

BENTHAM NEWS

September 2023 | Issue 443 Recommended price £1



Bentham News brings you Moos and Ewes

These delightful heads of a Moo and a Ewe were created by Chris and Diane Dancer as part of the celebratory build up to Bentham's 149th Agricultural Show at the Auction Mart, starting at 10am on Saturday 2nd September.

There'll be other art works around town – please look out for them. At the Show along with cattle and sheep you'll also see pygmy goats, handicrafts, horticulture, vintage vehicles, a children's entertainer and a Fun Dog Show. Come along to this great community event and follow that up on Sunday by enjoying music on the Playing Field (see page 3)

(design layout by Jon Brook of Bentham Imaging)

Sowing the Seeds for the Future

By Adam Day - Farmer Network managing director:
01768-868615 or adam@thefarmernetwork.co.uk

One of the most difficult issues to tackle within any farm business, particularly when family is involved, can be succession and generational retirement. Too often this subject is swept under the carpet resulting in disputes and acrimony further down the line. On August 8th the Farmer Network invited the farming community to Crooklands Hotel near Kendal specifically to talk about succession and retirement planning. Guest speakers included farm accountant and Farmer Network Chair Rob Hitch of Dodd and Co, John Cooke and Nicola Steadman from the Rural Law Practice and Brian Armstrong from the Farming Community Network (FCN), also farming within a family partnership.



The panel were totally in agreement on the importance of everyone who is involved in the business taking the time to sit down and talk about what might be needed by the business, and what might be wanted by family members. Topics covered were retirement related taxes including inheritance tax, capital gains and property relief, the importance of up-to-date land registration and a partnership agreement. Also, legal wills and power of attorney advising farmers to ensure that they are kept up to date with their wishes for the future.

Farming Community Network (FCN), who sponsored the refreshments at this event, can provide help in circumstances where dialogue has broken down. They can mediate through difficult situations and provide support with mental health issues which can often become a problem related to succession.

Farmer Network coordinator Carol Moffat summed up the key take home points from the speakers saying, *"We all know a farming business somewhere that has been affected by these issues. The clear advice is to discuss, plan ahead, maintain a partnership agreement, keep records, make a will and give power of attorney at the appropriate time"*.

(Photo of Carol Moffat)

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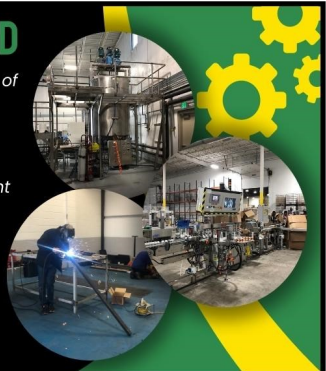
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we have left and of course asking for any donations you can spare.

Let's hope for another glorious day of sunshine

BRING A BLANKET OR CHAIR TO SIT ON

See you there

Playing Fields Committee



Feast Bowland

By Hetty Byrne

Feast Bowland is a celebration of local food producers, wild foods and the distinctive local dishes found across this beautiful area. The week-long programme includes walks, rides, tours and foraging and is a great way to explore the area.

It starts and finishes on 17th and 24th September with two friendly-led bike rides with Breaking Cycles CIC through charming Ribble Valley villages. The first for beginners and the second for more experienced riders. As it is Feast Bowland week, there will be a well-earned lunch stop on both days at local eateries.

The Pendle Pub Pie and Valley guided walk on Monday 17th explores the southern flanks of Pendle Hill, followed by a hearty lunch at the White Hart pub.

There is a herbal medicine walk on 19th at Pendle Heritage Centre, foraging walks on 22nd on the western edge of Bowland, and elderberry jam-making at the Lovely Cow Shed on 21st. All provide a wonderful opportunity to discover all that's on offer as the seasons change.

We are partnering with Bowland and Bay to offer two expert guided artisan foodie tours on Wednesday 20th, to include 5-6 food experiences in the Ribble Valley and Goosnargh areas.

The week ends with a family gathering to explore movement in nature with Bowland Fitness and a picnic in the park at Dunsop Bridge playing fields.

The AONB's sustainable tourism officer Hetty Byrne said: *"This exciting week-long programme of events is a celebration of the landscape, producers, chefs and local delicacies from across the area. And we have so much locally distinctive produce that is worth celebrating! It's a great way to explore the breathtaking scenery and discover more about the amazing foods that are produced here – both by the local farming community and by Mother Nature herself."*

There are also several fringe events taking place, provided by local hospitality businesses, all members of the Forest of Bowland Sustainable Tourism network. The events are about discovering Bowland's bountiful, seasonal produce through experiences such as cheese making, bread making, foraging and supper clubs.

For a full round-up of events visit: www.forestofbowland.com/feast



'The Bentham Hub' Welcomes Julian Smith, MP

By The Hub Team

The afternoon of Friday 4th August was memorable for The Bentham Hub. We were able to welcome our MP, Julian Smith, to look at what we have achieved so far and explain to him our hopes for the future with the purchase of the Community Centre building.

He was impressed with what he saw and said: "Bentham Hub have achieved a huge amount for the community in a short period of time and have the promise to do so much more. The move to a new home offers them the opportunity to deliver on that potential."

Refreshed by a glass of water and an excellent mug of coffee from G&Mo's café, he chatted for a while with various Hub volunteers and Councillors Thomas Marshall and Tony Burton who were there to represent Bentham Town Council.

We are very grateful to Thomas, Jane, Isabel and John Marshall from Riverside Caravan Park for their £3,500 contribution to The Hub's appeal.

The Hub is on track to have the funds necessary to buy the Community Centre by mid-September. That will mark the end of phase one of our project, and the beginning of phase two which is the refurbishment. For this we are hoping to get financial help through charitable grants and donations. Applying for charitable status is being prioritised as once that is achieved, we will be able to apply for lottery and other funding to help us save the building.

We are also looking forward to returning to our primary mission, which is to support local groups and good causes. We will keep you informed and up to date through the pages of Bentham News.

Photo by Jon Brook of Bentham Imaging shows The Hub Trustees, Lesley Barker, Sharon Haslam and Mick Reid with Julian Smith MP in The Hub

Person of Bentham - Kevin Matthews

Although he doesn't live in Bentham, Kevin is here most days of the week and is an important member of the Bentham community as a much-loved and appreciated local butcher. He is 77 years old and lives in Bare, Morecambe and on July 18th this year he will have been in the meat industry for 62 years. Many people find themselves in Bentham for different reasons. Kevin, the butcher in Station Road, is here through coincidence. Please read on to find out more.

How long have you had your shop in Bentham and what brought you here?

I have been in Bentham for six years, three years in the old Fleming's shop and three years in the shop opposite the Town Hall. I was working as a butcher in Garstang and had a regular customer from Burton-in-Lonsdale. This customer suggested that I should open a butcher shop in Bentham. I told the man there was only one shop that I would consider and that was Ronnie Fleming's. The customer surprised me by saying that the shop was actually for sale. I spoke to my son, and we jumped in the car after tea to look at the shop. Next day I contacted Ronnie, and the deal was done. I hoped that my grandson Luke and I would run the business, but Luke has pursued a career in the abattoir side of the meat industry instead. I would love to live in Bentham but my family live in Morecambe. My present shop took two years to renovate and after trading for just ten days Covid struck.

How did you start in the meat industry?

My father was a butcher and I always wanted to follow in his footsteps. When I was young, he had a stall in Lancaster Market, and I often accompanied him on his van rounds. Then I finally went to work for him after I left school at the age of fifteen. I learnt my skills from my father and other butchers. The difficulty with learning from my father was the fact that he was left-handed unlike me, as I am right-handed.

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

Although not a city person I would like to see New York. My family and I had a holiday in Bulgaria in 2019 which we enjoyed so much we rebooked to go back in 2020 and 2022. Covid and family illness scuppered those plans, but we managed to get there earlier this year.

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

Most people who know me will know this but for those that don't, I enjoy cars. I think I have owned seventeen. Currently in my possession are a Porsche Boxster and a Jaguar but my dream car would be a Bentley. You may notice the personalised number plates which are my family initials.

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

I remember watching the Queen's coronation on a small television with family and friends. The television belonged to a friend of my father and there were about thirty of us squashed in a small room in a little terraced house. This was followed by a street party.

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

Father Michael Turner, a Catholic priest, was a neighbour of mine in Morecambe, and got me through some bad times. We have both moved but have remained friends.



Photo by Jon Brook, Bentham Imaging

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

I would buy the playing fields and build the appropriate infrastructure for young people in the Bentham area.

What is the worst job you have ever done?

Although I like being a butcher, when I worked in a supermarket butchery department, I only lasted six weeks.

Otherwise, I love my job and get up at six o'clock on workdays and I look forward to coming to my shop which I consider as my social club. Up until January of this year I worked six days a week, but my family have insisted that I take more time off now.

I also have a seasonal job, as a stand in for Father Christmas at the real Father Christmas's busiest time of the year.

How do you relax?

I relax with a barbecue and a beer in the summer with the family and with someone else doing the cooking.

Do you have a favourite book or film?

My choice of reading material would be a Michael Connelly series.

What does a perfect day look like to you?

I would visit Cartmel, both for the races and the selection of smelly cheeses in the village cheese shop. I would also have a roast dinner.

Bentham Masterplan Update

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

Many Bentham people who are interested in the progress of the Masterplan are curious to know what is happening. So, honouring our promise to keep the community informed, this is where we have got to.

We have now almost finished our work on the Masterplan and had a meeting on July 17th with those Bentham town councillors able to attend and officers from North Yorkshire Council. We had a useful discussion and NYC officers have now taken the almost complete draft to discuss further with their superiors and to give some thought to the publication process of the final version.

Once the final Masterplan is published, it is then available for North Yorkshire Council and indeed everybody else to take into consideration when they make future spending plans for Bentham. We will continue to keep you informed.



*Thank You
for your support*

Bentham News gives you
all a big thank you for your
continuing support.

We empty the collecting tins regularly and know that many of you are putting in donations. As these are anonymous, we can't thank you personally much as we would like to – but each and every pound collected helps us to continue bringing BN to you every month. This is a community publication so the support of the community is vital – heartfelt thanks to you all.

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

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Kew House [just off the A65] Ingleton

Welcome to the Quaker Meeting House Open Afternoon

By Trevor Blackwell

Bentham Quakers would like to invite you to this year's Meeting House Open Afternoon, which will be held on Saturday September 23rd from 2pm till 4.30pm. Come and explore Bentham's historic eighteenth-century Meeting House, with its ancient graveyard and thriving allotments. You will find yourself in a place of elegant simplicity, set in quietness high above the Burton Road, with wonderful views of Ingleborough, Whernside and the surrounding countryside.

From 3pm till 3.20pm there will be a talk on "Bentham's Quaker Meeting Houses". This will briefly outline the history of Bentham's Meeting Houses (I think there have probably been at least three altogether, including the one in High Bentham across the road from what is now the Spar), and explore why Quaker Meeting Houses look like they do.

Tea and home-made cakes will be provided throughout the afternoon for your enjoyment and refreshment.

Besides our Meetings on Sunday mornings at 10.30 the Meeting House is presently also used by a singing group on a Wednesday. We're aware how fortunate we are to have such a wonderful building, and we would like to extend a welcome to other local groups to make use of it. Come and have a look, and if you think it might be suitable for your group, please get in contact with us.

The Friends Meeting House is signposted off the Burton Road in Low Bentham and is at LA2 7ET. There is a carpark in front of the Meeting House, or cars may be parked on the Burton Road. If you would like any more information, please ring Bentham 63152.

Please come. You will be made very welcome.



Quaker Meeting House OPEN AFTERNOON

Saturday 23rd September 2023

2.00pm – 4.30pm



We invite you to visit Bentham's historic Meeting House with its ancient burial ground and its peaceful allotments.

**There will be a short talk from 3.00 to 3.20 on
"Bentham's Quaker Meeting Houses".**

Tea and home-made cakes will be provided
throughout the afternoon.

We are keen to see more local groups make use of
the building. Why not come and see if it might
suit your needs?

**The Friends Meeting House, signposted,
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'Armstrongs' is now 'Featherstones'

By Shirley Brown, photo by Jon Brook

We are fortunate in Bentham that the hardware store so successfully managed as a family business by the Armstrong family for many, many years, now welcomes another family to carry on this much-needed local retailer. The shop on Main Street is managed by R & M Featherstone, brothers Richard and Matty, supported by their mother, Sandra. A genuine family-run business.



Sandra was born in Gravesend, Kent. She told me that a common local belief was that the name came about when the bodies of those who died from the plague in London were buried in the town in attempts to put an end to it: hence the name Graves-end. Whether or not this is true, Sandra was not fond of the town, and her family moved from there further along the south coast. Her husband worked at the Dungeness nuclear power station, in Kent. After this reached the end of its life, he was transferred to Heysham nuclear power station, and the family came to live in Morecambe.

Sandra's dad had been into shooting and fishing, so she knew a lot about the equipment needed for these activities. The family went to lots of car boot sales, had a market stall, then a small shop and an industrial unit on the Caton Road which they opened about 9 years ago selling fishing tackle. Sadly, her husband died of cancer 18 months ago. The family had to look to the future so set about finding another retail outlet, preferably where they could fulfil a lifelong ambition of selling hardware and anything else that customers want in a small rural town. Bentham fitted the bill perfectly.

As anyone will know who has been into the shop, Sandra, Rich and Matty are keen to discover what goods Bentham people require, and then they make every effort to include these on their shelves. They have felt very welcome here and are enjoying building up their trade. We wish them success and offer them our support.

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Stan Wilkinson's Memorial Tractor Run Supports St John's Hospice

By Tara Wilson

Our first Memorial Tractor Run in memory of the late Stanley Wilkinson to raise funds for St John's Hospice was held on the anniversary of Stan's passing, 30th July 2023.

We all met at Bentham Auction Mart for brews and cake, and then the 22 vintage tractors headed off on a 50-mile trip arriving at Arncliffe green for a lovely afternoon tea then coming back via Halton Gill. We raised £1,047 for St John's Hospice through kind donations and the sponsorship of B&W Funerals.

Thanks to Mandy Booth at 'Simply Delicious' for the boiler and cups, Lucy Knowles of Home Barn Foods for the afternoon tea boxes, and everyone who baked and served brews. The support we receive from our locals is wonderful and is very much appreciated.

Photos show the letter of thanks from St John's Hospice and happy group of participants at Arncliffe, l-r: Oliver Wilkinson (Stan's son), Alice (Stan's sister) & Dave Gill, Marilyn Wilkinson (Stan's widow), Jimmy Macdonald and Tara Wilson.





1922
BAR & KITCHEN

MUSIC NIGHTS

SUN 3RD SEP
2PM-4PM ST ROCKS

SUN 24TH SEP
2PM-4PM DENIS HORAN

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SAT 30TH SEP
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Your Garden or Allotment in September

By Joyce Knapp

September is one of the best months for us gardeners as we can at last take a step back and just admire the fruits of our labours, whether this be in the form of a beautiful flower border bursting with colour or perhaps an apple tree laden with ripening fruit. One of the flowers I particularly look forward to seeing this month is that of the perennial plant *Sedum* as this not only gives us a burst of colour, just as many other flowers may be starting to fade, but also attracts many types of insects. On warm sunny days these plants can be a hive of activity for butterflies and other insects, also providing a late source of pollen for any passing bees, then they go on to provide seeds for birds well into the autumn: definitely worth incorporating into any garden. If we are looking for a small shrub to add to our gardens that produces vibrant flowers this month, we need look no further than the *Fuchsia*. These plants do grow successfully in the wild, in hedgerows, in milder parts of our country and particularly in the Isle of Man, but we would be best advised to buy the cultivated varieties from a garden centre. The only maintenance needed is to cut all stems back just above ground level in late spring and, perhaps, use dry twigs for support in the summer months when new shoots can be a bit floppy, especially with the added weight of the flowers. This bush has always fascinated the youngsters in our family who are attracted to the pink/purple flowers formed to look like a ballet dancer and it is sometimes known as the 'ballerina bush'.



In September we can start to pick crops of apples, in fact I have made a note to pick my dessert apples at the beginning of the month, otherwise birds start to peck holes in them, and these holes very quickly become infested with wasps.

My main aim in owning an allotment is to produce good, healthy food for our family alongside giving nature a helping hand. I do however draw the line at feeding grey squirrels, so I tend to start harvesting my hazelnuts at the start of September, otherwise they get there first. It can take a few weeks to find nuts on the tree, especially as they are often hidden under curled leaves, so it pays to keep looking every time I visit the allotment. I guess the squirrels must get some nuts and bury them because the evidence appears each spring when young hazelnut saplings sprout up all around the allotment. In the spirit of preservation, these saplings are then donated to someone who will plant them on a river bank to help preserve the stability of the banking.

Nature Notes

By David Fisher

At Colt Park English Nature Reserve, we had three new moth records. What was especially good was the Garden tiger moth - my favourite moth as it was the first moth seen at ours, back in the 1970s. I've trapped at home and got a large Emerald Moth (*see right*). An Eyed Hawk-moth was seen up Goodenber Road in Benthams.

Their caterpillars feed off apple trees, and although I've got two apple trees at home on Low Benthams Road, not one Eyed Hawk-moth has been seen at ours.

Also, a new record for me at the café in Wray, a moth called a Yellow-tail were seen resting during the day. Sea Trout have been running up the Wenning.



Endings and Beginnings

By Mary Winter



'In my end is my beginning,' pronounced Mary Queen of Scots in 1587. Nobody can be sure whether she was referring to her hope of heaven, or to her conviction that her grisly death would ensure that her story would be told forever. But whatever she meant by these famous words; they have resonated with many people down the years. Perhaps this is because endings are such a huge part of our lives – and we long to find in them some promise of continuity.

Endings dominate our lives even before we are aware of them. The last day in the safety of the womb. The last day of our lives before we start school. Or is that a beginning? To most children it seems so – but slowly, young people also begin to sense the reality of endings, as is evidenced by the floods of tears shed at high school graduations.

The poignant blend of endings and beginnings is particularly strong for parents. We celebrate each new stage of our children's lives, but... 'Nobody ever tells you, 'My sister once remarked to me wistfully, 'that this is the last time your child will ever hold your hand.'

And then there is retirement, which is the ending I am currently facing. The time is right. 'I have finished the race. I have kept the faith'. But I am still finding it difficult; it is very strange not to think of myself as a teacher anymore.

Many people have tried to help, saying things such as 'You've done your bit; now you can do things for yourself.' I find, however, that I am stubbornly wedded to the idea of contributing to others. But there is absolutely no doubt that declining energy levels as we age makes some forms of 'contribution' impossible to sustain. Teaching is the most exhausting occupation I know – and as the parent, back in the day, of three children under five years of age, I know something about exhaustion! – and there is no way I can carry on effectively as a teacher any longer. It is a difficult ending, and hence I very much need to find in it some sort of new beginning.

Quaker 'Advices and Queries' asks us to 'try to discern the right time to undertake or relinquish responsibilities without undue pride or guilt.' Yep, trying to do that. But then it goes on, even more challengingly, to say, 'Attend to what love requires of you, which may not be great busyness.' Well, if I ever manage to avoid 'great busyness', there will no doubt be a headline about it in this publication – but the idea of 'attending to what love requires of me' is certainly one that deserves plenty of thought – perhaps carried out under more relaxing circumstances than driving up and down the M6 on my way to school. Could there be some kind of new beginning for me here?

Of course, I'll be shedding more than just the daily commute. Part of me fears that the lack of the structure for so long imposed by my job – bells and exam timetables and marking deadlines – will leave me with far too much latitude. People speak of the new freedom of retirement but, as a retired friend recently remarked to me, 'Freedom is the ultimate challenge'. I am only just starting to figure that one out – but therein lies yet another new beginning.

One thing I am absolutely convinced of is that it *matters* how I handle this new beginning. It matters not just for the sake of my own self-respect and the good I may yet do via volunteer work, writing etc, but for the sake of the younger people in my life who have half an eye on 'how Mary/Mum is doing'. Perhaps retired people, with their unique balance of freedom and still-vibrant gifts, have a unique opportunity to witness to that other Quaker injunction: 'Let your life speak'. Without the imposed structure of work, who actually am I? To what am I witnessing through my balance between looking after myself

(note to self: exercise more!), continuing to develop my gifts, and contributing to my family and to society? How will my life 'speak'?

'In my end is my beginning.' I truly hope so. Teachers are, after all, almost by definition in love with beginnings, and it would be a sorry state of affairs if we could not manage some of them in our own lives. To quote the final lines of Brendan Kennelly's poem 'Begin':

*Though we live in a world that dreams of ending,
That always seems about to give in,
Something that will not acknowledge conclusion
Insists that we forever begin.*



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VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

**CAN YOU
SPARE
2-6
HOURS A
MONTH?**

Bentham Youth Club relies on volunteers from our community to help our youth worker run the club.

We are desperately seeking volunteers for our club nights and committee.

**IF YOU CAN HELP
PLEASE GET IN
TOUCH!**

Our club is open to children and young people age 8 upwards. Please contact us for more information!

CONTACT KATIE HALL ON 07534697572/
BENTHAMYOUTHCLUB@GMAIL.COM/ OR FACEBOOK BENTHAM
YOUTH CLUB.



COME TO OUR YOUTH CLUB

**TUESDAYS AT
BENTHAM
METHODIST
CHURCH**

**JUNIORS (AGE 8 -
12) 4PM - 5.30PM
SENIORS (12+)
6PM - 7.30PM**

Bentham Youth Club is for young people around the Bentham area. We run term time weekly sessions, where young people can be with and make friends, enjoy a warm safe environment and most of all have fun doing lots of different activities.

**IF YOUR CHILD IS
INTERESTED GET
IN TOUCH!**

We are desperately seeking volunteers to help keep our club open. If you can spare us a couple of hours a month, please get in touch!

CONTACT KATIE HALL ON 07534697572/
BENTHAMYOUTHCLUB@GMAIL.COM/ OR FACEBOOK BENTHAM
YOUTH CLUB.

People Page

Letters

Hello Bentham News,

I never thought I would be writing this for the BN. Today is August 2nd, another rainy day in our long felt wet days since the heat of a month or two ago. Wet, Wet, Wet, you might say.

My wife was out, as usual, about 9-ish in the morning, with our two Jack Russells on the footpath towards Low Bentham, (or should I be saying Lower Bentham? Who knows?). Many in Bentham know her by sight and some by name. It was raining still. Surprise! Traffic was sparse, not being school time now, and the road was virtually empty from the High Bentham sign right up to the school. My wife and the two Jack Russells had reached the dip near the Telephone Exchange, whereupon a lone vehicle approached from Low Bentham heading towards town. No other vehicle in sight, the motorist had the whole road to themselves, but what did the person do next?

The answer defies logic and manners! This person, rather than **alter the line** of driving, drove through a large puddle near the Telephone Exchange, which caused a wave of water to shoot high into the air and across the footpath. Yes, you've guessed it, **this wave of water, completely showered my wife from head to toe, along with the "Jacks"**. Not only were all three soaked, but the force of the water covered my wife's glasses as well. Nil visibility now!

How would you feel about this? I don't think the dogs took too kindly to it either! So, here's the summary. Empty road, raining, puddles in a few places, one vehicle, result: **showered for free!** I wonder how the driver felt if they were able to see the results of what happened? But, as water dries off and skin doesn't leak, **we think it's a wet joke!**

Graham Morris
High Bentham

Dear BN

I read Keith Hartley's article in the August edition with interest being of a certain age myself with limited mobility as a result of a stroke a few years ago. Some weeks ago I received a speeding penalty notice for driving at 32 mph passed the golf club on the road to Ingleton. I trust Northallerton made good use of this boost to their income. However, this is in no way a solution to Bentham's traffic problems. In my opinion it is the almost universal disregard of the yellow line parking restrictions (particularly at the Robin Lane and Goodenber Road junctions) that causes hazards for both pedestrians and motorists alike. If a traffic warden made some appearances in Bentham, then, maybe, inconsiderate, lazy drivers might change their ways. It is true that limited disability parking places necessitate brief drop-offs for the post office, chemist and some food shopping, but these are exceptions. Finally, some delivery drivers and youths driving tractors at speed on Robin Lane, Station Road and Main Street can pose a danger.

Ken Robertson, High Bentham

Dear BN

The most cheerful way to arrive in Bentham these last years has been by train. To be greeted by the display of great colourful tubs of flowers has been such a warm welcome and the effort of those who have tended them so appreciated. It would be such a shame if no one is able to take over from the sterling work of the Bloomin' Bentham team. Do think if you might be able to join up with a few others to keep the station bright and welcoming? I'm sure those who have had to hang up their watering cans will be happy to put you in touch with anyone else who offers – and to give advice and support to get you going for the next season. They'll be able to suggest what to plant, when to plant, where to get the plants and how much work is involved. Do think about it and contact them via Bentham News.

Annie Neligan, High Bentham

Personal Thanks

Rebecca Alderson (nee Ellershaw)

Rebecca's family would like to thank relatives, friends and neighbours for their cards, flowers and messages of condolence. Thank you to everyone who joined us for the funeral service at St Margaret's Church, Hawes, and for the generous donations which were divided between The Teesside Hospice, Yorkshire Cancer Care and the Church. We are so grateful for all the love and support we have received. Special thanks to Hayley.

Kit and Bernard Ellershaw, Low Bentham

Thanks/Notices

The coffee morning organised by the NSPCC on August 5th raised £587.07 for funds. The committee would like to thank all who donated items to sell, raffle prizes, delicious baking and also to all those who helped on the day.

As always, a warm welcome awaits anyone who would like to join the committee or offer support at any future fundraising events.

Since the report on the open garden on 9th July, a further £50 was added to the total, making a final total for that event of **£430 for NSPCC funds.**

Molly and Jane Preston held a 'Stand Up to Cancer Research' coffee morning on 22nd July and want to thank all the traders in Bentham and Ingleton for their donations, cash and goods. They also thank the fantastic team of family and friends who helped to make the morning run smoothly and the community for their support in attending the event. **The total raised, including online donations, was £1,525.**

Kay Piper writes: On Thursday 10th August 2023, forty 'Old Scholars' of Bentham Grammar School met at the Golf Club for their annual reunion (*page 39*). The majority of Old Scholars had travelled a fair distance to attend. Sadly, there were very few 'local' Old Scholars present - Wendy Dowbiggin, Ruth Bateson, Andrew Slinger Mary Thornborough, and me. The event was thoroughly enjoyed by all present and some had not met for 40 or even 50 years! Those present had attended BGS in the 40s, 50s and 60s. In an endeavour to encourage more local Old Scholars to attend the next reunion (2024), I will put a notice in the June BN with details of time, date and venue.

New Rector Arrives in Bentham

By Revd Canon Peter Greenwood

My name is Peter Greenwood. At the moment I am the Rector of Gillingham, Milton on Stour and Silton in Salisbury Diocese. I was delighted to accept the invitation from the Bishop of Leeds to be Team Rector in the Ingleborough benefice. I am very much looking forward to living and working in Bentham and beyond.

A little bit about me - as you've guessed from my family name, I'm from Yorkshire. I grew up in Wakefield. I've worked for the Church of England in Belper and Silsden as well as North Dorset, where I live and work now. In between Belper and Silsden I was a mission partner with the Church Mission Society for five years and vicar of Islamabad in the Church of Pakistan.

I love walking, cycling and generally being outside, and I am looking forward to getting to know your patch of the world. I love my job too, and so, whilst I will miss the churches and communities of North Dorset, at the same time I am looking forward to worshipping God with you, getting to know you, following the risen Jesus, and sharing faith and fun, good times and harder times together. I'm looking forward to meeting you. God bless.





Ofsted: Remembrance of Things Past (Part 2)

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

In the August Benthams News, moved by the death of Ruth Perry, I wrote the first half of an article about the first Ofsted Inspection of Settle High School which took place in the 1990s. For those who haven't read it, what it mainly conveyed was the preparation for the inspection by the Head of Art, Peter Huby. He was viscerally opposed to the regime which had been set up, in his view, to frighten teachers and to subdue the profession rather than maintain standards by monitoring and then supporting schools in the drive for excellence. By the time the dozen or so inspectors arrived, he had set up round the school several larger-than-life cut outs of Magritte-style faceless inspectors with their bowler hats and briefcases. In addition, he had an actor friend of his (David Pearce from Benthams) play the part of an extra inspector who had his office in the school entrance. The stage was set: now read on!

The second phase of Peter's challenge to the inspectors involved filming what was going on in the school during the inspection. This mainly involved footage of David in his 'office' doing inspector-type things such as looking in his filing cabinet, making notes, etc. At times he would emerge to take measurements of children's heads to add to his collection of data. At first glance, he gave the impression that he was completely in control and engaged in a rational enterprise, but as time went on his behaviour became increasingly bizarre: at one point he cuts odd shapes out of paper and pins them to the wall, and another time he manages to set fire to his desk and has to clamber up to stamp it out. All the while there is a soundtrack of Peter explaining his ideas about Ofsted, using quotations from Václav Havel's essay 'The Power of the Powerless' to explain how we can come to 'live in a lie', which is what Ofsted forces teachers (and indeed its own inspectors) to do.

The climax of the film took place on the football pitch immediately outside the classroom where the inspectors had their office, so it would have been impossible for them not to have had a good view of events. Let me describe it for you.

A football game is in progress when suddenly the whistle is blown, and everyone stops playing. Out of the school emerges David in his full inspector's gear with briefcase and

umbrella. Walking ahead of him is one of the school's teachers. They reach the cricket nets, and the teacher is turned around, bound to one of the stanchions and blindfolded. A charge is read out and a star is pinned to his chest. I still find what happens next shocking, but it must be watched if the full force of Peter Huby's challenge is to be appreciated. David pulls out a gun (one, I should stress, which does not fire bullets although it looks and sounds terrifyingly authentic.) He then proceeds to 'execute' the teacher and a line of inspector cut-outs before turning the gun on himself to end the madness that his existence has become. To finish, students stretcher off the bodies and the whistle sounds for the football game to resume.

What, you may ask, did the inspectors make of all this? The word on the street was that they demanded the film be handed over to them, even though it was to be presented as a piece of coursework (they had the power, they reckoned, to confiscate coursework.) Fine: when they had disappeared with the confiscated coursework, Peter would create a second, identical, version of the film. No one can verify this so many years after the event, but it could make sense. Whatever the case, it must have disturbed them, surely?

As I wrote in Part 1, not everyone was at ease with this act of resistance and there were inevitably repercussions. I don't think the Art Department was given a glowing report and Peter left the school not long after which meant that the school and the profession lost one of the most creative and inspiring teachers we had ever known. But the film took on a life of its own. At first, VHS copies circulated in schools, especially those which were about to endure their own Ofsted inspection. But later, an edited version appeared on YouTube, and this is where you can view it for yourself (*a still from the YouTube video is included at the top of this article*). Simply type 'The Art of Peter Huby' into your search engine. Once you have found the site, click on the heading 'Films' and you will find it listed.

As well as having a huge creative talent and a penetrating intellect, Peter also had great foresight. He could see where such a system would inevitably lead, and he has been proved right. His act of resistance did not stop what was going to happen, but it lifted the spirits of some of us and exposed the true nature of the system which relied on making teachers afraid of a 'power' greater than themselves; a system which would lose balance and rely more and more on 'Data' to measure what was going on. It would have been better to use some data but put more trust in teachers and work with them to identify the strengths and weaknesses of schools so they could together celebrate success and eliminate those weaknesses. Recently there have been some hopeful signs that the tide is turning, but it will always be too late for Ruth Perry.

Postscript About Peter Huby:

If you do access Peter's site, not only will you find the Ofsted film, but you will get a good idea of what kind of person we lost from the profession. You will discover images of the extraordinary house that he and his partner Linda have built near Kalamata in Greece. You will discover the other films he has made, and you will be able to view his many paintings and sculptures which were recently shown in a retrospective exhibition in the University of Hull Gallery. You will be able to read articles he has written, and can learn about the novels he has published.

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e-mail sue@tuffett.co.uk**

Bentham Police News

Members of the team from your Safer Neighbourhood Team covering the Bentham, Ingleton and Settle area are PS1006 Paul Evans, PS231 Ikhlaz 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.



There were **45 incidents** reported between 10th July and 12th August 2023.

These included: A sudden death, 3 missing persons from a children's home found safe and well, road traffic collision involving a single vehicle in Low Bentham, road traffic collision involving 2 vehicles in Low Bentham, a sexual crime, environmental anti-social behaviour with thick black smoke from Angus, concern about an abandoned caravan, theft, cash found, check on broken down vehicle, fraud involving Lloyds Bank, WhatsApp and Apple email, suspect vehicle on Butterbergh, anti-social behaviour involving a dog and a quad bike, domestic dispute, civil dispute, road related offence with wheel spinning on Main Street, suspicious circumstances with a rifle on show in a vehicle which was removed by police and 3 incidents of anti-social behaviour in Low Bentham.

Requests for Information:

14th July – theft of silver single axle trailer BHX PE13 from Lodge Hall Farm, Selside, Horton: any information please call 101 (ref 0552)

14th July - theft of generator from Kingsdale Head, Peat Gate to Braida Garth, Thornton-in-Lonsdale: any information please call 101 (ref 001)

Overnight Thursday 20th July - Friday 21st July - a caravan repair workshop on Main Street, Ingleton, was broken into and a white Swift Conqueror 570 caravan stolen from the premises. The caravan is white with purple sticker strips and at the time it was stolen had the number plate EY16 YGU. The last sighting of the caravan was at around 11pm on the A65, New Road, Ingleton heading towards Settle: any information please contact North Yorkshire Police on '101' (incident number 12230135875).

Crime Prevention Advice – Theft of Caravans and Campervans:

Craven area has seen an increase in theft of caravans and campervans, so if you own a caravan or campervan, please review your security, and report any suspicious activity on 101 (or 999 if a crime is in progress).

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**

Bentham and District Dementia Friendly Communities

By Jonathan Scott (chair of trustees BDDFC)



Caroline (above, far left) leading the choir Every Song Singers at the Friendly Community Breakfast Club gathering on 3rd August. Anyone wishing to join this singing group please contact Pioneer Projects, 015242 62672. The Breakfast Club 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. Please contact Jonathan Scott (Jonathan.scott4@nhs.net). Photo right shows Caroline and the Wednesday morning singing group at the Looking Well on 9th August. Contact Pioneer Projects if you are interested.



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Town Hall

Every Tuesday,

Craft Club 10am-12noon, WR

Dance 9.30am - 12noon, LH (*except 12th*)

Every Wednesday

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

Every Wednesday

Pilates, 9.30 - 10.30 am, LH

Every Thursday & Friday 6-7pm

Sandra Tallon Yoga BR

Thursday 7th September

WI, 7-10.30pm, LH

Town Hall - Meetings

Monday 4th September

LH 7.30pm, Full 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

2nd - Church of the Good Shepherd, T. Fells

9th - Community Link Cafe

16th - Mencap

23rd - Bentham Playing Fields Association

30th - Springfield Bowling Club

WI (see pages 36-37)

High Bentham

Thursday 7th, 7:30pm, Bentham LH

Low Bentham and District

Thursday 21st 7pm in the Victoria Institute

Tatham Fells

Tuesday 12th 7.30pm at the Old School



Ewecross Historical Society (see page 43)

Heather Lane: The Folly in Settle. 7.30 pm on Monday 25th September in High Bentham Methodist Church. Visitors welcome: £3.

Bentham Show (Front page)

Saturday 2nd September

Events in September

Footpath (see page 35)



For all September walks, meet first at Lairgill for 9.30am - this includes the Wednesday 20th walk which was originally shown as 9.00am in the members guided walks calendar.

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

Wednesday 6th. Graham Cooper, 07802-837507, Lune Bridges, 5 miles.

Friday 15th. David and Sheila Longton, 015242-61838, The Tolkien Trail, 8 miles.

Wednesday 20th. Valerie Eccles and Mary Pickstone, 07979-607191, Ribblehead and Chapel-le-Dale, 7 miles.

Friday 29th. Mary and Kate Taylor, 015242-61672, A Hodder Trod at Whitewell, 7.5 miles.

Bentham Pantry Club

Every Wednesday

11am - 12.30pm and 3.30pm - 4.30pm

All are welcome to drop in for a chat, a brew and to top up on food and groceries. Entrance - left side of Bentham Methodist Church

Quaker Meeting House

Open Afternoon

Saturday 23 September 2 - 4.30pm

(Full details are on page 9 and see Mary

Winter's article on pages 16/17)

Bentham Fire Station (see page 23)

Thursday, 14th & 28th September 10:00am

Bentham & District Dementia Friendly Community Breakfast Club

Bentham Golf Club

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

Victoria Institute

Every Monday

9:00am - 12.30pm, Office Open, Enquires/
bookings.

11:30am - 2pm, Community Link Café.

Light lunches and activities.

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

September 4th, 11th & 18th

Every Tuesday

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

Every Wednesday

9am - 12.30pm, 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.

Thursday

Low Benthams WI meeting 21st Sept 7pm

Every Friday

10am - 12noon, Post Office Services.

Saturday 9th September

BOON DAY 1pm - 3pm

Please come along and lend a hand

Every Sunday

11am - 12:30pm Cornerstone Church Service.

Burton in Lonsdale Films

Saturday 2nd September 'The Unlikely
Pilgrimage of Harold Fry'.

7th October 'The Banshees of Inisherin'.

Films start 7.30pm in the village hall

St John the Baptist Parish Church

(New Rector - see page 19)

Friday 22nd September: Harvest Quiz
with Cheese and Wine in the Victoria
Institute Low Benthams.

Sunday 24th September: 10.30am: Harvest
Festival at St John the Baptist with the giving
of posies. Any fresh produce will be donated
to the Community Link Café and the long-
life tins etc will be donated to the Food Bank.

Pioneer Projects Looking Well Studios

**PIONEER
PROJECTS**

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

Every Tuesday 9.30 - 11am, Little Notes
music & fun session for pre-school. In the
library.

Tuesday 12th September 2pm to 4pm, Book
Group

Every Wednesday 10am 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*

Benthams 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!

Methodist Church

Sept 11th and every Monday 10 - 11.30 am

Toddle-In for parents/carers of children from
birth to school age. £2 per family includes
drinks and refreshments.

(Sunday 1st October **Harvest Festival** 11am
Morning worship followed by a Bring and Share
Lunch. Wednesday 4th October 10-11.30am
Coffee Morning. Supporting Benthams Pantry
Club with goods to be displayed in church and
donations for refreshments at Coffee morning.

Hornby Pool 5-Year Anniversary

By Roger Carter

Good news! It is almost 5 years since the Lune Valley Swimming Pool in Hornby re-opened after being taken over and refurbished by the community. To mark this notable achievement there will be celebration parties held at the Hornby Institute on Saturday 21st October. There will be a family party in the afternoon and a 70s disco party for the 'grown-ups' in the evening. Fancy dress optional.

For more details and tickets please speak to Georgia, Scott or members of the team on 01524 805666.

Website - www.lunevalleypool.com; Facebook - [lune valley swimming pool](https://www.facebook.com/lunevalleyswimmingpool).

Email - poolmanager@lunevalleypool.com Direct line pool telephone (01524) 805666.

Lune Valley Community Society Ltd Charity no 1176086

Lunesdale Hornby Probus Club: September Speaker Programme Water, water everywhere!

After the soggy summer break, the meetings begin again in September with two very topical subjects - **Water and Climate Change!** Two very interesting presentations, not to be missed. Guests are always very welcome.

On **Monday 4th September** our speaker, **Lionel Wilson**, will pose the question: **How much water is there on Mars, and should we care?** Bearing in mind the current planned Mars missions this talk is well timed.

On **Monday 18th September**, **Robin McIlveen** will be speaking on **Weather and Climatic Events**, past and possible future. Robin has visited us previously to discuss weather and environmental issues, and, on this occasion, he will also address extreme weather and climate change. Subjects much to the fore these days ensuring lively discussion.

Lunesdale Probus Club meetings are held on the first and third Monday of each month at the Hornby Village Institute at 10.15am for coffee and chat before each meeting. Guests, friends and visitors are always welcome. No obligation to join - just come along and enjoy a friendly social break. For further information on this or other Lunesdale Probus Club matters please contact Roger Carter 015242-22283 or Email - hornby.carts@ic24.net



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Bentham 10k Back With a Bang

By Nick Armstrong

Bentham 10k road race returned on Sunday 16th July with 62 competitors completing the undulating course that starts and finishes at Bentham Golf Club. Runners from 13 different clubs were represented from all across the northwest including Barrow, Blackburn, Saltaire, Trawden, Ulverston and runners closer to home from Bentham and Lancaster amongst others.

The race was won by James Brassington from Lancaster & Morecambe Athletics Club in a time of 37 minutes and 47 seconds. John Brassington was second and Thomas McGrattan third also both from Lancaster & Morecambe AC. The first Bentham Beagles man was Simon Denny, 8th overall in 43:38. The first lady finisher was Sarah Gibbs in 42 minutes and 30 seconds, with Heather Travis from Hoad Hill Harriers second and Amy Singleton from Walney Wind Cheetahs third. The first Bentham Beagles lady was Angela Tarlton, 17th overall in 47:12.

In the team prize categories, it was no surprise that the men's competition was won by Lancaster & Morecambe AC as they had first 3 finishers overall. The ladies team prize was taken by Walney Wind Cheetahs. Thank you to all the volunteers and supporters that came out to support the event. We will be releasing the date of the 2024 race in the next few weeks.

In other news, the extremely popular ultramarathons of the Lakeland 50 and 100 took place at the end of July. Bentham Beagles were represented in both distances with Jenny and Nigel Beasant completing the 50-mile event in 18 hours and 42 minutes. In the 100-mile event Adrian Leigh made his 8th attempt at this distance having completed it 3 previous times. Unfortunately, it was not Adrian's year, as he had to withdraw after 26 miles due to being hampered by a heavy cold. Other runners from the Bentham area who completed distances at Lakeland include Viki Hindle and Dave Ramsay both in the 50-mile version. Congratulations to anyone else from Bentham that completed this now iconic event.

For more information about the Beagles or to see our autumn training schedule please visit our website www.benthambeagles.co.uk or email benthambeagles@live.co.uk where we will be happy to answer any questions.



Photos by Nick Armstrong show Bentham 10k first 3 finishers (left to right) James Brassington, John Brassington and Thomas McGrattan



Destination Wellbeing

By Rod Tickner: rod.tickner@cloud.com

Northern Trains Year in Industry students have launched a new campaign with the Leeds -Morecambe Community Rail Partnership (CRP) to promote improved wellbeing. The campaign "Destination Wellbeing" encourages accessing the railway to build on passenger's wellbeing through five key themes. Each theme is linked to locations along the Bentham Line (Leeds-Morecambe route): Embracing Culture for Leeds; Exploring our Heritage for Saltaire; Getting Active for Clapham; Reconnecting with Friends for Lancaster and the Great Outdoors for Morecambe.

The Year in Industry (YII) students produced itineraries for each of the five locations, highlighting attractions and encouraging the public to use The Bentham Line to improve their wellbeing on a planned day out. The campaign's focus is on loneliness and isolation, initially with regard to university students, inspired by the group's own experiences during the COVID-19 lockdown at the start of their undergraduate studies in 2020. The project has since developed to support members of the communities along the Bentham Line, such as Leeds, Lancaster, and Bradford. The aim of the campaign is to encourage everyone to use the railway to improve their wellbeing.

The campaign was officially launched on 3rd July in Leeds and will to be shown in stations along the route and shared on social media. Beth, Adam H, Adam L, Ibrahim, Hamish, Ben, David, Archie, Patrick, Sam and Jasdeep have been working with their line managers in the world of professional work on the railway since September 2022. They have been helped with this project by Gerald Townson and Brian Howarth from the Community Rail Partnership and now they go back to university to finish their degrees. Gerald said; "It has been a real pleasure to welcome Northern's latest cohort of Year-in-Industry students from across the country to the Bentham Line and introduce them to the world of Community Rail".

Photo shows the five posters unveiled at the launch

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The Little Owl that Thought it was a Chimney Sweep

By Shirley Brown

Around teatime on Wednesday 2nd August, Issy Carr was sitting in her living room at Lowther Hill Farm when some soot started to fall down the chimney. After a slight pause, more soot fell. And after another slight pause, a Little Owl landed in the hearth, looking dazed, bedraggled and covered in soot.

Luckily, Issy hadn't lit her fire yet, and also luckily the fireguard was in place so the owl couldn't fly round the room covering everything in soot. Issy immediately rang her neighbours, Tony and Pauline, who live in a caravan next door. When they arrived Issy had the little owl cuddled up inside her cardigan. Between them they gently cleaned all the feathers with a damp cloth and the talons which were clinging on to Pauline's fingers. The little owl was quite calm, as if it knew that these people were trying to help and meant no harm. Pauline said it was a privilege to be so close to such a beautiful wild creature (*see photo*). Just look at those amazing eyes, and the way the owl can fit into Pauline's hand!

After about half an hour, the owl became restless, was clearly sufficiently over its trauma to be released, so was taken outside and set free.

There have been Little Owls nesting in Issy's barn wall for many years. She thinks this was one of the adult owls as the young had only recently fledged and still had lots of fluffy feathers. Sometimes a Little Owl comes and sits on the fence post that Issy can see from her living room window – she likes to think it looks in and recognises that this is where it landed up unexpectedly one windy day in early August.





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You Don't Have to Dig!

By Bob Moore – Chair Ingleborough Archaeology Group (IAG)

Those of you who have watched 'Meet the Ancestors', 'Time Team' or more recently 'Digging for Britain', will have the image that archaeology is just about people with unusual hair styles and jazzy sweaters kneeling in mud, trowel in hand.

Certainly, the excavation of possible archaeological remains is an important aspect of research. As a member of Ingleborough Archaeology Group (IAG), I have been privileged to take part in many excavations over the past few years. During last year's excavation we discovered a Bronze Age flint arrowhead in the site of an early medieval (6th to 10th century) shieling (a hut for seasonal pasture) site at Clapdale. Research by the group and with members also taking part in the Stories in Stone project, has thrown new light on the early medieval occupation of the area around Ingleborough. IAG has completed the shieling project with an excavation at Clapham Bottoms in July.

Excavation can only be justified if it is a means to answer specific research questions. Prior to excavation and as an alternative to it, there are many other activities IAG members are involved in from documentary research to field walking and surveying. A major project currently being run by IAG is the surveying, measuring and recording of various Cairns ranging from the Neolithic to the Bronze Age. Looking at aerial photographs as well as LIDAR images often prompts research. LIDAR shows in detail many features not visible from the ground that can then be verified by fieldwork.

Of course, not all members of the group either can or wish to spend time in fieldwork, so for all members IAG has an autumn and spring series of talks, with summer walks and visits focused on giving a better understanding of archaeology. Our walk in May followed a talk in January on Roman Roads and in September we will have a guided tour of the Raikes Road Burial Ground following our April talk on this.

If you are curious to find out more or already have an interest in archaeology, check the IAG website

ingleborougharchaeologygroup.org.uk

where you will find regular updates of our programme, online copies of field reports and other links. You can also email IAG at ingleborougharchaeologygroup@gmail.com. Talks and walks are open both to members and to visitors who are welcome for a £3 entrance. Talks are on the third Monday of the month at Ingleton Community Centre starting at 7.30pm. Autumn talks begin on Monday 18th September.



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Town Council Meeting on 24th July 2023

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 this meeting except Cllr Jones from whom apologies were received. However, no North Yorkshire Councillor, Police, Public Safety Officer nor any members of the public attended save for your BN reporter.

It had been hoped that a second July meeting would not be required but a couple of planning applications had been received since the meeting on 3rd July which needed to be dealt with. Those and the bus service were the only matters of note that were discussed.

Planning Matters:

New Applications:

ZA23/25145/CPE. Application for a certificate of lawful development for the removal of B1 Restriction Existing Dwelling House to allow an unrestricted dwelling. Fold Bank, Mewith Lane, Mewith, Bentham, LA2 7AX

No objection

Also, an application received by the Clerk on the day of the meeting, permission for repairs to the conservatory at Grove Hill House went through **without objection**.

Granted:

2023/24876/TPO T2 & T3 Pine - minor pruning to improve clearance over drive as indicated on images. Ellerburn, Doctors Hill, Low Bentham, LA2 7DZ

ZA23/24984/TPO T1 Pine - fell, T2 Poplar - fell. 12 High Croft, High Bentham, LA2 7FE

ZA23/25038/VAR Application to vary 2 condition (approved plans) and 8 (implementation of SDCS) of planning approval referenced '2022/24039/FUL' to remove air source heat pump. Land North of Fern House, Burton Road, Low Bentham, LA2 7ER

The Bus Service:

The Town Council have been invited to comment on a paper received from North Yorkshire Council regarding a 'review and renewal of subsidised bus services.' We have two. From Bentham to Kirkby Lonsdale which operates daily but is under-subscribed, and from Bentham to Lancaster which operates weekly and is over subscribed. It was universally felt that the fundamental problem is getting North Yorkshire to subsidise a bus service that takes passengers over the county boundary and into Lancashire despite most Bentham residents having to attend hospital appointments at Lancaster Royal Hospital and doing their supermarket shopping in the town. As Cllr. Ryan pointed out we have a Lancaster postcode and are part of the Morecambe Bay Health Trust, and we look west for practically all our services.

Ideally the Wednesday minibus service would run 2 or 3 times a week, but the Town Council have been informed the bus is in use for other trips and the service cannot be increased. The daily bus service to Kirkby Lonsdale is under-used and the question must be how far can North Yorkshire be expected to subsidise a service which is not well used?

To try and find a way forward which benefits Bentham, the Town Council floated the idea of exploring the option of hiring the Age Concern minibus to augment the Wednesday service and will seek more information from North Yorkshire about the usage of the two services to see whether the service to Kirkby Lonsdale could be dovetailed into a different schedule to make it more attractive for Benthamers to use. Further, given the 'spend' once in Lancaster it was agreed there would be no harm in approaching Lancashire County Council to see if they might help with a solution.

Other matters:**Government funding:**

Julian Smith MP had written to say there is money available for defibrillators and swimming pools! On the basis if you don't ask you don't get the Town Council are putting in a bid for 3 new defibrillators, but the same principle doesn't apply to a new swimming pool!

Bentham Bonfire:

There will be one this year on 29th October – watch this space for further details nearer the time.

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Five September Guided Walks, including a ramble "In the Steps of J.R.R. Tolkien"

By Don Cartledge

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

The walk description for the first walk on **Saturday 2nd** was detailed in last month's Bentham News. Colin Stroud and Alison Kinder (07854-789311) are the leaders and the walk covers 4.5 miles to Hampsfell from Grange.



There is an easy 5-mile ramble on **Wednesday 6th** led by Graham Cooper (07802-837507). This circular walk starts at Bull Beck car park, Caton, and goes along a short stretch of the disused railway track, now part of the Millennium Way multi-user path. We then follow the south bank of the Lune to the Crook O' Lune bridge, which we cross, and then take the north bank path to Halton. Crossing Halton Bridge, we follow the disused railway track back to Bull Beck.

On **Friday 15th** David and Sheila Longton (015242-61838) take us on the **Tolkien Trail**. The trail passes Stonyhurst College, the esteemed boarding school where Tolkien stayed regularly and where he worked on 'Lord of the Rings'. The walk starts at Hurst Green, the village where Tolkien discovered his inspiration for Hobbiton, so this will add another dimension to an already great 8-mile walk. It starts from the Memorial Hall car park at Hurst Green (honesty box). We stroll through the pretty village before taking the track down past Lambing Clough to the river where we join the Ribble Way. We walk alongside the river until the Hodder branches off and we follow this river until just beyond Hodder Place where we take a footpath through some pleasant woodland. Then it's across fields to the imposing Stonyhurst College where we will have time for a good look at the interesting buildings before skirting Fox Fall Woods, through Mill Wood and back to the cars.

On **Wednesday 20th** Valerie Eccles and Mary Pickstone (07979-607191) have a fairly easy 7-mile walk for us. Starting at Ribbleshead, it passes under the impressive viaduct with views of Ingleborough to the left and the flanks of Wharfedale to the right. Approximately halfway through the walk, there is the opportunity to visit St. Leonard's Church at Chapel-le-Dale, famously painted by J.M.W. Turner in the early nineteenth century. Having made our way up to Ellerbeck, we enjoy an easy stroll below Wharfedale with views to the viaduct most of the way. Towards the end of the walk, we see the isolated signal box at Bleamoor Sidings and pass under the Settle to Carlisle railway and descend back to the start.

Finally, on **Friday 29th** there is a 7.5-mile Hodder trod at Whitewell, the leaders being Mary and Kate Taylor (015242-61672). Parking near the church at Whitewell, we cross the road and climb steep steps on the right at Seed Hill, following the path to the second iron kissing gate. Turning right, onto the road, then left to the end of a wood, we reach a stile and follow the footpath over a limestone terrace to a ford. It's then slightly uphill, across another ford, up a steep slope to a farm drive where we walk down to Stakes Farm and the steppingstones and on to the road at Doeford Bridge. Crossing the bridge, we continue to Leagram Mill, Knot Barn, Higher Greystonley, through the yard at Fair Oak and on to New Laund, returning to the start via steppingstones or, if flooding, via the road.



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Low Bentham & District

By Kathryn Brownsord

The July meeting began with the monthly newsletter from the Federation and other business, we then had a fun evening in the garden of the Victoria Institute. An A-to-Z quiz compiled by Christine Jennings and Sheila Brown on plants and items related to the building was undertaken and the weather was even kind for us.

At the beginning of July a few of our ladies went on the Bibby's trip to Buxton and Bakewell Well-dressing. The weather was awful with very heavy rain all day, but the displays were lovely to see.

The raffle was drawn by Betty Atkinson, and she luckily drew her own ticket. The Craft and Chat Day was held at my home with a tasty lunch provided. A few of our members undertook the walk round Settle to see the Flower Pot People (*above*).



As always do look out for our posters advising our next meeting. We meet on 21st September, the third Thursday every month at 7pm in the Victoria Institute, Low Bentham. We hope to see you there.

High Bentham

By Jan Stuiver

High Bentham WI met on 3rd August to listen to a fascinating talk on 'Charity and the Poor Law', with reference to our local area. The speaker was Mike Winstanley, a local historian, well known to members of Ewecross Historical Society. The talk highlighted that government attitudes to poverty and the poor have changed very little over the centuries. There was, and still is, an attitude that some poor people deserve support (The Deserving Poor) and others do not. Charities have always played a large part in helping different groups and categories of people in need,



from supported housing for the elderly to accommodation and training for orphans or people with disabilities.

Many local schools were started in the 17th and 18th centuries with gifts of money or property left in their wills by wealthy men and women. After the talk members enjoyed the opportunity to chat to Mike informally while we enjoyed our refreshments. A big thankyou to Angela who brought along a delicious quiche to add to our usual tea/coffee and biscuits.

We have arranged a range of trips and outings for the coming months. The August one is a walk from Chapel-le-Dale Church to Philpin Lane.



In September we plan a visit to the Larch Cottage Garden Centre (*above*) and Red Barn Gallery near Melkinton. In October some members will be going to the annual 'Pots in the Pens' ceramics and pottery event at Penrith auction mart. In November we will visit Blackwell House at Bowness-on-Windermere when they have their annual Autumn Fair.

Our next meeting will be on Thursday 7th September at 7.30pm in the Town Hall. Our speaker will be Alison Priestly from Craftopia in Ingleton. We are always happy to welcome visitors to our meetings. If any members wish to enter the monthly competition, please remember to bring along any handcrafted item. Not necessarily made by yourself!

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Bentham Golf Club plays host to Old Scholars' reunion

By Ian McCart

'It taught me so much.' 'It wasn't really the right sort of school for me.' 'I loved every minute.' 'I hated it!' 'I got six of the best – and didn't deserve it!' 'The countryside surrounding the school was marvelous.'

These are a variety of comments from the attendees at the recent Bentham Grammar School Old Scholars' reunion lunch held at Bentham Golf Club on 10th August. One thing, above all else, that those attending had in common – irrespective of their view of the school's efforts to educate them! – was a huge dollop of nostalgia. So it was that 35+ ex-pupils from the school met for a 'chinwag' with old school friends and colleagues, rekindling memories, reminiscing, telling of the highlights, the stories, from their own particular era – some scurrilous, some moving, a good many hilarious, and all entertaining.

Perhaps the 'star' guest was a former teacher at the school and long-time Bentham resident – Mrs Kay Piper – art teacher from the 1960s era and still, as she was described in a recent school memoir publication, 'bubbly and enthusiastic'. Only now, of course, she didn't need to tell a truculent class of pupils to be quiet! Also attending, another stalwart of Bentham, Wendy Dowbiggin, who attended the school in the 1950s. Wendy, however, couldn't lay claim to being the earliest attendee at the grammar school – two ex-pupils at the lunch had attended the school in the 1940s, with one of them starting at the school in 1946, prior to the school moving in the following year to the Old Rectory in Low Bentham. In addition, some well-known local Bentham names were present – a Slinger and a Priestley among others.

Also, on display at the meeting was an extensive collection of Bentham Grammar School memorabilia. A fascinating collection of school photographs through the decades, many copies of *The Crescent*, the school's annual magazine, a host of old (and more recent) school uniforms (the school cap and boys' blazer being particularly poignant for this reporter!), including the varying designs for the school tie, and news items of interest from the local press. All of it, in one way or another, helping to roll back the years.

That these annual 'get-togethers' continue to be successfully held is down to the tireless efforts of the two organisers, themselves both Old Scholars, providing a stability which is essential to the successful continuation of the Old Scholars' Association. Plans are already afoot to meet again at the golf club in 2024. And to cap a splendid lunch – provided by the golf club, for which thanks are offered – and a boisterous and lively meeting, there was a generous helping of warm Bentham sunshine!

Did you attend Bentham Grammar School? If so, would you like to join the Old Scholars' Association? If you are interested, please email Linda Seed: l.r.seed@gmail.com

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News from the Fells of a School Award, Parish Council, Damaged Cattle Grid and an Enthralling Music Concert

By Helen Wilkinson

Summer term at school was a very busy one including many sporting activities and all the hard work from pupils and staff meant that the school was awarded the School Games Gold Mark Award for 2022-23. The term ended with a fabulous production of Jonah and the Whale. The hall had been creatively turned into an underwater setting festooned with colourful fish and plastic umbrellas decorated with streamers and transformed into jelly fish.

The Parish Council meeting on July 18th was well attended by members of the public who were able to join in the discussion with Mr Paul Hatch (Principal Planning Officer) about the Sustainable Settlements Review and to comment on some local planning issues. Work on our footpaths continues with stiles replaced by gates on some paths to make them more accessible; it is now possible to walk from the village to church without having to negotiate any stiles. All Parish Council minutes can be found at tathamparishcouncil.org.uk

Last week another road closed sign appeared on Hollinhurst Brow, this time because of a damaged cattle grid near Park House. The temporary solution has been to fill the cattle grid in with hard core and put a gate across it right next to the existing gate. Emergency funding will be applied for to repair the cattle grid so let's hope this doesn't take as long as the last repair to this road (2 years!). On 12th August Mr Simpson's Little Consort had their audience enthralled with a concert of Italianate music from the 17th century (*see above*). With a soprano voice and replica instruments including viols, recorders and theorbo we listened to music of the English courts from Henry VII to Charles II and some Italian masterpieces; the evening included amusing and informative stories of the composers and their lives.



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Rotary Club of Lunesdale – Talks on Cheese, the Police and the Spanish Civil War: and a Request for Old Spectacles and Hearing Aids

By Lilian Barton

A date for your diary is Saturday 28th October when Northwest Cancer Research will hold its annual coffee morning at The Highwayman at Burrow. The Rotary Club has supported this event in the past, which is for such a good cause, and we hope many of you will find the time to attend.

Members have enjoyed some interesting talks at recent meetings with either slideshow presentations or using different means of audience participation. John Natlacen from 'The Churchmouse at Barbon' was a most welcome guest speaker and chose 4 cheeses to talk about. John was extremely knowledgeable, and distributed samples of all 4 cheeses during his talk. He had also brought portions of the cheeses to sell which were quickly purchased. One of our newer club members gave a thought-provoking talk on 3rd August about his working life in the police force. Another of our members gave a talk entitled "La Guerra Civil" obviously about The Spanish Civil War July 1936-April 1939 between the Republicans and the Nationalists. There were lots of questions at the end of both talks, always a good sign of interest in the subject.

Finally, our Rotary District is asking if anybody has spectacles and/or hearing aids which are no longer in use that they can donate to a rotary project. Think about delving in your drawers and cupboards to see if you can contribute to the collection, which we will forward to South Africa to be given to people who can make good use of them. Please tel: 015242-73166 if you can donate.

History Walk Round Low Bentham

By Mary Taylor

John Wilson led a group of Ewecross Historical Society members on a history walk around Low Bentham on the afternoon of Saturday, July 22nd. They met at the oldest building in the area, St John the Baptist Church with its 700-year-old tower. It is mentioned in the 1086 Domesday Book and a Saxon Cross is evidence of an earlier church. It is possible that there was an early village near the church as the North/South Roman Road passes near the building; in more recent times there was no road to Wennington, only a private road to the Ridding which continued north to descend down Ravensclose. The party then walked to the site of the mill where John gave out diagrams of the mill in 1850 showing the launder that crossed over the Wenning to bring water from further up the river to the water wheel, he also showed an aerial photograph of the Ford Ayrton mill. Passing one of the former Junior Schools and Victoria Institute, built on the site of a Reading Room, members gathered in the car park, the site of Low Bentham Railway Station which only operated for two years. Members discussed the shops that they remembered along Main Street and up Doctors Hill; there are now no shops at all. The other school has been demolished and replaced by new houses; some of the old houses still show evidence of their previous commercial use. John also spoke of several former farms in the village, of the former chapel, and of the ancient plague stones. The tour ended at the unique Cross, made in 1902 by local people. The village is still alive with events at the Victoria Institute almost every day, a thriving Inn at the Sundial and significant moments in life celebrated at the church with christenings, weddings and funerals.

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What to look for in September

By Sue Halsall

There are still flowers to spot in September and an increasing number of fungi, but I will miss the swallows and house martins who leave for Africa this month and there's less daylight and it starts to feel autumnal. The autumn equinox, when there are equal hours of light and dark, is on 23rd September this year, not the expected 21st.

Grassy fields that have not been improved, fertilised and re-seeded, have lots of species of plants growing there and what may look like a carpet of small dandelions. These are probably catsear (*see photo right*), which are related to dandelions but have hairier leaves, they have similar seed heads too, but are half the size. They are great for pollinators and flower from June to October and can be grown easily from seed.

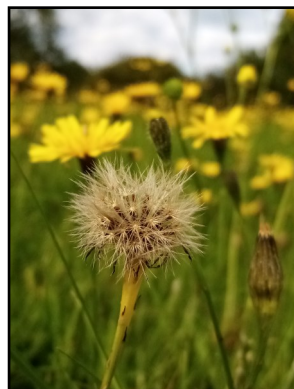
Yarrow (*see photo right*) grows in the same places as catsear and is a member of the same family, the daisy family. Its clusters of white flowers are easy to identify, and its leaves are very feathery and there are pink cultivated varieties sold in garden centres. Its Latin name is *Achillea*, apparently from the fact that the Greek hero, Achilles (he of the tendon in the ankle) used it to heal wounds for his troops and it seems it is still used today as a herbal remedy.

Since August started off with a lot of rain, I noticed fungi appearing somewhat earlier than usual. From September onwards is the fungi season and if you happen to be out in woodland, you may find this mushroom growing – but it is far from edible! It is called panther cap (*see photo right*) and is in the same family as death cap and the very recognisable red one with white bits on the cap, called fly agaric. It usually grows in groups, has white flesh and spores, a white ring on the stem (stipe for fungi) just visible on the one on the right. It is very poisonous like many in this family. The photos show young specimens and as they grow, the caps open out and become flatter but still have the white scaly bits on top.

All photos are mine

This is Sue's last regular 'What to look for each month' article for BN. She has been sending us these superbly detailed, illustrated and knowledgeable articles for 6 years, and we know that BN readers have enjoyed and appreciated them. She says she will write occasional nature-based articles in the future, and we all really hope she does. Many thanks Sue for your contributions over the last 6 years.

If anyone else feels they would like to write articles about the natural world around Bentham, its delights and any issues that you want to highlight, please do get in touch, we'd really like to hear from you.



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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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Settle Orchestral Society – Exciting Season Ahead

By Jill Gates

Settle Orchestra, a full-sized symphony orchestra based in the Craven District of North Yorkshire, is looking forward to another exciting season in 2023-24. Each year we welcome a young conductor from the graduate conducting course at the Royal Northern College of Music. This year's conductor is Maria Camila ("Maca") Barbosa, a pianist and conductor from Columbia (*pictured above*), who has already an impressive CV with conducting appearances in Bogotá, Sao Paulo, Florence and Manchester – and even an earlier cameo appearance with Settle Orchestra!

We will be giving two concerts each term, one in Settle and one in Skipton. In the autumn we join forces with the Langcliffe Singers for Brahms' wonderfully moving and consoling "German Requiem", with concerts in Skipton on 18th November, conducted by Maca Barbosa, and in Settle on 25th November, conducted by Darren Everhart, a long-time favourite of local audiences.

For the concerts in spring and summer 2024 Maca has chosen some very popular and impressive works, including Elgar's cello concerto with Bob Buller, our principal cellist, Richard Strauss' first horn concerto, and Beethoven's seventh symphony.

We are always glad to hear from anyone who might like to join Settle Orchestra or write music for us. We particularly welcome young instrumentalists and composers, and currently have vacancies for string and brass players. Rehearsals take place on Friday evenings in Settle. We sometimes need additional players for specific concerts and would be happy to hear from any local professionals interested in playing. Why not come along to one of our concerts, in Settle or in Skipton, to enjoy an exhilarating evening, support local musicians and help keep music live? Full details of future concerts and contacts are on our website www.settleorchestra.org.uk. We look forward to seeing you soon!

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