

BENTHAM NEWS

November 2023 | Issue 445 Recommended price **£1**



This stunning autumnal photo of a the dogwood in Jill Franklin's Low Bentham garden, allows Bentham News to introduce a new feature, Wild Life in Your Garden which Jill will be contributing in the months ahead. This month it's mini-dinosaurs! (see page 45).

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www.thebenthamnews.co.uk*

Spotlight On Local Businesses

From time to time Bentham News will be featuring local businesses, whether they are new start ups or older and well-established concerns. Our aim is to highlight the range of businesses working within our community and to introduce people to, or remind people of, the goods and services that are available locally. This month BN is spotlighting Bentham Golf Club.



New golf pro arrives with leading tech

Bentham Golf Course welcomes a new asset to the team in the form of Golf Professional Sophie Daws who recently joined the team. Sophie has been Head Professional at Cave Hotel and Golf Resort in Kent since 2020 and is looking forward to working and living here.

Sophie comes with a first-class reputation in the golfing world as an expert at the forefront of modern golf coaching but she is as comfortable coaching primary school children as she is working with focussed plus handicap players. Her utilisation of modern teaching techniques including Foresight GC QUAD technology, ensures pupils receive the best possible levels of tuition.

She has been playing golf since the age of six, learning with her father and competing with her brother. She gained her first handicap at 12 years old and by the time she was 17 had achieved a handicap of one. As a Junior she represented her club and county at an elite level going on to become Kent Ladies Champion of Champions and was selected to be part of the England training scheme.





Her relaxed and enthusiastic approach to golf tuition helps players of all abilities to learn through positive feedback, advice, swing data and problem solving. She recently focused on coaching a disability academy with Kent Golf and worked at The Open for the PGA on three occasions in the Swingzone.

Adults and children of all ages and abilities are invited to join Sophie in her autumn coaching programme which offers group classes for juniors as well as one-to-one coaching for beginners and experienced players looking to improve their game.

See page 47 for Golf Club advert for their Christmas Party and Buffet

'Spotlight' is a paid feature

Patrick Robinson – “Fairly Frequent Visitor to Bentham”

By Shirley Brown

There was a flurry of excitement in Bentham on Tuesday 26th September. A busy morning at G&Mo's café where dozens of people were enjoying their late breakfast or mid-morning coffee, hardly a seat to be had inside or out, and a man sitting on his own seemed strangely familiar. He joined in with a hearty rendition of 'Happy Birthday to Janet', one of our group.

We apologised for the café being so crammed full and noisy, but also asked if he was famous! Modestly he said we might recognise him because he's an actor – and then the penny dropped. Our new café acquaintance was Patrick Robinson.

He started his career in theatre with the Royal Shakespeare Company, and among other things he's been in TV's 'Casualty' (as Martin 'Ash' Ashford), has appeared in the ITV police drama 'The Bill', the ITV drama 'The Trouble with Maggie Cole' with Dawn French, and memorably in 2013 he was in the eleventh series of 'Strictly' with dance partner Anya Garnis, only voted out in the semi-final.

He could have been a footballer and was offered a trial at Southampton F.C. which he turned down to attend drama classes. He's a cousin of footballer and TV personality Ian Wright, and a supporter of Arsenal F.C. Now he plays street hockey with the Ashmead Cruisers (see the tee shirt in his photo), a team he co-founded in 1980.

Why was he in Bentham? He owns a Unimog Camper and Simon Ward, owner of Atkinson Vos Ltd, told me that Patrick is a fairly frequent visitor to Bentham to have various things done to his truck. On this occasion Simon recommended that he pass the time waiting for the work to be completed by having breakfast at G&Mo's. We're so glad he did! We all really enjoyed meeting him, Gail loved having this photo taken to add to the celebrity wall at the café, and the visit to Atkinson Vos was also captured in a photo, supplied by Simon. After collecting his truck, he parked on Main Street and went shopping in The Hub. He spent time congratulating our very own Repair Shop contender, Alix Barker, on the renovation work she was doing on a rocking horse, bought a gilet and went on his way smiling and saying that he'd had a wonderful time in Bentham.





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Person of Bentham – Katie Hall

Katie Hall (née Hannigan) has been running Bentham Youth Club for 4 years now, for the first 3 years on a voluntary basis, and for the last year as a paid community worker, sponsored by the Lottery, the Co-op and Two Ridings, a North Yorkshire based charity. The Youth Club provides an invaluable service for 30 young people and takes place currently in the Methodist Hall in Bentham. Katie is about to open a second club in Ingleton at the Community Centre. She is passionate about her work and constantly encouraged by the difference she sees the service making in the lives of the young people she works with. She also works in Ingleton chippy. She has two children and is married to Mark, who is her great supporter and her rock. Katie has packed a lot into her 27 years, to find out more, please read on.....

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

I was brought up in Bentham though I moved away when I was 13 to live near Ulverston, when my parents moved for their work as kitchen fitters. I became involved with an organisation called 'Young Cumbria Lads and Girls' in Kendal while at school and joined the army cadets at 13. I loved it and at 15 or 16, in my last year at school, I did a summer course for the National Citizen Service and was then offered a chance to do a leadership course over a few months. After leaving school I worked mainly in hospitality. There followed an unhappy couple of years living in Barrow, where my daughter was born. I broke free from that situation and returned to Bentham. Those bad times taught me empathy and sympathy and made me stronger. In Bentham I worked first at the 'Spar' and the 'Coach House' and then at 'Pioneer Projects', first as a volunteer with Nikki Johnson, then as a session assistant and an administrator. It was great working there. From there I started work as a volunteer at the Youth Club. I am now doing a foundation course to do a degree in youth work and already have an NVQ and qualifications in physical and mental health first aid.

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

Three weeks after leaving school, via the National Citizen Service, I went with the International Citizen Service to work in Nicaragua setting up a children's club. I was living with a family in their house. There was so much to adapt to; the food, using a latrine instead of proper plumbing, the road being not a road but a dried-up riverbed, fabulous starry skies, donkeys, jicaros, huge monitor lizards, amazingly delicious fruit....

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

This year has been a rough one for my family and me. Last July we lost our house in Bentham and, with only two days to go before we were made homeless, we were offered a council flat in Ingleton. As I don't drive, I lost my job as well. Things are much better now and this week we are going for a holiday to Blackpool, and I am so looking forward to it. That'll do me for now! One day I'd like to go to Amsterdam and to Venice. Canals and museums appeal to me.

What does a perfect day look like to you?

We are going to take the children to Blackpool Zoo on our holiday this week and we're really excited. So, being off work with the family, going to the zoo and then out for a meal together, that's a perfect day.



*Photo by Jon Brook of Bentham Imaging of Katie at the Youth Club
with Louisa Knapp and Dylan Smith, having fun*

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

I would like to witness Bentham Youth Club in its own purpose-built premises, busy, well-funded, staffed with plenty of paid workers and volunteers, thriving and changing lives in easier circumstances than at present. I'd like those premises to have a piece of land attached as well please and to have the backing of the whole community.

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

The Twin Towers being hit. I was at Bentham Primary School. I would have been 6 years old. I seem to remember there being a TV and us being sent home. Can that be right?

Is there anyone (e.g. a teacher) who has had a great influence on your life?

My supportive parents and my wonderful grandparents, Jeff and Margaret Longshaw. Also, Emma Banks and Ian Parr from 'Young Cumbria Lads and Girls' who gave me such a great grounding in youth work; also Reverend Anne, with whom I worked setting up the 'Pop-Up Pantry' (what a great person!), Nicki Johnson and Lynda Graveson at 'Pioneer Projects'. As well, the whole Youth Club Committee who have my heartfelt thanks for their backing in everything we do.

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

See my previous answer to what I would like to see in the future - a purpose built, staffed youth club with a bit of land! Also, I would give a good wodge of money to 'Pioneer Projects'.

...../Continued on page 8

...../Continued from page 7

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

I don't think I've had a job I didn't get some pleasure out of. Maybe the paper round I did at 14 wasn't so good.

What's your most treasured possession?

Stuff doesn't seem so important since getting rid of most of our possessions when we thought we were going to be homeless and would have had to move in with my grandparents. Also, I left everything I had behind when I left Barrow. Things are not important. My family and friends are what matter to me most.

How do you relax?

Curling up on the settee with Mark of an evening, eating crisps, watching TV. We love the American TV series NCIS, so that would be on.

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

I wanted to be in the army from the time I was about 6 when I saw a young local boy in uniform in the 'Coach House' where I was with my parents. However, I had problems with my knees when I was about 18 and had to have various operations, so that put paid to that ambition. I loved my time in the cadets though.

Is there a book, film or live event that you've particularly enjoyed recently?

I went to see 'Matilda the Musical' at the cinema in Morecambe with my children and a friend recently. We loved it.



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One of Our Local GPs is now a Published Author

By Dr Nick Howlett

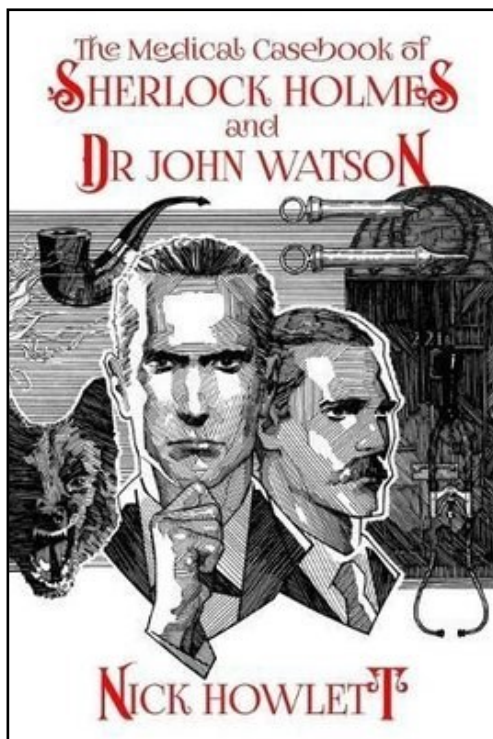
Most of you will know me as one of the GPs at the medical practice. I have just had a book published: 'The Medical Casebook of Sherlock Holmes and Dr John Watson'. And this is the rear cover blurb from the book:

"Sir Arthur Conan Doyle was a General Practitioner before he became a writer. He uses his medical knowledge widely in the Sherlock Holmes stories. He bases the deductive skills of his hero detective on the diagnostic techniques a GP uses with a patient. He even gives Sherlock a GP sidekick. This all contributes to the enduring popularity of the Sherlock Holmes stories, over 130 years after the first story was published.

An amazing 52 diseases feature in the Sherlock Holmes stories. This includes many that remain significant parts of a GP's workload today – diabetes, asthma, depression, stroke. There are other diseases that have largely died out in the UK due to advances in medical science – diphtheria, brain fever, rickets, tetanus. My book takes a definitive look at how Conan Doyle uses these 52 diseases in the stories. It also gives a historical perspective on the Victorian understanding of the diseases, using the textbooks Conan Doyle would very likely have had sitting on his consulting room shelves."

I've been a Sherlock Holmes fan since I was a teenager. I grew up in Portsmouth, very close to where Dr Arthur Conan Doyle practised as a GP. Some of you will also be aware that Conan Doyle had links with our practice area. He grew up in Edinburgh, but his father had alcohol problems, and his mother (Mary Conan Doyle) left him. She was very likely having an affair with the owner of Masongill Hall, though ostensibly living in a cottage on the estate. Arthur Conan Doyle's second marriage (to Louise Hawkins) took place at Thornton-in-Lonsdale church. He even wrote a short story set in the practice area: 'The Surgeon of Gaster Fell': "In my frequent walks I had learned to know well the wild and desolate region where Yorkshire borders on both Lancashire and Westmorland." Sadly, this is not, however, a Sherlock Holmes story.

My book is available from Amazon, or direct from the publishers MX publishing (the world's largest Sherlock Holmes publisher). I've also written 2 short stories to accompany publication of the book. They are only available on Kindle (from Amazon). They are both new Holmes and Watson stories. One 'Sherlock Holmes and the Adventure of Masongill Farm' is a modern tale, featuring Dr Watson coming to work in the practice. The other 'Sherlock Holmes and the Adventure of the Ordered Occupations' is a more traditional tale, set in Victorian times.



Anna Hebblethwaite's Long Journey to Freedom - adapted by Lindsay Young

Continuing our story .. Anna has survived deportation and slave labour in Nazi Germany: the war has ended, now read on ..

The title of Anna's story, 'My Long Journey to Freedom', is both metaphor and reality. She journeyed back to her home in Poland, walking with her friend Annie, sometime riding on goods trains or getting lifts on farmers' trucks. Poland was in ruins and when she reached her village and stood outside her house there were no sounds. When she finally worked up the courage to go inside she found nothing but 'rubble, rubbish and dust'.



There was no sign of her parents or siblings. She walked to her grandmother's house but had to leave in a hurry because partisans came to recruit her. Further journeys followed, some made riding precariously on the roofs of trains, looking unsuccessfully for work in Poland. At last Anna and a couple of friends realised they needed to make radical plans.

Anna decided to try to get to France. This journey started at the border between Poland and East Germany and involved swimming across the River Odra. She barely knew how to swim. Once again courage and determination got her across, leaving behind friends who could not swim at all.

Once across she walked for three days without food. Then she remembered being told by Polish girls how they had survived 'eating weeds'. So picking leaves and stalks she learned to stave off hunger.

There followed a lot more walking and hiding and surviving, sometimes she ate the raw flour from oats and barley grain growing in the fields she passed through.

Eventually she reached a Polish camp run by the allies in western Germany where she was safe at last and from here she was sent to a health centre where she remained for three months recovering. Finally she was sent to Wildflecken Camp where she stayed some time, recovering further. Then she worked for her keep until the time came to emigrate.

There seems to have been some choice for these single young women as to where they could go. Anna chose England. After a rough sea journey she arrived on the south coast and was transferred to a camp in Havant, Hampshire and, after some days, was put on a train to Bentham.

Life In Bentham

Anna and three friends were met at Bentham Station by Mr John Cockshot from Angus Factory where they were to work. He took Anna and Franciszka to stay with Mrs Maud Jackson and her husband Tom on Main Street.

The other two went to stay with the Crawley family in Robin Lane. Anna thought it strange that if she stretched out her hand she could 'nearly touch the ceiling' of the small house in Main Street!

Luckily, Mrs Jackson knew one German word - "essen" meaning "to eat" - but otherwise the girls knew no English. In addition, their luggage never caught up with them from the train. The girls did not have the words to explain why they had no other clothes.

On 2nd January 1948 they started work at the George Angus factory where Anna was to work for most of her life.

She describes how the people there were kind and helpful, for example Mrs Madge Robinson who taught her the job of 'winding' and helped her to learn English.

"All the people were looking at us and smiling" she said.

Another problem Anna encountered at first (perhaps surprisingly for an intrepid escapee, whose sense of direction had taken her on foot across entire countries in Europe) was that she kept getting lost in Bentham, unable to find her way home to her lodgings! So Mrs Jackson put a certain vase in the window to help her lodgers recognise where they lived!

About this time, Anna wrote to her grandmother to let her know she was alive and well. It was several years before she had a reply.

The friends she arrived with moved on to bigger towns; Anna says she stayed in Bentham because "it reminded me of my own village, Ilawcze". Then for 10 shillings (50p) a week Anna got a room in Mayfield Avenue with Mrs Dorothy Foster and her lively family of four children.

She began to feel at home in Bentham and met her future husband "quiet and handsome" Donald Hebblethwaite, who took her on a first date to the Picture House in Robin Lane.

In September 1950, having saved hard and with the help of Mrs Ellen Harrison from the Winding Room, she attended an auction in the Town Hall and bought two small houses, numbers 2 & 3 King Street. She paid £950 and had a mortgage of £4.4s 5d a month for 10 years. She renovated the house, employing decorator Mr Errington. Later, in 1965, she and Donald employed joiner Leonard Tyrer and builder Edwin Chapman to convert the two cottages into one.

Meanwhile, Anna had worked in the Angus Canteen, learning to cook with help from the manageress, Connie Grimshaw who was "always good to me" as were the other girls Lily Evans and Nancy Hoop, her best friend and future godmother to her son.

Anna says she enjoyed working in Angus factory "because everyone cared for each other like one big family."

Married Life

Anna and Donald were married in Settle Registry Office on 26th March 1955 with a reception at the Brown Cow, Bentham. Their son John was born in May 1956 and christened in St Margaret's Church in August. Anna describes the times bringing up her small son as "the best moments of my life". She even took on the job of caretaker at the Primary School in 1966 to enable her to be near her son. Then John attended the Grammar School in Low Bentham, where he did very well, and then in 1974 he went on to Loughborough University to gain a degree.

For Anna this was the realisation of a dream - "he would have a better chance in life than I had. Now I was content with everything we had achieved."

By this time her sister Maria was back in Ilawcze and sent news. But Anna never felt able to return herself.

When Donald retired, Anna spent her last days with him, walking in the countryside and enjoying a quiet, peaceful, fulfilled life. "Thank God I was reprieved to celebrate my years of freedom" she said.

Epilogue:

Anna died aged 82 at Anley Hall Nursing Home, Settle on 1st September 2008.

Her son John Hebblethwaite continues to keep in touch with the family in Ukraine and further details can be found on his website: www.hebblethwaites.net/index.htm#home

Photo is of Donald and Anna Hebblethwaite, John's Dad and Mum, taken at John's wedding in October 1985 by Lesley Leak

Lots Going on at Pioneer Projects and Bentham Library

By Grace Knill

Pioneer Projects is busy as usual, delivering twenty weekly groups across Craven and providing one-to-one support to many. We have been celebrating the theme of exploration over the last couple of months in our groups and will be hosting an exhibition at the Looking Well Studios and Broughton Road Community Centre in Skipton the first week of November. This theme has been one of sharing stories, collaborative thinking across multiple groups, and exploring our local landscapes in new ways. We have been working hard in our singing group developing new songs inspired by images which were brought in to share about the local area. All lyrics, melody and chord progressions were created in collaboration with the group and the final song will be performed along with others at our winter celebration in December.



Exploration Exhibit

We are looking forward to having a special exhibition at the Settle Railway for our Making Connections group who were able to explore the Settle-Carlisle Line with support from the Friends of Settle-Carlisle Line over several trips! After these we collected sounds, images and stories which have been turned into an exploratory exhibit which will be up in November and December celebrating the artwork of our participants and sharing in the journey and finding new learnings and understandings about living with Dementia.

Winter Celebrations!

We are excited about our upcoming Winter Celebration at Settle Victoria Hall on Tuesday 12th December. This will be a day filled with performances from our singing group, a morning of creative activities for those living with Dementia, a wellbeing café led by the Victoria Hall volunteers with Pioneer Artists delivering some creative activities alongside and a fun Christmas sing-along for all to enjoy. We will be exhibiting work from throughout the last year in a celebration of the work and journeys we have all taken over this last year.

A little light procession

We will be running workshops with Bentham Primary School to create some winter light lanterns for a small procession walk on Friday 15th December along main street to celebrate the community, the dark nights and what sharing a little bit of light can do! We would love it if you'd like to get involved and make your own little light box or lantern for your window to be part of the walk of light around Bentham this winter. Please contact office@pioneerprojects.org.uk for more information on how to get involved.



Primary School children talking about the River Wenning with Prof Pine and Pearl

Bentham Community Library

Photos above and words by John Frankland

Libraries Week is an annual showcase and celebration of the best that libraries have to offer. This year the theme was 'Green', so we invited the newly formed River Wenning Group to put up a display in the library.

When Bentham Community Primary School decided to visit us in Libraries Week, we put the two together and so Years 4, 5, and 6 met with the illustrious Professor Pine and his assistant Pearl (aka local residents Dave and Leonie Pearce of the River Wenning Group) to share information and facts about the river. Prof. Pine and Pearl were very impressed with the children's knowledge about the river, and all the creatures, birds, fishes and animals that live in or near it as well as the problems they face with pollutants entering the water. Each class then wrote a poem listing all their favourite things about the Wenning – some lines are reproduced below, hope you enjoy them!

Year 4 Badgers Class:

You'll find such special things here –

A precious coin, and silver gold.

Rainbow fish and glass eels swim here.

All have stories to be told.

In last month's Bentham News it was **incorrectly stated** that the contact number for Sole to Soul has been changed.

Our contact details remain the same –

Land line - 015242 63067

Text messages - 07973 481461

Email - marie@sole-to-soul.net

There was an error in the advert for September for the contact number for Katie-Laura and this was corrected in the October advert. Her contact number is 07513 144699.



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With Funeral Director Jimmy Macdonald leading the procession, Allan Hartley's photograph, below, shows the horse drawn hearse for Alton Metcalfe's funeral. The horses, dressed in full mourning regalia, pulled a glass sided hearse through the streets of Bentham to the funeral service at Bentham Methodist Church on 10th October and from there to the cemetery in Lairgill. Alton had a lifetime passion for horses and a distinguished career in Carriage Driving so it was fitting that they played a central role in the funeral. A full appreciation of Alton's life will appear in the next issue of Bentham News.



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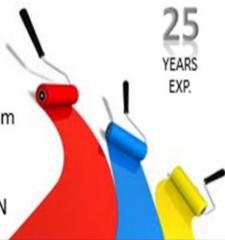
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November: a Good Time to Tidy Up Your Garden or Allotment

Photo and words by Joyce Knapp

November can be a good time to tidy up our gardens before the worst of the winter storms arrive and, as we do so, we can take stock of all our existing plants whilst also considering how we can improve the overall usage of our gardens by both us and wildlife. Recently, a friend told me that if you have a hedge in your garden then there is little need to feed the birds, as the hedge will provide a food source for insects, that can then be eaten by the birds. For any birds that prefer a diet of berries, we can include cotoneaster and Ivy and the beauty of these climbing shrubs is that they can also be used as nesting sites for small birds, e.g. hedge sparrows, in the summertime. If we have space to include a large shrub, then the Mahonia is hard to beat. Firstly, it develops a stunning structural form, secondly, it produces whirls of bright yellow flowers in the depths of winter and lastly it provides berries (they look like miniature grapes) for the blackbirds to feast on. A Mahonia is also a great place for the blackbirds to nest, as the surrounding prickly leaves prevent predators such as birds of prey, and even jackdaws, from stealing either the eggs or the young chicks.

Another way of helping nature to help us is to grow a flowering perennial by the impressive name of *Phlomis russeliana*. This plant throws up strong stems, up to 3' tall, each bearing whorls of hooded yellow flowers that will look stunning in any border. Once the flowers die back and the seeds have dropped, the remaining seed cases stay intact and create a home in which adult ladybirds can overwinter. By the following spring we could have our own army of ladybirds who would go on to produce larvae which love to feast on the eggs of greenfly, thus reducing the need to spray with insecticide.

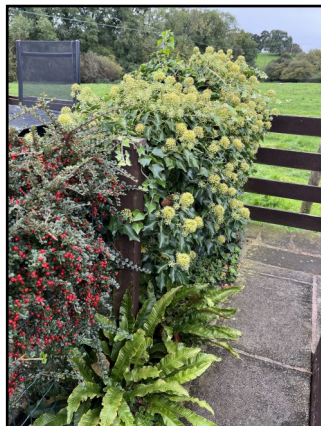
November is the month when we can look at completing the pruning of summer flowering shrubs and climbers as this will help them produce the best possible floral display next year. When pruning a potentilla we can simplify the process by just removing a few of the oldest branches, whereas a honeysuckle would benefit from having all its over-long shoots removed, back to a strong bud and it might also be necessary to thin out any badly congested growth. Once we have completed the pruning for this year we can choose how to dispose of the wood and I must admit I still prefer to have a bonfire, as I can then use the resulting wood-ash to improve soil conditions around the base of fruit bushes such as blackcurrants and gooseberries.

Nature Notes

By David Fisher

Recently I have seen three shieldbugs, which are a bit like a beetle. Butterflies are now seeking shelter for hibernation. Buddleia, the Butterfly Bush, has now stopped flowering. Lots of wildlife is now slowing down. As it's autumn and light from the sun doesn't shine for as many hours, leaves will be changing colour and will eventually be blown off the deciduous trees. Soon migrating birds will gather and leave for warmer continents.

One thing to note is that that bats used to roost in the old bakehouse down Station Road where it was warm for them in the outlets in the roof when the oven was on.



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People Page

Letters

Dear BN

I was somewhat disappointed at first to read in October BN that the town council had voted not to support a 20mph speed limit through Bentham, but on second thoughts it occurred to me that if there had been any consultation, I wasn't aware of it. While there is very little traffic on Doctors Hill/Burton Road in Low Bentham, one or two drivers take advantage of this absence of traffic to race up or down the hill so speed on this particular stretch of road is of concern to me. The August issue of BN had a report by Keith Hartley about 92 year old Bowland View resident Charles Timmins having had a near miss accident with a fast silent electric car when crossing Robin Lane, and Keith ended with 'Chas, the whole of Bowland View echoes your comments!' Clearly there needs to be either a signalled pedestrian crossing or a speed restriction by Bowland View, or both.

While the primary school has a humped crossing and a lollipop lady to assist pedestrians crossing by the school, would any (or more?) parents of children who live in High Bentham cycle to school with their children if there were a 20mph speed limit? If they are happy with the status quo, then there'd be no point in taking it any further.

Therefore I would like to propose the following:

1. Consultation with residents living between the Sundial and the end of housing at the top of Doctors Hill/Burton Road as to whether they would like a 20mph speed limit on that piece of road.
2. Consultation with residents who live between Mount Pleasant and Lakeber Drive on Robin Lane as to whether they would like a 20mph speed limit along that short stretch of road. Obviously, this includes consultation with Bowland View residents.
3. Signalled crossing on Robin Lane outside Bowland View.
4. Consultation with parents and teachers at

the primary school as to whether they would like a 20mph speed limit, and if so, from where to where?

5. Consultation with our local police as to whether any road accidents in the last three years in High or Low Bentham were speed related and whether statistics indicate that death and serious injury are reduced by 20mph speed limits instead of 30mph

I'd be happy to help deliver consultation leaflets along Burton Road and adjoining streets, and along that short stretch of Robin Lane.

*Peter Lennard, Highfield Terrace,
Low Bentham*

Dear BN,

I'm hoping you may be able to promote a crowd funder for us please, either online or in print, anything is appreciated!

A lovely cat (Ebony) in our care, is an air gun victim (*see Police Report on page 19*) and needed consequential eye removal and we are hoping to increase donations for her medical care. Pictures and the full story are at the below crowdfunding link: <https://gofund.me/37927fbd>

Any help for Ebony would be greatly appreciated so we can meet her costs!

Best wishes

*Kath, Trustee Bentham & District Pet
Rescue (Rehoming to Lancashire,
Cumbria & Yorkshire)*





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Bentham Police News



Members of your Safer Neighbourhood Team covering the Bentham, Ingleton and Settle area, PS1006 Paul Evans, PS231 Ikhlaq 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.

40 incidents were reported between 10th September and 11th October 2023.

These included Online TikTok video whilst driving, a sexual crime, abandoned vehicle in Grasmere Drive, highway disruption and anti-social behaviour on Mount Pleasant with vehicles not giving way, drunken females on School Hill, dog bite, concern for animal as cat found with pellet shot in eye on Mewith Lane in Low Bentham (*see letter on page 17*), road traffic incident with a vehicle hitting a wall - drink driving suspected, a road traffic incident involving a single vehicle on Nutgill Lane, fraud involving Microsoft, Apple gift cards and online chat, neighbour and domestic disputes, checked a suspect package and a flood alert.

Information required – Fatal Road Traffic Collision – Saturday 7th October 2023

It happened on the A65 near Ingleton on the morning of Saturday 7th October.

At 7.15am a member of the public contacted us to report a collision between a black Ford Ranger pick-up and a white Iveco heavy goods vehicle. Sadly, the driver of the Ford Ranger, a man in his 30s from Settle, died in the collision. His family were contacted and are being supported by officers. The driver of the lorry, a man in his 40s, has been arrested in connection with this incident. He currently remains in police custody.

We are appealing for any motorists who were travelling along the road, who saw either of the vehicles prior to the collision or the collision itself, to contact us.

We would particularly like to hear from anyone who captured dash-cam footage of the vehicles or the incident.

Anyone who can assist the investigation is asked to email the Major Collision Investigation Team mcit@northyorkshire.police.uk quoting reference NYP-07102023-0090.

Overnight between 5pm on 12th October and 8am on 13th October various items were stolen from a secure farm outbuilding on the A687 Burton-in-Lonsdale: a Red & Black Honda Quad 500 NK06YNH, 2 orange & white chainsaws and a socket set.

At 2.15am on 13th October there was a report of a suspect Quad in the Ingleton and Kirkby Lonsdale area: officers searched but found nothing. Any further information please call 101 and use ref: 0087.

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

Contact Information:

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

2 Ring 101 to report incidents or provide information

3 Ring Crime Stoppers on 0800 555 111 to remain anonymous

4 E-mail SNACra-ven@northyorkshire.police.uk

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Bowland View Celebrates Grand Opening with Distinguished Guests and Residents

By Victoria Tallon (Housing and Care Manager, Bowland View)

Bowland View, the much anticipated extra care facility in Bentham, marked a momentous occasion on Friday, September 22nd, 2023, with its official opening. Although it has been

open for some time the event celebrated how far it has come over the last eighteen months. This event was attended by esteemed guests, including Mike Rudd, Head of North Yorkshire Council extra care services, and celebrated not only this stunning new facility but also commemorated 20 years of exceptional extra care services in North Yorkshire.

Mike Rudd lauded the remarkable construction and the dedicated staff at Bowland View. He emphasised the critical role that such facilities play in the community and expressed his deep appreciation for the ongoing commitment to providing top-notch extra care services in North Yorkshire. Also at the event were David McGee, Commissioning and Performance Manager from Housing 21, and Alastair Dewar, Head of Extra Care Operations at Housing 21. Their presence highlighted the collaborative efforts and shared commitment to advancing the standard of extra care services in the region. They all conveyed their support for Bowland View's mission to provide outstanding care to its residents.

The highlight of the grand opening was the ribbon-cutting ceremony, conducted by one of Bowland View's proud residents, Ian Atkinson. Ian's symbolic gesture represented the journey of transition and new beginnings that many residents will experience at this state-of-the-art extra care facility. His radiant smile reflected the joy and hope that Bowland View brings to its residents and their families. The celebrations continued with an indulgent buffet, masterfully prepared by Paula and Mandy, the new bistro licensees at Bowland View. Their delectable offerings delighted the taste buds of attendees and showcased the high-quality dining experience that residents can expect.

The compassionate team of staff members at Bowland View remain dedicated to upholding the highest standards of care





and hospitality and creating a warm, welcoming environment. Nestled in the heart of Bentham, it is a testament to the unwavering dedication to providing exceptional care and support for older adults in North Yorkshire. With its modern amenities, spacious living areas and beautiful landscaped gardens, a diverse range of on-site activities and tailored care plans, Bowland View aims to empower residents to lead fulfilling lives and maintain their independence while receiving the care they need.

It is our hope that residents enjoy both comfort and a sense of community and the official opening serves as a testament to the bright future that awaits residents and their families at this exceptional extra care facility.

Photos on page 20 show top, resident Ian Atkinson. Bottom l to r in the light blue jacket is Alastair Dewar, Head of Extra Care North for Housing 21, in the middle cutting the ribbon is resident Ian Atkinson, next in the cream jacket is Victoria Tallon, Housing and Care Manager at Bowland View and to the right is Mike Rudd, Head of Housing Development for North Yorkshire Council.

Photo above shows Bob Sloan and June Smith with Murphy the petting dog.

Photos by Jon Brook of Bentham Imaging.

Bowland Bistro - Back with a Banger!

Words and photos (of Paula and Mandy and their Friday fish and chip special) by Keith Hartley

Bowland View's new look Bistro has reopened after a change of ownership and is already proving a popular eating/meeting place. Although located in Bowland View and primarily offering a restaurant facility for residents, *Bowland Bistro* offers a warm welcome to members of the public, and new owner Paula Lievens has developed a menu that will tempt the least hungry visitor.

Prior to establishing the *Bowland Bistro*, Paula was an Assistant Care Manager at *Housing 21's* Extra Care facility in Oxenholme and has previously operated two of her own bistros. With considerable experience in both catering and care management, she is particularly



...../continued overleaf

Continued from page 21

in tune with the dietary needs of older people and so is very well qualified to be a chosen partner for *Housing 21* at Bowland View.

Aby assisted by her sister, Mandy, Paula offers a varied breakfast menu ranging from a large "Full English" to a mouthwatering *Eggs Royale*, and a lunch menu that is equally as varied. She also offers a daily lunch time special meal. Whilst not boasting a string of Michelin Stars (but who knows!) Paula says she has a very clear aim, which is "to produce home-cooked food that tastes good, is nicely presented and modestly priced." It is already necessary to book for Sunday lunch and Friday fish and chips at the Bistro, so to date she is achieving her aim.

The *Bentham Bistro* is closed on Mondays and Wednesdays but is generally open every other weekday day from 8am to 3pm, Saturday, with a limited menu from 9am to 2pm, and Sunday from 11am to 3pm.

Tatham Fells CE (VC)

Primary News

By Fiona Ip, Headteacher

It was great to welcome everyone back for the new school year. Everyone looked very smart in their winter uniform but the weather was so hot we had to go back to summer uniform for a few days. It's always sunny when schools return! We have had a busy and productive first few weeks back and have all got back into the swing of english and maths lessons after the long summer break. The rest of the school will all get to join in the forest school fun this year as they will be taking it in turns to have a forest morning linked to their school studies. We will post pictures of what they achieve.

This half term the juniors are learning about the body and have already taken part in some exciting investigations into the digestive system. Our lower juniors were completely fascinated. The infants are learning all about changes in the seasons and are looking forward to seeing the leaves change colour and collecting autumn fruits. They enjoyed picking blackberries and strawberries in our garden and looking at how they grow and taste.

The upper juniors have been learning about the Shang Dynasty which will lead to some interesting finding out about China over the half term.

The children made a food hamper per family for our harvest festival at church and were so proud to get thanks and recognition from The Food Pantry at Bentham for their donations.

Please come and have a look round our lovely school on our drop in Open day on Monday 13th November between 9:30-11:30am or 1-2pm. Goody bags for all pre-schoolers and toddlers who come. We look forward to welcoming you all even if you are just curious about rural school education – our children will amaze you as will our setting!





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News from Bentham Primary School

By Sally Johnson, School Administrator

The first half of autumn term has quickly passed with children returning from the summer holidays eager to learn and ready to start a new school year. We welcome all new children and families to our school community; we hope that you have all settled and quickly established new friendships.

During the past few weeks our youngest children in **Ladybird Class** have been learning all about themselves. They have painted self-portraits, made yummy 'face cakes', looked at feelings and even practised cleaning teeth using what can only be described as some very large dentures that just happened to be conveniently left out on classroom activity tables! In **Butterfly Class** children have been busy learning all about themselves and have also started phase 2 phonics which focuses on initial letter sounds to begin with. Children in **Hedgehog Class** have been encouraged to talk about feelings whilst in science children have set up their very own weather station so they can monitor the weather over the coming weeks. In **Rabbit Class** children have also been busy investigating the weather, including measuring the wind – which evidently was quite challenging on occasions earlier in October! They have also been experimenting and learning about sound. Moving up the school, in science, children in **Badger Class** have been focussing on 'how we hear sound' by using a range of instruments at different volumes, and in art they got busy creating 'Harvest' inspired masterpieces. In **Fox Class** science lessons have been about space and planets, and children have been busy creating a mini solar system for their classroom and have also looked at rivers and their features. Finally, our oldest children in **Owl Class** have also been looking at sound, including learning about the human ear. **Year 6** children were also invited to visit Settle College, who we would like to thank for their hospitality. **Owl Class** has been having **swimming lessons** at Settle Pool.

Unfortunately, this month's Johnny Walker TAG rugby event was cancelled due to the weather (or to be more precise, the amount of rainfall). However, the **Craven Cross Country Event** went ahead as planned. As a school we would like to mention how well ALL our children did with every runner trying their very best. We would also like to congratulate Aidan, Freddie, Bobby, Thomas, Lola, Oscar and Jack who all qualified to take part in the Craven Cross Country Finals on 12th October. We cheered them all on from afar. At time of writing, we are organising a team of year 5/6 girls to take part in a Cluster **Football Tournament** with year 5/6 boys having an opportunity later. On Tuesday afternoons children in Key Stage 2 have had the opportunity to take part in a KANGA Multi-Sports After School Club and after half term, we are hoping to extend this opportunity to children in Key Stage 1.

Our **Breakfast and After School Clubs** continue to be popular with parents, carers and children. At Breakfast Club not only do children get a delicious healthy breakfast, they also enjoy crafting activities or an opportunity to 'get outside' before school and let off steam on a range of outdoor equipment including bicycles, cricket sets and footballs. This term crafts have been themed on Halloween and Bonfire Night. At After School Club, children have a light healthy snack before doing craft activities, baking or outdoor play.

On October 11th and 12th parents/carers were invited into school for Parent Interviews. It is lovely that families can engage with staff, look at children's work and hear about all the wonderful things children have been learning at school, and we hope all our parents/carers are as proud of their children as we are as a school.

Finally, on behalf of the whole school community, on 28th October we welcome Co-Headteacher, Mrs Claire Pearson back to school from maternity leave and thank both Mrs Chapman and Mrs McGregor for all their hard work as Co-Headteachers over the past few weeks.

Town Hall

Every Monday,

Indoor Bowls 1 - 4pm, BR

Every Tuesday,

Craft Club 10am-12noon, WR

Dance 9.30am - 12noon, LH (*except 31st*)

Every Wednesday

Pilates, 9.30 - 10.30am,

Stepping Stones, 9am-12:30pm

Every Thursday & Friday 6-7pm

Sandra Tallon Yoga BR

Thursday 2nd November

WI, 7-10.30pm, LH

Saturday 25th November

Blue Moose Dance Company Annual

Showcase. *see advert on page 8*

Town Hall - Meeting

Monday 6th November

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

4th - Bentham Pet rescue.

11th - NSPCC

18th - LB Victoria Institute.

25th - Bentham Youth Club

Sat 2nd Dec - St Johns, Low Bentham

WI (*see pages 36-37*)

High Bentham

Thursday 2nd, 7:30pm, Bentham LH

Low Bentham and District

Thursday 16th, 7pm in the Victoria Inst.

Tatham Fells

Tuesday 14th, 7.30pm at the Old School



Bentham Fire Station

Thursday, 9th & 23rd November 10am

Bentham & District Dementia Friendly
Community Breakfast Club

Events in November

Footpath (*see page 35*)



For November walks meet first at Lairgill for 9.30am except for the walk on the 21st where we meet for 9am.

Friday 10th Mary Taylor, 015242-61672, Tatham Fells, 6 miles.

Thursday 16th David and Sheila Longton, 015242-61838, Rather Heath and Burneside, 8 miles.

Tuesday 21st Susan Badley, 015242-62502, Gummer's How and Cartmel Fell, 8.5 miles.

Sunday 26th Graham Cooper, 07802-837507, Giggleswick Scar, 5 miles.

Bentham Pantry Club

Every Wednesday

11am - 12.30pm and 3.30pm - 4.30pm

Free refreshments available. Entry at side door of the Methodist Church on Station Road. Our volunteer team look forward to welcoming you. Find us on facebook.

Burton in Lonsdale Films

Saturday 4th November '

The Unlikely Pilgrimage of Harold Fry, 7.30pm, Village Hall.

Settle Chess Club

Settle Chess Club meet weekly in Settle Social Club on Monday evenings 6pm to 8ish (Bank Holidays excepted). Our team plays in some local leagues against neighbouring clubs. We would welcome anyone in the Bentham area interested in playing. <http://settlechessclub.uk>

Musical Tea Party

Bentham Refugee Support Group

3-5pm Sunday 12th November

Methodist chapel, Station Road

Bentham Golf Club

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

Victoria Institute

Every Monday

9:30am - 12.30pm, Office Open, Enquires/
bookings.

11:30am - 2pm, Community Link Café.

Light lunches and activities.

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

November 6th & 13th

Every Tuesday

10am - 12noon Mexican Train, £1.50 with
coffee, everyone welcome.

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

Every Wednesday

9.30am - 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 Bentham WI 16th November 7pm

Every Friday

10am - 12noon, Post Office Services.

Every Sunday

11am - 12.30pm Cornerstone Church Service

BINGO NIGHT Friday 3rd November

Doors open 6pm. Eyes down 6.30pm.

Refreshments served. All welcome.

COFFEE MORNING AT TOWN HALL

18th November 10am

MINUTES SECRETARY wanted for Victoria
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you are interested 015242 63162.

Methodist Church

Mondays 6th, 13th, 20th & 27th 10 - 11.30 am

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

Wednesday 8th November Coffee morning
10am - 12noon

Market Place Books from Kendal will be
selling Christmas cards, books, calendars etc.
Other stalls: Christmas cards for Rosemere,
cakes and pre-loved items for Chapel.

Donations for refreshments to Parkinson's
UK

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Every Monday 10.30am to 12.30pm, Making
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Every Tuesday 9.30 - 11am, Little Notes
Music session in the library.

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

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

Tuesday 14th Nov, 2pm to 4pm, Book Group
in the library.

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

Every Wednesday 2 - 4pm, Art for All.

Every Wednesday 9.30am to 4pm, Barclays
Bank.

Every Thursday 12.30 - 3.30pm, Community
Art Shed.

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

Every Friday 9.30am to 4pm, Barclays Bank.

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

Ewecross Historical Society

Monday November 27th 7.30pm at High
Bentham Methodist Church; *Dr Sophie Ambler*:
From Civil War to Campaigns of Conquest:
Experiences of Warfare in Medieval Britain,
c.1260-c.1330. Visitors welcome: £3

Bentham Community Library

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Monday 2:30pm - 5:00pm

Wednesday 10:00am - 2:00pm

Friday 2:30pm - 4:20pm

Saturday 10:00am - 12:00noon

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computers & of course lots of books!*

Hornby Swimming Pool

By Roger Carter

In October the LVCS Hornby Pool celebrated 5 years since it reopened as a community pool. Thanks to all the volunteers, sponsors, members, donors, staff and users who made it all possible. We celebrated with a great weekend of activities and sincerely thank you all for your support over the past quite challenging years.

We are very pleased to acknowledge receipt of £17k of support funding from the Swimming Pool Sustainability Fund. This grant will be used to help meet the increased costs of utility and chemical charges. During November we are also due to receive further support from the Co-op Local Community Fund, for which we are most grateful.

As we move into December, we will be promoting our usual Christmas Raffle with great prizes and a super hamper. Raffle tickets are available from Hornby swimming pool reception. Over Christmas there will be family sessions, lane swims and the only days we will **not** be open will be 24th, 25th and 26th December and 1st January.

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

Lunesdale Probus Club - Hornby - November Meetings

By Roger Carter

Our first guest speaker on **Monday 6th November** will be **Martin Cooper** and his subject will be **Canals**: looking at our industrial past and their use in the leisure industry today.

And on **Monday 20th November** we welcome **Christine Workman** to tell us about **The Felt Hat Makers of the Lune Valley**. Our local village of Wray was involved in this work, and Christine will explain how the use of mercury in felt manufacture had significant impacts upon the workforce.

Lunesdale Probus Club meetings are held on the first and third Mondays each month. Guests, friends and visitors are always welcome to join us at the Hornby Village Institute at 10.30am for coffee and chat before each meeting. There is no obligation to join, just come along and enjoy a nice social break from routine. For further details or any information on this or other Lunesdale Probus Club matters please contact Roger Carter, Hon. Secretary: 015242-22283.

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Musical Tea Party – Sunday 12th November

By Annie Neligan

We in the Bentham Refugee Support Group have been carrying on looking for ways to support anyone fleeing war, persecution and disaster wherever they are. 'The Ripple Effect' in Morecambe are sending supplies to camps in Greece and Northern Europe and we in Bentham are keeping them supplied with warm, good quality, practical clothes. Maggie Bruno from Burton is helping at the Red Cross centre in Bradford, giving advice to those bewildered by the asylum system, facing homelessness because of new government regulations. They are particularly grateful for the sleeping bags we have been able to supply – thanks to all who have helped with that appeal. We have joined with other refugee support groups to press the government to treat those fleeing the nightmares at home and seeking refuge here, with compassion instead of punishment. We are urging our MP to speak out on our behalf, so far in vain!



We can also see how the disasters caused by climate change are increasing the need for new ways of international support for those forced to flee their homes. In recent weeks the numbers of people dying in desperate attempts to cross the Mediterranean, dying because they have not been able to escape catastrophic floods, has been higher than ever before.

Come along and join us at a Musical Tea Party. There'll be music from 'Loose Connections', a local band, from a local singer-songwriter-guitarist and from 'Bentham Voices'. And, of course, tea and cake! We'll be at the Methodist Chapel, 3pm on Sunday 12th November. No charge for entry – but we'll have a collection for 'Choose Love', a well-known refugee support charity. Do come!

Understanding Palestine/Israel

By Annie Neligan

Anyone who heard Robert Cohen in the years he lived in Bentham before he and his wife, Rev Anne Russell, moved to a new parish in Leeds, will remember what a clear, thought-provoking and compassionate speaker he is. We are fortunate that Robert is going to be back in Craven to talk on Saturday 18th November in the Quaker Meeting House in Settle. Robert, currently researching changing attitudes towards Israel by young UK Jews, is in a strong position to help us understand the complexities of the on-going conflict.



At 11am, Robert will reflect on the terrible events in Israel and Gaza which began on 7th October and consider the background and immediate consequences. In the afternoon at 1pm he will be suggesting how best Jews, Palestinians and their allies can work together in solidarity.

There will be coffee, cakes and a soup lunch. All welcome, no charge to come and join us. Any donations will go straight to 'Medical Aid for Palestinians'.

***Don't forget the BN
deadline date is
12th November for the
December edition***

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Diamonds in the Landscape – Photography Competition

By Sandra Silk

We are launching a special photography competition to celebrate the 60th anniversary of one of the region's outstanding landscapes. Designated as an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty in 1964, the Forest of Bowland AONB celebrates 60 years next year, and AONB Partnership staff are encouraging residents and visitors to share their very own 'diamond' memories in photo form. Bowland is a special place for many people; whether they live in this beautiful area or have visited with family and friends over the decades. Autumn is a great time to get out with your camera, but if you don't get chance over the next few weeks, we're also happy to accept photographs taken previously."

The competition will run from 16th October to 20th November 2023, with shortlisted entrants and winners announced at the end of November. A longlist of images will be included in a special anniversary exhibition, which will tour locations across Bowland during 2024, and a shortlist of 12 images will feature in print in the new, official 'Discover Bowland' guide.

Local businesses have been generous in prize donations for the final six competition winners. These include a two-night stay at Laythams Hayloft in Slaidburn; a nine-course tasting menu at The Traddock, Austwick; a £50 voucher for the Parkers Arms, Newton-in-Bowland; a family day pass to Bowland Wild Boar Park, Chipping; a local produce hamper and a Bowland Fitness T-shirt. Competition entries can be uploaded on the Forest of Bowland AONB website at: <https://www.forestofbowland.com/diamonds-landscapes-photo-competition-2023> where participants will also find the Terms and Conditions.

Crested grebes by Mark Harder below



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London to Paris Charity Cycle Challenge for St John's Hospice, Lancaster, in Memory of Stan Wilkinson

By Oliver Wilkinson

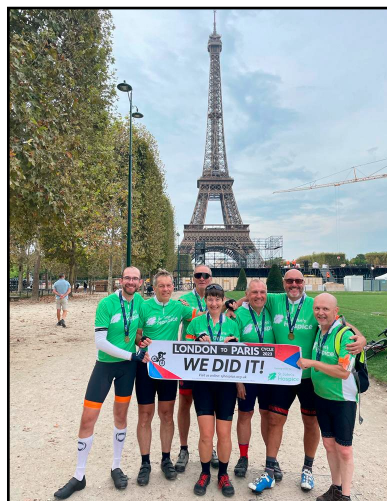
I'm writing to *Bentham News* to thank everyone who sponsored me to cycle from London to Paris raising money in my dad's memory for St John's Hospice, Lancaster.

Having trained since February we set off from London on 13th September making our way through the city traffic before hitting the country roads of Kent heading for Dover and the ferry to Calais. That first day was tough and we covered 95 miles with plenty of steep hills thrown into the mix. Whilst this was hard, my training on the hills around Bentham certainly stood me in good stead. Day two took us from Calais to Arras, which included passing by the First World War Cemetery where my great-uncles (Herbert and Leonard Wilkinson) are both commemorated. Day three, from Arras to Compiègne, similarly began by taking us through the Somme region and we passed many of the First World War cemeteries and memorials. The final day was from Compiègne to Paris and was very much a tale of two halves. The morning included some of the best cycling of the whole trip, with stunning woods and breath-taking French towns. The afternoon, meanwhile, became increasingly hairy as we entered Paris and jostled with the traffic of the city centre, including a terrifying loop around the Arc de Triomphe! Nevertheless, we finally arrived under the Eiffel Tower in one piece (more or less) on the afternoon of Saturday 16th September having covered over 330 miles. It was an emotional trip for me but also a brilliant and worthwhile experience shared with a great group of people.

I've been absolutely blown away by the support, donations and kind words about my dad that I've received from people and local businesses in Bentham, and I'm pleased to be able to report that, as a result, I've managed to raise just over £7,300 for the hospice. What is more, as a team, the seven riders who took on this challenge in support of St John's, have so far raised just shy of £29,000 (with some donations still to come in)! This is phenomenal and I want to deeply thank everyone who gave their support. The money will make such a huge difference to the hospice, and I think it would have put a huge smile on my dad's face.

Thank you so much! There are some photos and updates of our progress on my JustGiving page; and the page remains live if anyone would still like to donate: <https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/oliver-wilkinson9>

Photo l to r: Oliver Wilkinson; Dave Clapp; Mike Clapp; Suzanne Anderton; Mike Woolfhall; Grant Stevenson; Nick Brown



Town Council Meeting on 2nd October 2023

By Pam Woof

The official minutes will be posted on the BTC website in due course.

All councillors were present except Councillors Adams, Burton and Gerrie. There were no representatives from North Yorkshire Council, the Police or Public Safety and no members of the public were present other than two Bentham News reporters.

The 2024 Bentham Calendar is now available from the Hub and from the Tourist Information Point on Saturday mornings.

Planning Applications Received:

ZA23/25342/FUL Construction of concrete slurry store with industrial fabric cover at Waterscales Farm, Greystonegill Lane, High Bentham LA2 7AL - No Objection

ZA23/25242/HH New single storey rear extension to replace existing conservatory at 17 Holme Park, High Bentham LA2 7ND - GRANTED

ZA23/25081/LBC Repairs to existing timber conservatory at Grove Hill House, 23 Station Road, High Bentham LA2 7LH – GRANTED

ZA23/25221/TPO various tree works as reported at Bowland View, Scholars Rise, High Bentham, LA2 7FS – GRANTED

Highway Matters:

Following a request from the Town Council to County Councillor David Ireton, a representative from NYC has recently visited Bentham to look at the congestion problems in the town centre. They are now aware of the recurrent traffic problems often caused by vehicles persistently being parked in restricted areas. Councillor Marshall has asked for the existing road marking lines to be renewed as soon as possible. The Council will follow this up next week.

Objection to a sign at Millers Ford: Some of the residents on Millers Ford have complained to the Council about a camera pole with solar panels that has been erected outside the industrial unit on Millers Ford. This is not on the public highway so the council cannot intervene other than by writing to the complainant suggesting he should contact the owner and ask them to paint the sign in an appropriate green.

Bus Services:

Councillor Gerrie has been in touch with Andy Clark of NYC about the inadequate bus service for the people of Bentham. The three main areas of difficulty are 1) NYC will not fund any service that runs outside of North Yorkshire, 2) Now that bus services are deregulated they need to make a good profit on all the journeys that they make, and 3) The NYC Bentham to Hornby minibus is in use all day elsewhere but the NYC is trying to add another day for this service. The results of the NYC transport survey done earlier this year will be analysed this autumn, but no changes will be made until 2026!

Councillor Gerrie has also found that there are no other local minibuses that would be available to help, and Bibby's Coaches cannot assist either. He also met with John Smithson (author of the Community Bus Initiative Masterplan). It seems that the only solution may be for the community to own or rent its own minibus. Funding and expert advice will be needed to get the project off the ground. The Council agreed that a system like our former 'Little Red Bus' is needed. A similar system, the 'Little White Bus', is up and running well in Hawes.

Precept 2024:

Bentham Clubs or groups may apply for a grant using the Council Application Form which will be available from the beginning of November from the Town Clerk or via the website

(see below). The closing date for Council Precept 2024 funding applications is 30th November 2023!

Attendance Request:

The Rite of Institution and Induction of the new vicar, Reverend Canon Peter Greenwood, will take place on Thursday 26th October at St John the Baptist Church. Councillors Hill and Paige will attend on behalf of the Council.

Town Hall Matters:

The oven in the ballroom kitchen has failed its safety check. The Town Council will act on the quote received for a replacement, and this will be done straightaway as it is needed for an event soon. Thomas Brown is to be instructed to go ahead with curtains etc to finish the final refurbishment of the ballroom.

Next full council meeting will be at 7.30pm on Monday 6th November in the Town Hall and the public are invited to attend.

How to Apply for Bentham Town Council Precept Grants 2024

By the Town Clerk

Bentham Town Council are once again asking for local organisations to submit applications for its ever-popular precept grants scheme. Details of the Grants Policy and the application form can be found on the Council Website at www.benthamtowncouncil.co.uk in the News & Notices section, the closing date for applications is 30th November 2023. Completed applications either email to townclerk@benthamtowncouncil.co.uk or drop through the letterbox at the Town Hall.



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Bentham Footpath Group – Four November Walks



By Don Cartledge

It is a fact that walking is good for your physical and mental wellbeing, it is virtually free and by joining a group like ours you will make new friends and socialise more. So, if any Bentham News readers would like to join us on any of our walks, you would be made most welcome - just pack a flask and sandwich and turn up at Lairgill - or ring the walk leader if you have any queries, we would love to see you.

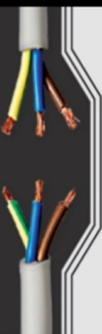
For November walks, meet first at Lairgill for 9.30am except for the November 21st ramble, where we meet at Lairgill for 9am.

Our walk on **Friday 10th** is led by Mary Taylor (015242-61672) and covers 6 miles around Tatham Fells. Parking at Tatham Fells church, we first take the field path to Lowgill village then it's down to the footbridge and over the River Hindburn. We travel up the valley to Thrushgill, along the road and down an old track to cross the river again. After that it's uphill and left, over the fields to cross Middle Gill, Whitray Beck, and Ivah, after travelling through the wood, we eventually arrive at Bull Beck, on to Bracken Bottom and back to the start.

On **Thursday 16th**, David and Sheila Longton (015242-61838) take us on an interesting and varied 8-mile ramble covering Rather Heath and Burneside. Parking on a side road next to Rather Heath, we take a footpath through woodland to reach Ratherheath Lane which we follow to a track to Moss Side and across fields to Bank End. It's then on to Plumgarths and at Low Plumgarth we cross more fields to Helsfell, across a footbridge, over the bypass and under Kettlewell Crag dropping down to the Hallgarth Estate of Kendal. The route goes through the estate into Burneside, along the River Kent to Bowston and back to the start via Lanehead Kennels.

Susan Badley (015242-62502) is leading an 8.5 mile walk around Gummer's How and Cartmel Fell on **Tuesday 21st**. Wainwright said the ascent of Gummer's How is "a fell walk in miniature.....just like the real thing". We start from the designated car park on Fell Foot Brow, 1.5 miles northeast of Newby Bridge and a short steepish 400ft climb brings us to the summit of the fell where the whole length of Windermere is at our feet. Returning to the road we go right onto Sow How Lane and follow a bridleway that passes Sow How Tarn and on to the hamlet of Cartmel Fell. Then its south past Thorphinsty Hall before climbing up beside Way Beck and zigzagging uphill to Simpson Ground. A footpath leads us along the edge of Chapel House Plantation to meet the track returning to Sow How Lane. **Don't forget, 9am at Lairgill for this walk.**

Finally, on **Sunday 26th**, Graham Cooper (07802-837507) leads on a 5-mile walk along Giggleswick Scar. Walk details are not known at this stage.



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Low Bentham and District

By Kathryn Brownsord

Our September meeting was a talk by 'The Samaritans' who gave us an insight into their work with vulnerable and lonely people – never judgemental or dismissive, but always there at the end of the phone 24 hours a day, 365 days of the year. Counsellors are trained and given the chance to talk over any worries they may have after their shift. 'The Samaritans' began in 1953 and now have over 200 branches all over the country with 23,000 volunteers and on average the phone goes every 10 seconds. What a superb service helping all communities – I take my hat off to all of them.

The 'Craft and Chat' meeting was held at Jennifer Watkinson's home where she gave us a lovely lunch. We all enjoy this relaxing day as most of the time we are rushing about.

Long Preston WI invited us to a cookery demonstration by Julie Clarke from the NYW Federation. It was a lovely evening getting together with other WIs and our President Christine Jennings won a raffle prize. Julie is always good company as she has a dry sense of humour and she had brought a friend with her, Sandra, to help and it was a bit like a female version of 'Morecambe and Wise'.

Austwick WI invited us to join them for a talk on 'Behind the Scenes at Ballet' by Hilary McCumiskey. This gave us an insight of what goes on to allow us all to watch a Ballet Show – marvellous. She specialised in making 'Tutus' but brought pictures and props of shoes, head-dresses etc saying she mostly worked 18-hour days but loved it.

Luncheon club met at the 'Royal Oak' in Hornby where we enjoyed a catch up over lunch. The walk was cancelled this month



because of the heavy rain. The competition of 'Favourite words' was won by Jacquie Van Ryssel and the raffle by Jennifer Watkinson.

As always do look out for our posters advising our next meeting (16th November). We meet on the third Thursday every month at 7pm in the Victoria Institute, Low Bentham, and hope to see you there.

High Bentham

By Jan Stuiver

At the beginning of October High Bentham WI held their annual meeting. The committee from the previous year were nominated and agreed to serve for another year. Jan Stuiver was elected as the president. Once the business part of the meeting was over, we enjoyed an excellent pie and peas supper, provided by 'Simply Delicious'. Then Annie Neligan, our guest speaker for the evening, encouraged members to share their memories of the River Wenning in the past. We discussed how the river has changed in the last 50 years and thought about the reasons for the changes. The National Federation of Women's Institutes is campaigning on river water quality this year and we wanted to find out more about our local river and the challenges it faces. We hope that when our new programme of speakers for the year from April '24 to March '25 is arranged we will have a representative from the River Wenning Group to tell us about what they have done so far, and about their plans and dreams for the future.

Some members recently enjoyed a trip out to Larch Cottage Nurseries, with an excellent lunch at the on-site restaurant, 'La Casa Verde'. Our outing on Sunday 22nd October was a visit to 'Pots in the Pens', a showcase for independent potters from all round the country at Penrith Auction Mart. Members of the public are welcome to join us on Thursday 2nd November for a short presentation on the



festival of Diwali, followed by an opportunity to play 2 Indian games, carrom and chopat, and/or to make a Diwali card or simple decoration. As well as our usual tea/coffee and biscuits there will be some Indian snacks and sweets to share.

Tatham Fells

By Mary Taylor and Jenny Herd

Ruth Garstang, President of Tatham Fells Women's Institute, welcomed 23 members and WI Adviser Ruth Grimley to their Annual meeting held in the Old School on 10th October. Mary Kidd, Treasurer, gave the Financial Report, and Jenny Herd, Secretary, gave the Committees' Annual Report, a resumé of the year's meetings including the Christmas Dinner held in January - but almost cancelled then because of floods; it had been cancelled in December due to ice, also high winds in April had been a problem. All the other meetings, outings and walks had gone to plan, and had been very enjoyable; The President gave her address and presented Jenny with a cyclamen plant as a thank you for her work during the last year. The Committee was appointed for the coming year, and slips were given out to vote for the President; they were counted by Adviser Ruth Grimley and Ruth Garstang was voted President for another year. During the normal business meeting a letter was read out from Tatham Parish Council thanking WI members who had helped to clear stiles and footpaths. Donations of clothes, shoes, handbags and bedding in good condition are to be collected next month for Bags4Schools. During the evening a sales table raised £79.10p. The highlight of the evening was a friendly and noisy domino drive, with Kath Dickinson the final winner. The evening concluded with biscuits provided by Bronwen Osborne and Sue Dawson, members brought their own drinks as the kitchen was being decorated. The next meeting on 14th November in the Old School will be Christmas Wreath Making.



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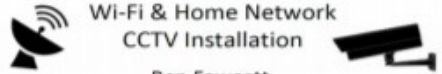
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In Your Words – Words from the Dales

By Victoria Benn

As part of the Friends of the Dales Autumn Events, there will be a digital talk on Wednesday 8th November at 4.30pm with the title “Beneath the Cracks – the Hidden World of Limestone Pavements”.

Carly Stevens, Professor of Plant Ecology and Soil Biogeochemistry at the University of Lancaster, will draw on six years of research to illuminate these complex and often biodiverse rich ecosystems which typify much of the Yorkshire Dales. She will also highlight the impact of climate breakdown, farming practice and other threats affecting these precious habitats.

It's quick and easy to book for our talks, simply visit: www.eventbrite.com/cc/friends-of-the-dale-autumn-programme-2567229

All events are free – you can find out more about who we are and what we do at: www.friendsofthedales.org.uk

Excellent Ed & Super Alan

By Nick Armstrong

This month's Beagles spotlight is on the fantastic achievements of our members Ed Evans and Alan Chesters. Firstly, Ed Evans took a podium position and the Bronze Medal as he finished third overall in the Sprint Event at Coniston Swim Run on September 24th. Although Ed is a seasoned triathlon competitor this was his first attempt at a Swim Run event. The sprint distance consisted of a 3km swim followed by a 18km run in typical Lake District weather. Well done Ed and we look forward to seeing your performances in the 2024 events.

Secondly, Alan Chesters ran and finished the Cardiff Half Marathon on October 1st. This marked Alan's completion of the Super Half Marathon Series which is a series of five half marathons that include Lisbon, Prague, Copenhagen, Cardiff and Valencia. Alan has been proudly wearing the Beagles colours and representing Bentham as he had jetted around Europe completing this challenge. Another brilliant achievement as Alan works his way towards completing 100 half marathons.

Also at Cardiff Half Marathon were Beagles' members Lynda and Terry Morris, with a special mention to Lynda who completed her 150th Parkrun at Cardiff the day before the Half Marathon.

Finally, last but not least, congratulations to our member Angie Tarlton on another great performance at the Ambleside 50k on September 17th. Finishing in a time of 6 hours and 5 minutes in the position of 4th lady and 26th overall at the event.

If the stories of our members have inspired you to join us for a run then please see our autumn training schedule on www.benthambeagles.co.uk and if you have any questions then email us at benthambeagles@live.co.uk

Alan Chesters at the end of the Super Halfs series. (photo courtesy of Super Halfs), top, and Ed Evans below with his Bronze Medal (photo courtesy of Coniston SwimRun)



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News from the Fells of Wind, Rain and Unseasonal Warmth

Words and photo of amazing crab apple tree and hedgerow by Helen Wilkinson

The first half of October arrived with the sound of wind howling round the house and rain slamming into the windows, prompting the woolly hat to make an appearance, but going outside was like walking into a sauna; off came the layers! The ceanothus in my garden is dotted with blue flowers, clearly very confused by the unseasonal warmth. However, it is time to celebrate this year's harvest. 'Harvest Praise' led by Peter Osborne was well attended and it was lovely to see the church decorated with home-grown and home-made produce. The following Sunday we had a Taize service; a service of chants and quiet reflection in a church lit by candlelight.

John Wilson acted as auctioneer for our harvest sale on Monday 2nd. Crab apple jelly and pickled red cabbage generating some keen bidding. Beautifully decorated boxes of gifts from the children of Tatham Fells School, and a donation from the sale were given to The Pantry Club in Bentham. I was rather worried this year as the crab apple tree that I usually forage from had a very poor crop; not enough to fill my pantry. Fortunately, more sheltered trees had fared better, and I was soon pointed in the direction of a bountiful crop. Whilst out searching the hedgerows (sloe gin maybe?) I managed to spot two green woodpeckers; often heard in the spring but rarely seen. A large hedgehog visits our garden in the late evening, and we often see a barn owl in the wood; it would be nice to think that it was one of the two that fledged at Ivah. Decoration of the Old School kitchen is in progress and should be completed by the time you read this.



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Longstaffe's Educational Foundation – Simon and Garfunkel Concert

By Liz Lister

The Trustees of the Longstaffe's Educational Foundation are excited to announce the return of their annual concert: **A celebration of Simon and Garfunkel – the UK's leading non tribute show performed live by Tim Chu and Ian Bailey at 3pm, Sunday 26th November at Bentham Golf Club.**

Admission will be by ticket only at £13.50 each. Tickets are available from Temptations, Bentham Golf Club and Riverside Caravan Park or from any of our trustees. Advance booking essential. *See advert on page 26.*

Following the 2023 application process, we are pleased to have been able to provide several young people with donations to support the funding of laptops, books, course equipment, expenses and travel costs. With thanks to generous donations receiving in 2022 and 2023 and by hosting events such as this concert and our successful summer quiz back in August, we are in a position to continue to provide funds to the young people of High and Low Bentham up to the age of 25 years to assist them in their educational activities in years to come.

The Trustees are local people with strong local connections. Many readers will be familiar with our work and the young people we have helped over the years have been very grateful for our assistance. It is a very rewarding task to widen the scope of achievement and to facilitate the educational effort of the young people in our two villages. Anyone wishing to support such a worthwhile charity will be investing in their development. If you would like more information, please visit our website - www.longstaffeducationalfoundation.co.uk

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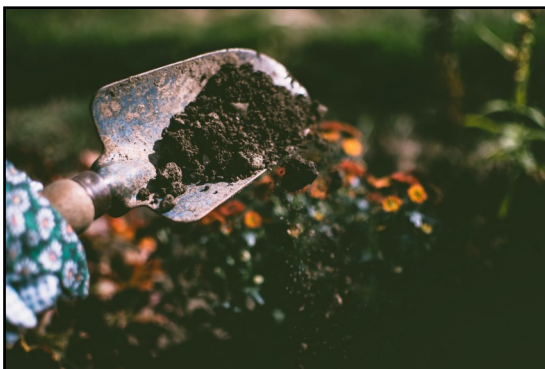
By Jill Franklin

At this time of year our gardens may look like there is nothing going on, but amongst the leaf litter and the dying foliage, thousands of above- and below-soil creatures are helping to get your garden ready for next year. Along with ants, beetles, worms and tiny, tiny micro-organisms, the mighty woodlouse is also beavering away. They're mini dinosaurs in your garden, shrimp sisters in your compost bin! Confused? Read on!

The oldest woodlice fossils date from 100 million years ago. They have been helping to keep the planet going long before we arrived. Related to shrimps and lobsters, their bodies very easily dry out - that's why they love damp places. Like kangaroos, female woodlice have a 'brood pouch' into which the mother lays her eggs. Even when they have hatched and left the pouch, the mother stays close to her offspring until maturity. Common woodlice usually live for two to three years.

Woodlice are one of the most beneficial creatures in the garden. I forgive them the occasional munch on my seedlings or strawberries, as they give so much back in return. Feeding off dead plants and creatures and recycling vital nutrients, they play an essential role in helping to make soil even richer for next year's growing. The UN has warned that commercially managed soils around the world are heading for exhaustion, with only an estimated 60 harvests left before they are too barren to feed the planet. That's why our own soils need to be treasured. So please support this little army of creatures with the essential jobs they do. Leave plant foliage in situ for hiding places throughout the winter or leave piles of leaf litter and other organic matter for them to process. And do put the spray away - they are very sensitive to pesticides.

Here's to wonderful soil for next year for us all!



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Did you know?

Your October Bentham News contained 34 articles, 43 photographs and was brought to you by a team of well over 40 collators and deliverers?

And if that's not amazing enough, then even more amazing is that all these contributions were voluntary, which means they were unpaid.

So, this is a massive THANK YOU to all the volunteers who make Bentham News such an important part of life in Bentham.

It's a year since Bentham News found itself in a difficult financial situation and asked readers for support. You responded generously and that has helped a lot. We have also taken steps ourselves to improve our financial position and can report that we are continuing 'steady as she goes' into the year ahead. Continued support from readers is always much valued and appreciated, and anyone who wants to donate can do so using the details on this page.

Bentham News voluntary donations and payments may be made to our Barclays Account:

The Bentham News, sort code 20-47-61, account number 43975843.

Bentham News is published by a voluntary committee consisting of Shirley Brown, Peter Hardy, Dawn Johnston, Kathleen Kelly, Anne Preston, Jane Proctor and Pam Woof. Every effort is made to ensure that information contained in the paper is correct; however, Bentham News is an open access community publication and views and opinions expressed and adverts included are not necessarily endorsed by the committee. The decision as to whether a contribution is published is at the discretion of the committee, which also reserves the right to edit contributions. Bentham News is willing to withhold names on request, but names, addresses and telephone numbers must accompany all items for publication.

Bentham News does not have a postal address, but the co-ordinator is Denise Henshaw, who can be contacted at info@thebenthamnews.co.uk or 07770-801591. Emma Greenep, advertising manager, can be reached on ads@thebenthamnews.co.uk or 07971-830257. Bentham News aims to acknowledge all emails and telephone messages promptly, so if you do not receive a reply, please contact us again as your communication may not have been received.

Copy deadline is 12th November for the December edition. Please note we cannot guarantee the inclusion of any articles after this date.

Printed by John Mason Printers, Skipton

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