school inspections has brought to my mind the time I first endured Ofsted and I would like to share that experience with you. The first inspection of Settle High School (as it was then called) was in 1997. It was so long ago that I had thought that perhaps things might have improved since then, but it seems from all the articles and correspondence that have emerged since Ruth Perry's death that things have not got better at all.

As our inspection was in the early days of Ofsted, there was still enough money available to send in a dozen or so inspectors, every one of them suited and with clip boards at the ready. The school had known that the inspection was coming for weeks (may have been months) so tension had been growing as the day approached. As the newspapers are fond of saying these days, the atmosphere was febrile. I am not a very brave person, and I was as anxious as most of my colleagues, but there was one teacher who wasn't afraid. He is the only person I have known in my entire life who is not afraid of anything or anyone. He had a very clear idea of what Ofsted was and why it existed. For him those who took its coin were simply Government running dogs. Most of us when asked about how our preparations for Ofsted were coming on would respond with descriptions of our progress with schemes of work, marking policies, and all the other reams of administration which Ofsted required to be visible for inspection (some necessary and useful, a lot not.) But Peter Huby, the Head of Art, had a different idea of preparation. With the help of his partner Linda and others, for him preparation meant the creation of a dozen or so substantial larger-than-life-size images of Magritte-style faceless inspectors in Crombie coats, with bowler hats and carrying bulging briefcases (I still have

one of these in my shed: it is a much-prized memento.) For him preparation also meant constructing a bamboo cage in one of the entrance halls to the school and equipping it with a desk, filing cabinets and noticeboards crammed with letters of instruction and graphs, etc., such as you might find in some government department office that had got madly out of control. But there were also pertinent quotes from Václav Havel, the Czechoslovakian playwright and dissident (*'I am afraid therefore unquestioningly obedient'*.) This was to be the 'office' of an Inspector who would be wearing the same outfit as the inspector cut-outs and who was played by Bentham's Dave Pearce, a good friend of Peter's. Little did they know it, but he was going to join the inspection team. Outrageous, but don't you love the idea?

The plan was that once the Inspection started, these images of Inspectors would be placed around the school so that whichever corner the real inspectors went round they would be confronted with an image of 'The Inspector', a reflection of themselves and a reminder of their role in the bureaucratic oppression that was taking place. In addition, at regular intervals, 'The Inspector' in the entrance hall would emerge with a tape measure and clipboard to measure the heads of passing children and make copious notes about the results.

It needs to be said that there were mixed feelings among the staff about this act of resistance. For some, perhaps, it hardly impinged so immersed were they in their own preparations for the ordeal. Some had reservations, and others thought it was a very bad idea indeed which might prejudice the inspectors against the whole school. There was some 'collateral damage'. My own feelings were a mixture of anxiety and excitement, and my own act of resistance went only as far as preparing lessons on examples from literature of the abuse of power and oppression of those less powerful. But the idea that these intruders weren't going to have things all their own way was uplifting (although also just a bit scary.)

But there was more! However, further description might be better saved for another article in the next edition of Bentham News (always assuming that the BN team accepts it and has room to print it.)

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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, PS231 Ikhlag Mohammed, 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.



44 incidents were reported between 13th June and 9th July 2023.

These included: False alarm sounding, road related offence concerning drivers' documents and suspected drink driving, drug crime, a 2-vehicle road traffic collision on the industrial estate, a single vehicle road traffic incident on the B6480 in Low Bentham, a 2-vehicle road traffic collision on Robin Lane, domestic dispute, crime of violence, criminal damage, a civil dispute, fraud involving Lloyds Bank, fraud involving an online chat, a neighbour dispute and nuisance caused by anti-social behaviour.

Information request:

At around 1am on Wednesday 5th July, two males were seen riding a green 4x4 Gator-type farm vehicle on Main Street, Ingleton heading towards the junction with the A65. The vehicle lights were turned off and it was travelling at speed. We suspect this vehicle may have been stolen. Any information, please contact North Yorkshire Police on '101' and quote incident number 12230124048.

Information update:

North Yorkshire Police received a call from a member of the public at about 6.30pm on Saturday 24th June about a vehicle acting suspiciously near Bentham Industrial Estate. Thanks to this information, traffic officers located a vehicle, a blue Hyundai, that they'd been looking for which is believed to have been involved in rural thefts. The occupants were stopped and searched by officers and the vehicle was found to be on false plates. The vehicle was seized, and the driver arrested. He is under investigation for several offences. **Please remain vigilant and report suspicious activity to the Police.**

Crime Prevention Advice:

8th July 2023: There have recently been reports in the surrounding area about bogus police officers contacting people and advising them that they are going to be victims of crime and that they should hand their jewellery to the police for safekeeping.

Please be aware that North Yorkshire Police will not ask you to hand over jewellery for safe keeping. All officers should have a warrant (ID) card with them. If you have any doubt over the identity of an officer, please call 101 or 999 depending on the urgency.

Contact Information:

1 Ring 999 in an emergency or to report a crime in progress

2 Ring 101 to report incidents or provide information

3 Ring Crime Stoppers on 0800 555 111 to remain anonymous

4 E-mail

SNACraven@northyorkshire.police.uk

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Summer Steam Train Trip

By Jonathan Scott (chair of trustees BDDFC - Bentham and District Dementia Friendly Communities)



We had a summer trip for the group recently. A mixture of people went, those living with dementia, their carers, friends and family. We used a Bibby's coach down to Embsay, then took a trip to Bolton Abbey on a steam train and enjoyed a beautiful full cream tea. We then took the scenic route home via Burnsall for a look around. Unfortunately, both ice cream shops were shut but the Red Lion wasn't, as a few members found out! It was then back to Bentham. All who went had a really good time and it was so nice to see that everyone was enjoying themselves so much.



We meet every other Thursday at Bentham Fire Station for bacon butties, crumpets, teacakes and tea or coffee. Please feel free to join us, you'll be made very welcome.



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Kew House (just off the A65) Ingleton

Town Hall

Every Tuesday,

Craft Club 10am-12noon, WR

Tuesday 1st & 8th August

Suzie's Yoga 6-8 pm LH

Wednesday 2nd & 16th August,

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

Thursday 3rd August

WI, 7-10.30pm, LH

Friday 25th August

Quiz night for the Hub 7-11pm

Town Hall - Meetings

Town council meetings are TBA for August

Monday 7th August

LH 7.30pm, Possible Town Council Meeting

Town Hall - Coffee Mornings

These dates were correct at the time of printing but please clarify with the Town Clerk 

Saturday 10am - 12noon

29th July - The Hub

5th - NSPCC

12th - LASRUG

19th - Low Bentham WI

26th - Bentham Praise Choir

2nd September - The Church of the Good Shepherd, Tatham Fells

WI (see pages 36-37)

High Bentham

Thursday 3rd 7:30pm, Bentham LH Town Hall

Low Bentham and District

Thursday 17th 7pm in the Victoria Institute Tatham Fells

Wednesday 30th Summer outing : canal boat trip



Events in August

Footpath (see page 35)



For the August 3rd walk, meet either at Lairgill for 6pm or at Keasden Church for 6.15pm. For the other three August walks, please meet at Lairgill for 9.30am. It's also 9.30am at Lairgill for the September 2nd walk (advance notice).

Thursday 3rd. Kate Rowe, 015242-51402, Keasdon Wander, 5 miles.

Sunday 6th. George Sheridan, 07905-069990, Blease Fell and Tebay Gill, 6 miles.

Tuesday 15th. Bernie and Sheila Garrett, 07805-296711, Settle, 7 miles.

Tuesday 22nd. Peter Lennard, 07474-120898, Brock Bottom and Beacon Fell, 7.5 miles.

Saturday SEPTEMBER 2nd. Colin Stroud and Alison Kinder, 07854-789311, Hampsfell from Grange, 4.5 miles.

Bentham Pantry Club (see page 18)

Wednesday 30th August

11am - 12noon and 3.30pm - 4.30pm

All are 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 No August Toddle-In

Bentham Fire Station (see page 23)

Thursday, 3rd August 10:00am

Bentham & District Dementia Friendly Community Breakfast Club

Bentham Show (see page 8)

Saturday 2nd September

Bentham Golf Club (see page 34)

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



Victoria Institute

Every Monday

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

11:30am - 2pm, Community Link Café.

Light lunches and activities.

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

Every Tuesday

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

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

Every Wednesday

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

10am - 12noon Post Office Services.

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

4 - 7.45pm, Helen Howard School Of Dance.
Term time.

Every Friday

10am - 12noon, Post Office Services.

Every Sunday

11am - 12:30pm Cornerstone Church Service.

BOOK SWAP!

Last book swap will be on **Saturday 12th August 10am-12 noon**. Thereafter you will be able to borrow (or donate) books on Monday & Wednesdays mornings from 10am -12noon. This new arrangement will probably be more convenient for most people.

St John the Baptist Parish Church

Bank Holiday Monday 28th August

Delicious Cream Teas served at St John's,
Low Bentham from 2 - 4pm.

Please support our Super Summer Raffle for the chance to win one of three hampers: A Bubbly Surprise Hamper, A Sweet Surprise Hamper or A Savoury Surprise Hamper. Tickets £1 available from Libby 015242 61126.

Settle Photographic Group - Town Trail

2nd -21st August. Search around Settle shops to find exhibition photos.

Free exhibition 26th-28th August. *See page 31*

Pioneer Projects Looking Well Studios *(see pages 12-13)*



Every Monday (except 28th)

Meet Lairgill carpark 9.20am Health Walks for Women

Every Monday (except 21st & 28th)

10.30am to 12.30pm, Making Connections Dementia Group

Every Tuesday (except 22nd & 29th) 10.30am to 12.30pm, Creative Community Hub

Every Tuesday (except 22nd & 29th) 11.45am to 1pm, Creative Writing Group face to face and Zoom

Tuesday 2pm to 4pm, Book Group (no group this month)

Every Wednesday (except 23rd & 30th) 10am to 12noon, Sing Along to Every Song – face to face and Zoom

Every Wednesday (except 23rd & 30th) 2pm to 4pm, Art for All

Every Thursday (except 24th & 31st) 12.30pm to 3.30pm, Community Art Shed

Every Friday (except 25th) 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

Telephone 01609 534533 *(pages 12-13)*

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 - hot drinks, games, computers & of course lots of books!

August 18th; annual re-union of the Chris Coull Sextet at the Hornby Institute. Chris leading on trumpet & flugel horn, Richard Weatherall , piano.; Rob Steels, double bass, his son Joe guitar, Jack Davies, drums. On tenor sax will be Dean Masser - he has been with us on two previous occasions co-leading the 'Jazz Worriers'



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Football Fun

By Liz Whitfield – BIB Mencap treasurer (and goalkeeper!)

Bentham, Ingleton and Burton (BIB) Mencap group members and friends had an enjoyable morning on the astroturf pitch in Ingleton at the end of June. David Easterby and Lee from Ingleton Football Club had the young adults, parents, siblings and carers practising their football skills. Everyone enjoyed the dribbling and shooting activities, but the highlight of the morning was a six-a-side match with the final score 3-3. A penalty shoot-out followed so that there was an eventual winning team.

Refreshments of fruit squash and slices of orange were served at the breaks.

Our activities are made possible by generous donations and the support of local people at Bentham Coffee Morning. **The next one is on Saturday 16th September at the Town Hall, please do come and support us.**

WEDNESDAY BUS SERVICE

As the timetable we were given last month wasn't completely accurate (not our fault!), we are re-printing the timetable of the link between Bentham and Hornby to use the 582 bus service to Lancaster on Wednesdays. This is proving very popular and enables passengers to spend just over 3 hours in Lancaster once a week.

New bus service 582 Hornby Link

Wednesday Only – Bentham to Hornby

High Bentham, Robin Lane	0914
High Bentham, Club	0915
Low Bentham, Sundial	0919
Wennington, Nether View	0927
Melling, Gillison Close	0933
Hornby, War Memorial	0938 <i>Connecting 82 bus leaves 0948 arriving at Lancaster 1022</i>

Wednesday Only – Hornby to Bentham

Connecting 82 bus leaves Lancaster 1335 arrives Hornby 1405.

Hornby, War Memorial	1415
Melling, Gillison Close	1420
Wennington, Nether View	1426
Low Bentham, Sundial	1434
High Bentham, Club	1438
High Bentham, Robin Lane	1439

does not operate on a Bank Holiday

Sports and Exploring at Tatham Fells Primary School

By Fiona Ip, Headteacher

As we near the end of term, the backdrop is all set with an underwater world for our end of year production for Y2-6 of Jonah. So many creative props have been made and the children are full of enthusiasm and confidence, so we hope our parents and community enjoy it as much as we have.

Our Little Explorers Club on Friday afternoons has proved very popular, and the toddlers have had great fun making lots of forest crafts. We will be continuing on Fridays in the autumn term and would love to see you all back and would also welcome new faces. We will be offering a forest nursery session on a Friday morning where children from the term after they turn 3 can be left to enjoy a forest school experience and be collected at lunchtime. Please email bursar@tathamfells.lancs.sch.uk for more details.

Sports Day was great fun with track and field events taking place throughout the day and parents and community joining us in the afternoon for the sprint races. Congratulations to team Ingleborough who won the team trophy. The weather held off for all our races, there was lots of team cheering. The afternoon was rounded off with a visit from an ice-cream van from which everyone could choose their ice-cream, all paid for by the Friends of Tatham Fells. Thank you very much!

The second half of the summer term has also involved lots of opportunities for inter-school sports with the Lune Valley cluster and Lancaster and Morecambe sports partnership. Our Kwik cricket team enjoyed lots of matches at Over Kellet. The following week we took part in a great rounders rally at Hornby with 10 other schools. After some very exciting matches, we made it through to the final and drew 4 rounders all with Leck, but were finally pipped at the post in a rounder off! The team were delighted with their silver medals.

Bentham Primary School Ends the Year with Trips, Picnic and 'Cinderella Rockafella'

By Mrs Besharati and Mrs McGregor, Co-Headteachers

As we head towards the long-awaited summer holidays, children and staff seem busier than ever! July saw children take part in several educational activities, including our year 6 residential to Keswick and a trip to Brockhole on Windermere for children in years 1,2 and 3. Children in years 4, 5 and 6 put in a lot of practice for their end of year show, 'Cinderella Rockafella' for which they gave both matinee and evening performances on 12th July. A MASSIVE well done to all the children who took part in this show as it was truly magical, with some hilarious moments showcasing the amazing talents of our children. Thanks also to the staff who worked tirelessly supporting them, encouraging confidence to shine, and ensuring 'it would be alright on the night'.

Despite the weather trying to put a dampener on proceedings, our Early Years Foundation Stage Teddy Bears' Picnic was thoroughly enjoyed by all. There were lots of very loved teddies joining children and parents/carers on the day, even if the picnic had to be re-located indoors at the very last minute!

We have a limited number of places available in our wonderful nursery provision for September 2023. If you would like your child to join our Ladybird class or want more information, then please e-mail admin@bentham.n-yorks.sch.uk. Whilst we take children who are three years of age the term prior to joining our provision, we can, in some



circumstances, accommodate slightly younger children. We currently offer a 30-hour provision for those who are looking for full-time nursery places, with an option of additional paid hours for those who want them. Despite school being closed over the summer period, we are still able to process applications for children to join ANY year group, so please e-mail admin@bentham.n-yorks.sch.uk for more information.

End of year School Reports have been sent home to parents. Whilst we are unable to officially report on our end of year data, this year we are absolutely delighted with all our results – which truly reflect how hard children have worked, learnt and grown over the year. Well done! We would encourage readers to take a look at our website for more news and stories! (<https://www.benthamcpschool.org.uk>).

At the time of writing, we are still seeking a Co-opted Governor; ideally the vacancy would be suited to someone with experience and/or knowledge of the building industry, although we welcome enquiries from individuals from other sectors. For more information, please e-mail the school office using the above address.

Have a wonderful summer, stay safe and have fun! School will be open again to children on Wednesday 6th September 2023.

Rail to Sail

By Rod Tickner - rod.tickner@cloud.com

A special event was held at Heysham Port on Wednesday 28th June when representatives of the Bentham Line, the rail industry, Lancashire County Council and Lancaster City Council, and staff and Year 5 pupils from St Peter's Church of England Primary School, Heysham, met together with Alice Rice, Terminal Manager for the Isle of Man Steam Packet Company, and Lancaster City Mayor Cllr Roger Dennison.

A large, striking and colourful artwork by local artist Alastair Nicholson, located in the recently refurbished passenger lounge at the ferry terminal was unveiled. It shows the new ferry 'Manxman, Setting Sail' following the arrival of the connecting train. The mayor said he hoped the new 'Manxman' and the proposed Eden Project at Morecambe would bring many additional visitors to the area. Gerald Townson, Chairman of the Bentham Line, noted that there had been over a hundred years of interaction between the railway and the IoMSPCo. and that the ship and train services provided a great example of integrated public transport, which had led to the development of the 'Rail to Sail' project. Heysham Port is one of a relatively few places left in Britain where there is just a short walk between train and boat.

The 'Rail to Sail' artworks now wait to greet the many users of the station and terminal building, as well as the actual vessel, which has now crossed ten time zones from the builder's shipyard in South Korea to arrive in Douglas. 'Manxman' will commence operations on the popular Heysham - Douglas, Isle of Man route towards the end of July.

Photo shows Alastair Nicholson's artwork in the Passenger Lounge



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Photo Exhibition at Clapham Village Hall

By Gill Pinkerton

Time for another Settle Photographic Group Annual Exhibition. It only seems five minutes since the last one. Once again there will be a wide variety of images taken on all sorts of cameras from very expensive with many special lenses to small compacts. This year, though, I know there's at least one image from a phone camera. It's only a short time ago that we wouldn't have dreamt of entering a mobile image, but these cameras are now very good indeed and, in some situations, make life so much easier. I've used mine when taking photographs in caves and it seems to cope amazingly well – perhaps much better in low light conditions than many cameras, and there is no need to have a tripod. Many of us carry mobiles all the time so there is no problem with catching that magical moment. I've learnt to have mine with me all the time.



The Settle Photographic Group's exhibition will run from Saturday 26th to Monday 28th August, 10am-5pm at Clapham Village Hall. Come and enjoy looking at the photographs. You can have fun voting for your favourite as well and, whether you take photographs on your camera or your mobile, perhaps you'll consider joining the group.

Photos show Ingleborough with Bloody Cranesbill by David Crutchley, top, An Ideal Husband by Brian Blinkhorn, below.



Town Council Meeting on 3rd July

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. If you want to see minutes of previous meetings which are not yet on the website (owing to there still being a vacancy for a full time Town Clerk) copies are available by emailing townclerk@benthamtowncouncil.co.uk

All councillors were present for the July meeting but no North Yorkshire Councillor nor any Police or Public Safety Officer. However, there were 20 members of the public in addition to your BN reporter.

Comments and Concerns:

Community Youth Building:

The sizable public attendance was, in large part, owing to the future of the Community Youth Building. Lesley Barker informed the meeting that The Hub was actively fund-raising to purchase the building and had received enormous public support both financial and practical. In the space of two hours, 170 signatures had been placed on a petition (which was left with the Council to add their names). The Society of Friends (Quakers) were particularly pleased that a community use of the building was being envisaged as that was their intention when they disposed of the building. When asked about the covenant on the building Cllr Adams indicated it would be sold with the requirement for community use and tacitly implied the cost of seeking to remove the covenant would probably exceed any increase in value of the building if it were marketed without the covenant. To much applause one member of the public said he struggled to understand why the community should have to buy a building which it already owned.

On further questioning, Cllr Adams indicated there were two offers but refused to be drawn about how much they were for or whether the Council preferred either, in order not to disqualify himself from participating in the discussion later in the meeting when the future of the Community Youth Building was an agenda item. However, this later discussion was to take place after members of the public had been excluded, as has been the case for several months. Whilst those discussions in earlier months appear in the minutes of Council meetings, it was acknowledged by Cllr Adams that no minutes have appeared on the Bentham Town Council website since February. Cllr Adams made clear however that they were available.

The Bus Service:

Another concern expressed by Charlie Slinger was the complete lack of information about the new bus service between Bentham and Lancaster via Hornby, and which again was an agenda item for the meeting. Charlie said the first bus on 7th June was full and some people who wanted to get on, including himself, were turned away. There is confusion about which bus stand at Lancaster is being used for the return journey, and it's a long way to walk if you are waiting at the wrong place or the bus is full by the time you arrive. In contrast with the direct service, the larger bus which takes the scenic route and a journey time of about 2 hours from Bentham to Lancaster, is pretty empty.

Cllr. Gerrie informed the meeting he had been in touch with North Yorkshire Council about the size of the buses and been informed that the direct service was 'as good as it was going to get'. Apparently, there is a lack of both vehicles and PSV drivers, but NY Council are 'monitoring the position'.

The Town Council noted that both bus services are being paid for out of the same cash

pot of public money and there should be some way of that money being used more effectively for the benefit of the majority of the people who want to get to Lancaster for appointments and shopping. The Town Council is to make further approaches to North Yorkshire to see if they can work to rectify this mismatch.

New Councillor:

Liz Ryan has been co-opted onto the Town Council and will take up her position at the next meeting, be that in July, August or September, depending on whether any planning applications are received which have to be considered before the beginning of September. Liz moved to Bentham 5 years ago after 40 years of working for Lancashire County Council so has lots of experience of how councils work. Since coming to live in Bentham, Liz has been heavily involved in 'Bentham Older People Together'. Congratulations to Liz for volunteering. There is still a vacancy remaining for one more person before the Town Council has a full complement of councillors. *(For those who would like to read more about Liz, she featured in an article in BN October 2019 Issue 396 on page 16 "Introducing Liz Ryan" which can be accessed on the Bentham News website under 'Archives').*

Planning Matters:

New Applications: None of the following were commented upon or objected to by the Council.

ZA23/24968/REM. Reserved Matters application (scale, access, appearance & landscaping) of 2 dwellings allowed on appeal 2019/21170/OUT on land at Greenfoot Farm, Greenfoot Lane, Low Bentham LA2 7EQ

ZA23/25086/HH. Conversion of existing detached hobby room to guest annexe. Old Pottery Barn, Slaidburn Road, Bentham LA2 7DL

ZA23/25100/HH. Retrospective approval for construction of replacement rear balcony and solar panels installed on south-east roof pitch. 1 Links Drive, High Bentham, Lancaster, LA2 7BJ

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

Granted:

2023/24841/HH Addition of new single storey garage adjoining existing garage for secure on site storage of essential equipment required for business and personal use. 1 Lakeber Terrace, Robin Lane, Bentham LA2 7AF

ZA23/24951/HH Replacement of existing detached garage with new build of slightly larger dimensions (part retrospective) 1A Springfield Crescent, High Bentham, Lancaster, LA2 7BD

Withdrawn Applications – None

Appeal Decisions - None

A Round Up of Other Matters Discussed:

Lower or Low Bentham – which is it? Royal Mail want the views of the Town Council whether the correct postal address for that part of Bentham nearer to Lancaster is Low or Lower. After discussion, principally by those councillors who lived there, it was decided to go with Low, although the chances are that either will still find you.

The Masterplan – Cllr Gerrie reported the final draft had been completed and there will be a presentation to the Town and County Councils in July.

2024 Calendar – No photos have yet been submitted. If you want to get yours in the calendar you should get snapping soon.

...../Continued overleaf

...../Continued from page 33

New Stile at Pye Park – Cllr Burton said the existing stile was difficult for both older people and dogs to negotiate and NYC are to be asked to replace it with a 'kissing gate'.

D-Day – the 80th anniversary of the D-Day landings is on 6th June 2024. The council agreed to commemorate the event by lighting a beacon.

Philip Harvey Playing Fields – the sign which has fallen off the gate will be re-affixed and the nettles at the side of the path will be strimmed.

Goodenber Road Play Area – has been awarded £10,000 of National Lottery funding to replace equipment.

And finally... A report from the **police** was read out and appears on page 22.

Cllr Adams said that a vehicle which had been spotted on the Industrial Estate and which someone had informed the police about because they thought it looked a bit suspicious, turned out to have been wanted by the police for crimes committed in the wider area. So, if you see something that you do not think looks right, call it in.

Friday Lunch Club is Looking for Volunteers

By Deb Hawkins



Have you got a few spare hours on a Friday?

Would you like to help in the community?

Would you like to drive the bus?

Or help the members using the bus?

Or come to Bentham Golf Club over lunchtime and help the team there?

We would love to hear from you! We are very flexible - you volunteer when you like.

Please contact us on the details below for more information.

Bentham Older People Together 015242 63162.

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Four August Walks: And Beware of the Buzzards!

By Don Cartledge

Whilst walking by the Wenning about half a mile east of Bentham Bridge (Staggarth), we met a chap who warned us about a family of buzzards in the area, one of which had swooped on a walker causing a headwound. Thinking this might be an exaggeration, we were surprised when we saw a buzzard overhead. Whilst it did not actually attack, it swooped menacingly towards us - so beware if you're walking in the area.

There are four walks in August and for each meet first at Lairgill for 9.30am, except for the August 3rd evening ramble when you can meet at Lairgill for 6pm or Keasden Church for 6.15pm.

Kate Rowe's (015242-51402) **5 mile "Keasden Wander" is on Thursday 3rd**. Advance notice of the walk was given in last month's Bentham News.

Sunday 6th sees George Sheridan (07905-069990) take us on a 6-mile walk around Blease Fell and Tebay Gill. Starting from Tebay Road (roadside parking), we complete a circuit of Tebay Gill, leaving the village to follow track and paths first up Powson Knotts then onto the summit of Blease Fell, (1555 ft). Passing over the side of the gill we reach Hare Shaw and head down the grassy ridge to Waskew Head Farm where we pick up the outward track and return to Tebay.

On **Tuesday 15th** Bernie and Sheila Garrett (07805-296711) are leading a 7-mile walk from Settle. Parking is at Langcliffe car park (£2 honesty box) near to St. John the Evangelist Church. The route offers well defined and undulating pathways and there are three or four stiles to cross. It passes Victoria Cave, Brent and Attermire Scars, the Dales Highway, Stockdale Lane, Sugar Loaf Hill and Jubilee Cave.

The last August walk is on **Tuesday 22nd**. It covers 7.5 miles around Brock Bottom and Beacon Fell and is led by Peter Lennard (07474-120898). Starting from Beacon Fell Visitor Centre car park we head for Brock Bottom then follow the River Brock for a few miles. Leaving the river, we ascend to Wickens Barn for impressive views of Fair Snape Fell and Parlick, past Heatherway and then a quick climb to the top of Beacon Fell. Finally, we pass a small tarn and return to the start.

Advance Notice: On **Saturday September 2nd**, Colin Stroud and Alison Kinder (07854-789311) are leading a 4.5 mile walk round Hampsfell from Grange. Starting from the pay and display car park in Grange centre, we climb up to Eggleslack Woods and on to the Hospice. We return via Fell End and a corner of the golf course to reach Grange's beautiful promenade and back to the cars. Weather permitting, this walk will provide some amazing views over the Furness Fells and Cartmel. This is a short ramble but does include a gradual climb to the top of Hampsfell. Meet at Lairgill at 9.30am. for this walk.



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Low Bentham & District

By Kathryn Brownsord

After our usual business and federation news, Kim from The Zero Pantry in Kirkby Lonsdale brought a selection of the products they sell. She explained how we can all do our bit to help the environment by using environmentally friendly washing and cleaning materials. She also sells dried goods etc for the kitchen which again helps by having less waste and less packaging as you bring your own containers to refill. It was a really good insight into how we can all help, and the bonus of the night was that Kim gave us all a package of her ready-to-cook meals – a delicious Moroccan Pilaf.

Kim drew the raffle which was won by Sue Fitzsimmons and judged the competition of “A favourite Soup Recipe” which I won.



The Luncheon Club meal was held at the Red Well in June and all members who attended enjoyed a tasty meal in a very busy pub. The Chat and Craft club was held at Jennifer Watkinson's home with a lovely lunch provided.

As always do look out for our posters advising our next meeting. We meet on (17th August) the third Thursday every month at 7pm in the Victoria Institute, Low Bentham, and we hope to see you there.

High Bentham

By Jan Stuver

On the first Thursday in July, High Bentham WI listened to an informative and interesting talk by Helen Thurston on the varied work of the Yorkshire Dales Millenium Trust, which has its headquarters in Clapham. Since it was founded in 1997 the Trust has worked to tackle climate change, slow down biodiversity loss, inspire people from all communities to engage with the natural world and encourage people to visit, live and work in the Yorkshire Dales. They also do a lot of work in the Forest of Bowland. The Trust has planted native trees, supported the renovation of traditional hay



meadows, and explored ways to save valuable wetland areas. They work in partnership with other organisations, local farmers and landowners, and local communities. The Trust gives grants from £250 up to £10,000 to support the work of local groups, hosts visits from local schools and from people from nearby urban centres, and has an active apprenticeship scheme, in partnership with Craven College, giving local youngsters experience in a wide variety of rural skills, such as forestry, hedge laying and walling, which could enable them to get jobs within the local area in the future. Members were impressed with the wide range of activities supported by the Trust and by Helen's enthusiasm for her work. We would recommend people visit the Trust's website at www.ydmt.org to find out more.

Since our last meeting several members enjoyed a peaceful walk through the lower reaches of the Ingleborough Nature Reserve, from the site of the old quarry opposite Ribbleshead Station to the Nature Reserve headquarters at Colt Park, followed by a meal at the Station Inn. Our next meeting is on **Thursday 3rd August at 7.30pm in the Lower Town Hall**. The speaker will be well-known local historian Mike Winstanley with a talk on “Charity and the Poor Law” with a particular focus on our local area. Any members wishing to enter the monthly competition are reminded to bring along any antique or vintage household item. Members of the wider community are very welcome to join us for the evening as visitors.

Tatham Fells

By Mary Taylor

Squeals and laughter filled the Old School on Tuesday evening, 11th July as Tatham Fells Women's Institute members competed in a friendly and exciting games evening. Sally Hughes organised the games and arranged members into four teams – Yellow, Red, Blue and Green; everyone had to remain seated. The first game involved each person throwing five bean bags into a



bowl inside a hula hoop; the second game called for a steady hand as everyone had a minute to put as many marbles as possible into the hole in an upturned plant pot. Some members had great difficulty remaining seated for the final game, volleyball. This involved putting four teams into two, one team patting or thwacking a huge blown-up globe over a table to the other team who had to return it. This caused Sally some problems scoring, adding points and deducting penalties for enthusiasts who couldn't remain seated. Greens finally won the whole evening with a score of 333, Reds second with 283, Yellows 247 and Blues a valiant fourth. President Ruth Garstang thanked Sally and conducted the business meeting. Individual members were encouraged to enter Bentham Show, as the Institute is not going to exhibit this year. Mary Kidd had organised a lovely footpath walk from Thornton-in- Lonsdale last month. The evening concluded with delicious strawberry teas provided by the Committee. There will no meeting at the Old School next month as the Summer Outing will be a Canal Boat Trip from Barton Grange on August 30th.



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Music in the Fells - Italians Home and Away

When?

On Saturday 12th August 2023 at 7.30pm

Where?

The last Music in the Fells for 2023 season will take place at The Church of the Good Shepherd, Tatham Fells

What?

This will be an evening of music and songs from the Italian Renaissance and Baroque eras performed on period instruments by Mr. Simpson's Little Consort.

Mr Simpson's Little Consort are an award winning early music group based in Buckingham. They take their name from the 17th century viol player and teacher, Christopher Simpson who published "The Division Viol" in 1665; an important treatise on how to play that instrument. He also published the "Little Consort" - hence the name.

What will they be playing?

They have prepared a lovely programme of Italianate music by 17th century Italian composers, alongside English composers and Italian migrant composers working in the English Courts. Music by Monteverdi, Strozzi, Dowland, Lawes, Draghi, Ferrabosco and Bassano for soprano, theorbo and lute, viols and recorders.

What's their track record?

Mr Simpson's Little Consort have played previously at St John's Smith Square, Tilford Bach Society, Buxton Festival Fringe (twice winning awards), and various music and historical societies including Stony Literary Festival.

<https://mrsimpsonslittleconsort.wordpress.com/>

All the way from Buckingham to Lowgill just for us?

Well, one of their number, Dawn Johnston (*far right in photo with her amazing theorbo*) now lives in Bentham and has introduced the rest of the Consort to the delights of this part of the world – so they are looking forward to the concert as much as we are.

How much and how do I get a ticket?

Tickets cost £15 (£5 for children under 18 and students) and includes light refreshments in the Old School after the concert. They are available from Jane Proctor (07508-981299) and Dawn Johnston (07712-087412).

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News from the Fells of Lapwings, Yoga, Mindfulness and a History Walk

By Helen Wilkinson

John Wilson and Stephen Middleton led this year's church walk starting from the Old School. We crossed the valley and climbed up through Helks Farm onto Goodber Common. After weeks of hot sunshine, the temperature had dropped a little, so it was a good day for walking. We were grateful that the

weather had been so dry as we walked across the soft sphagnum moss; it looked brown and withered but an inch under the surface it was still green and full of water. There were a lot of lapwings on the common and we were lucky enough to see two young ones creeping over the peat to hide in the rushes. We stopped for a picnic at a rocky outcrop and cairn known as Thornton's Castle, the views were indeed grand, but the seating was less than luxurious. Our return route took us via Scales and Lower Houses.

On 23rd June an evening of Yoga and Mindfulness organised by Lune Valley Fitness was held at Lower Houses Sensory Farm. With a session of facial yoga and one of yin yoga followed by mindfulness, the evening finished with refreshments and a glass of wine. A very relaxing time that raised money for the dementia-friendly walks that will be starting soon. Tatham History Society held a summer walk on Saturday 1st July. Led by John Wilson our first stop was a hollow in the field behind the Old School. Local stone, such as the tortoiseshell stones (Septarian Nodules), now often found in carefully designed clusters decorating our gardens, would have been heated in this 'Bloomery' to extract a poor grade of iron ore that was probably used for making farm implements. We then did a circular walk through Foss Bank, Beethams, Fourstones and Usherwoods, learning about the history of each building as we went and almost getting blown into Yorkshire as we crossed the fell.

Photo shows our history walkers looking at the Bloomery



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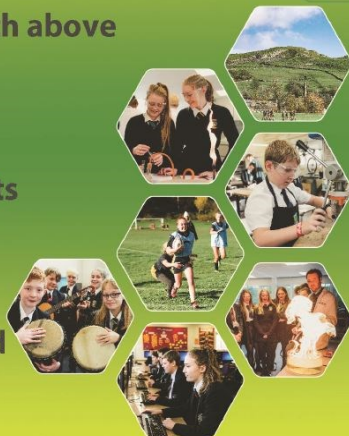
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What to look for in August

By Sue Halsall

Mallards (*see photo right*) like many birds, have finished their breeding season in August and they start to moult. As they lose all their wing feathers at once, they cannot fly, and the males also lose their brightly coloured feathers since they are no longer needed to impress the females. They are said to be in eclipse but will regain their normal plumage later in the year.

Great Willow Herb (*see photo right*) flowers through July and August and is our tallest species, a hairy plant (its specific name is *hirsutum*) with pairs of leaves opposite each other and bright pink flowers with cream-coloured centres. Like all willow herbs, their fluffy seeds are dispersed by the wind from long, thin seed pods and it likes to grow in damp places. It used to be called codlins and cream, codlins being an old name for cooking apples and is related to Rosebay Willow Herb which has longer flower spikes.

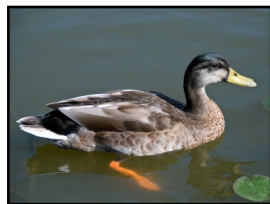
Also growing along rivers or in damp places, is Meadowsweet (*see photo right*) and when seen growing in larger clumps, the white flowers look frothy – they are in fact spikes made up of many smaller flowers and can grow to 120cm tall. The leaves have pairs of leaflets and are green on top but grey underneath and the flowers have a sickly-sweet smell. Many moth caterpillars feed on the plant, pollinators love the flowers, and it also contains chemicals similar to aspirin, so was steeped in water to make a painkiller before these were widely available.



Unlike the two species above, Himalayan Balsam (*see photo left*) is not a native species, and it is classed as invasive. It grows along rivers and streams, flowering from July till October, the seed pods explode, and the seeds are carried downstream to germinate the following spring. They grow very quickly, are tall and overcrowd native species trying to grow, so they quickly become a nuisance, despite looking pretty and supplying food to pollinators. I frequently pull them up to prevent them setting seed which breaks the life cycle because they are annuals.

In August it is too late to see the amazing flying beetles called May Bugs (*see photo below*) or cockchafers, but there seemed to be a lot around and I was asked by many people what they were. They are big and make a loud buzzing sound as they fly, often towards lights at dusk. They are harmless and are becoming more common this far north, probably due to increasing temperatures. You certainly can't miss them if they fly past you or into windows!

All photos are mine except the mallard



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Another Near Miss

Chas almost becomes a crossing statistic

By Keith Hartley

Charles Timmins may be 92, but he probably walks further than any other Bowland View resident. He walks into the village at least three times a day, mostly doing errands for other people, so is well used to the risks inherent in crossing Robin Lane. However, he was quite unprepared for what happened recently as he made his way home from the Post Office.

With vehicles parked along Robin Lane at the point he needed to cross he knew to exercise caution when emerging from between them. He looked both ways **twice** (*"I always look twice because I know it's dangerous"*) before starting to cross. He told me he had only taken a couple of steps when he caught a movement from the corner of his right eye and immediately realised that a vehicle was heading towards him *"at a very fast speed."* He jumped backwards, lost his balance, and fell against a parked Land Rover, gashing his arm on the towing bracket as he fell. He said the car, which did not stop, was electric and made no sound as it approached him. As we spoke, Charles was understandably quite angry (*photo of Chas above*), not only at the apparent recklessness of the driver, but mostly at the fact that to date nothing has been done about the provision of crossing facilities on Robin Lane. *"The Council won't act until somebody's killed or seriously injured, but they have no way of counting near misses!"*

Chas, the whole of Bowland View echoes your comments!

Footnote: Bowland View residents complained about the inadequacy of the 24-inch-wide dropped kerb arrangements put in to facilitate crossing Robin Lane. They were encouraged earlier this year when the Highways Department came along to remove the dropped kerbs, believing this would lead to the installation of something more substantial. It hasn't, and this is why we are still waiting for the serious accident to happen, whilst hoping with all our hearts that it won't.













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