

BENTHAM NEWS

December 2023 | Issue 446 Recommended price **£1**



Somewhere on this beautiful, atmospheric photo by Jon Brook of Bentham Imaging you'll see that Santa has found a safe landing place in Bentham. Wishing all our readers a Happy Christmas and hoping that 2024 brings peace..

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www.thebenthamnews.co.uk*

Marc Whitehead: 21.3.1989 – 16.10.2023

Remembering our Beloved Friend

By Thomas, Sarah, Tomi and Hannah

As most people now know, some weeks ago we were struck by the loss of our dear friend Marc Whitehead. It is hard to put into words the impact that Marc had on our lives and impossible to convey the loss and sadness felt throughout the community. Benthams was broken on the day of his passing and is still struggling to put the pieces back together. We may never be able to do so, and life will never be the same again.

Marc was born in Claughton and moved to Benthams when he was 2 years old. He was a well-known and incredibly well-loved figure. He warmed the hearts of all those who met him. His magnetic personality and genuine kindness made him an unforgettable local legend. He would have loved to have been remembered this way.

This impact could be seen as Marc, followed by his friends and family, made his final journey to his ceremony and resting place on the day of the funeral. As the funeral procession made its way through a very sombre main street, it was touching to see the streets full, with all trading coming to a halt as people paid their respects. Throughout the area, building sites were quiet and businesses ran with minimal staff as the majority of people attended the service. The hearse passed on through the red temporary traffic light on Station Road in true Marc fashion. He also would have been pleased that he gave us all a day off work.

The reception afterwards at Ingleton Community Centre saw hundreds of people coming together to share memories and remember Marc. Memory books were written in, videos were shown, and a memorial tree was made featuring Marc's hand prints, surrounded by the finger prints of his friends and family. The night led into a party for Marc with his favourite music and it was the sort of night he would have enjoyed, especially seeing hundreds of people there for him. He was always the life and soul of every party and would brighten up any room he was in. His wonderful smile and fondness for impropriety made him one of a kind and incredibly entertaining.

This sense of humour, alongside his distinctive laugh, unassuming and non-judgmental nature made it impossible not to fall in love with Marc Whitehead.

His passing, as heart-breaking as it is, has only brought his friends closer together and made us reassess what is valuable in our lives. We hope he knows how grateful we are for this and as we move forward, we will honour him in every way that we can and keep his





memory alive. This memory will live on in all of us but most prominently in those he famously called his legacy, his four wonderful children.

Marc

Adapted from his mum's address at the funeral.

From the moment you were born, both your dad and I loved you with all our hearts. You never failed to make us smile. You definitely kept us on our toes throughout your childhood with all your antics with Tony. Family life changed and you gained additional parents, Gilly and Janet, who loved you dearly as their own. Marc, you had your own way to do things and at times you tested not only mine but all our family's patience to the absolute limits. There was always some scheme to get rich quick and live abroad and never work again, which always failed. You got away with murder, or that's what Tony, Beth and Aidan thought. They christened you "golden balls".

Family is extremely important to me. We stand strong together and I'm grateful that this has cascaded through all my children. The love Marc showed to all his family was beautiful and his interactions with his children melted my heart. The love he showed Lucy, his partner, and Hallie along with his own children made me proud. You were a fantastic father to your children and no words can express how much you will be missed by all the family

Our whole family have been overwhelmed by how many attended Marc's funeral and the support we have had from Marc's closest friends. We are eternally grateful for the love you have shown us. Many thanks to Brown and Whitaker's for the funeral arrangements and the exceptional service.



Armistice Service at School Hill.
Representatives from Bentham Primary School read out the Poem
In Flanders Fields.
Photo by Allan Hartley

We Will Remember Them

By Anthony Smith
High Bentham

A large group of people assembled at School Hill
to mark Armistice Day.

A whistle blew to mark the start of our act of Remembrance,
just as it had signalled so many to "go over the top" in WWI.

Names of every local man killed in action were read out
but were all but obliterated by traffic noise at the busy junction.
War poems read by school children were similarly drowned out.

Please could we do better next year
lest "at the going down of the sun"
we will forget them.



Alton Metcalfe 1944–2023

Alton Metcalfe was born on 6 June 1944 which just happened to be D Day as well. During the war, his father, Sylvester, was sent to Chesterfield as a 'Bevan Boy', and it was there that Alton was born. Shortly after WW2 ended, Sylvester and his wife Annie, returned to live in Bentham and it was here that Alton spent the rest of his life. His love of horses, a lifelong passion, began as a small boy when the family lived at Sherwood down Chesters Lane, High Bentham. It was here that his three brothers, Peter, John and Brian were born. Later the family moved into the village and lived on Goodenber Crescent where his sister, Carol, was born.

During school holidays in his early teens Alton worked helping Bateman Marshall on his farm – working for Bateman was not only his first job but also his last as it was Alton who built the retirement bungalow for Bateman and his wife Margaret. Alton quickly realised however that whilst helping on a farm was enjoyable it was a lot of hard work for very little reward, so he took on a bricklaying apprenticeship at C.M. Slinger, Builders before setting up his own business in the late 1960s.

Bentham met his wife, Cherith, at a dance in Hornby when they were both 18. They were engaged at 19 and married at 20 and moved to live at 9 Jubilee Buildings, Main Street. It was fitting that Allan Hartley's photo of Alton's funeral procession (in the November issue of BN) included number 9. It was here that Alton and Cherith's three children, Amanda, Andrew and Juliette were born.

Alton renovated, or 'did up' 9 Jubilee Buildings before the family moved next door to number 8, also a 'doer upperer', and in 1980 to Bigber Farmhouse, across the road. Alton's final building project was converting the barn at Bigber into Townend House; a labour of love and the fulfilment of a long-held ambition.

A keen gardener Alton made a small croft at Bigber into a lovely garden with flowers, shrubs and vegetables, and after a long day or evening in the garden would sometimes repair to The Horse and Farrier for a well-earned pint.

Alton's love of horses went back to his early childhood, and he supported both his daughters in their Pony Club outings and gymkhanas. In his later years he took up carriage driving and had a successful career competing at venues across the north of England and in Scotland alongside the late Duke of Edinburgh and the Olympic competitor, George Bowman, although in a different class. There are a few Bentham brides that have been taken to church by Alton and his faithful black mare, Beauty. Alton ran the horse section at Bentham Show for many years, and was persuaded to become Show President in 2004.

There are many silent memorials to Alton's work as a builder in and around Bentham. His abiding loves were his horses and his family, and although he suffered from failing health in his later years he will be fondly remembered by his many friends and sadly missed by his family.



New Things at Goodenber Play Area!

By Charlotte Mouncey

Have you seen the new playground equipment at the Goodenber play area? Some of the playground equipment installed in 2010 was unsafe and we had to remove the tyre swings some time ago, now you can explore the new climbing dome we have replaced them with. Also, the spinners and motorbike springer had done excellent service having originally been installed when the park opened in 1998 and re-used in the 2010 refurbishment - instead you can enjoy the mini basket swing and hedgehog springer we've replaced them with. We have also been able to make repairs to the wet pour flooring so hopefully the Play Area is ready for lots of fun in 2024!



The play area committee is grateful for the planning gain funds we were allocated by North Yorkshire County Council and pleased we were successful in our Awards for All application to enable the project to go ahead. There's lots we'd like to do... to raise more funds, organise events at the play area and make further improvements at the park such as weaving the willow or painting the swing frames - but the current small volunteer committee can only do so much - could you help? We'd welcome any support especially from families who use the play area, if you are interested or have ideas on what else we could do please email charlotte@bookstyle.co.uk

Photo shows the new climbing dome taken during installation in November.

Hip Joint

**Friday 15th December, The Victoria Institute,
Low Bentham**

By Carole Bennett

Season's greetings from all the Hip Joint team!

Peter Rylands, a stage and TV actor, and Helen Longworth, who has a beautiful voice, are back together this time. They will entertain us with their own 'Season's Greetings' – songs and readings for Christmas. 'Winter Warmers' sums up the food we will delight you with. Don't forget to put on your seasonal glad-rags!

Simple booking:-

Tickets on sale on the 1st December at a cost of £12.50 plus a 15p ticket fee. Buy tickets by card or use PayPal.

Go to www.trybooking.co.uk/CWMV.

If you have any queries, please email hipjointtickets@icloud.com.

There is the option of a £7 ticket if you are on a reduced income.

Please email hipjointbentham@gmail.com to obtain a ticket.

Tickets must be booked a week before the event for catering purposes.

There is no need to print out your ticket as we will have a list of those who have booked.



The Hub News

By The Hub Trustees



We're delighted to say that, following the successful completion of Stage One of our fundraising campaign, we have been able to start **donating to local good causes again**. We recently donated £2,000 to Craven Wanderers and the next beneficiaries are the WI's 'Bentham Garden' being created on a raised bed by the bench outside Bentham Surgery, and the Bentham Pantry. We are busy getting ready for the confirmation of our **charity status** and as part of that we are introducing an application form for those who would like to receive donations from The Hub. Pick one up at the main shop if you would like to apply for your community group or charity.

The winners of the **Music Quiz** were 1st prize (£10) to Julia Garman, 2nd prize (£5) to Joyce Turner and 3rd prize (£3) to Fraggie. Any excess money raised from the quiz is going to the renovation fund.

The shops (The Hub and Hub Too) are both looking great and are packed with wonderful things - from games, jigsaws and books to jewellery and clothes. Why not come and browse for Christmas gifts or something to wear in the festive season? We're keeping clothes and shoes at just £2, with coats and boots £5, and are introducing a Bespoke rail for very special clothes at bargain prices.

Behind the scenes **things are buzzing** in advance of our purchase of the Community Centre - paperwork is progressing, we're liaising with the heritage people about the building, getting quotes for essential work, applying for grants and shaping our hopes and dreams for the building. This stage will take a while so it will be Spring before we have firm news about our move date.

Meanwhile, don't forget we still need support for Stage Two of our fundraising campaign, to help us make the building fit for purpose - the more we have in the pot, the better it will be. Donations are very welcome at the shop or online - www.gofundme.com/thebenthamhub

Your support has helped us get to this point - we couldn't have done it without you! Looking forward to seeing you at our shops in December.

*Don't forget the BN deadline date is **8th December** for the January edition*

Gallaber Christmas Trees

Gallaber Farm, on the Ireby Road, Burton In Lonsdale

Freshly Cut Nordmann Firs (Non drop) and Wreaths

**Available every weekend
from 25th November
and mid week by appointment**

*Donation from every tree sold given to
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Person of Bentham – Phil Wright

Most of us will know Phil, who has owned and run Grove Hill Garage since 1985. He was born at Melling Nursing Home in 1953 and lives in Low Bentham. He is married to Nora (another very familiar face) and has two children, Joanne, who teaches at Settle Primary School and David who is a director at Grove Hill and is a successful rally driver. Phil has recently retired so this seems a very good time to ask him to be one of our People of Bentham. We wish him a long and happy retirement.

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

I was born here and have lived here all my life. My dad was from Manchester and was in the forces as a submariner. He boarded at my mum's parents' house in London for a while so that's how they met and got together. Dad worked in construction when he left the forces and came up here to build a tunnel for the water board at Lowgill. He must have liked the place as he took a job as a chauffeur with Angus Fire Armour where he spent all his working life, and we were all born and raised here. He drove some fancy cars, maybe that's where my interest started!

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

I was a keen rally driver in my younger days. I bought a mini with a full race engine when I was 15 and started rallying. I went on rallies through the Grizedale Forest, at Bassenthwaite, on private lanes. I did night races too. I won the 1300 Sunbeam rally against much more powerful cars and was placed quite a lot of times. It's a real passion which my son, David, shares. David started in karting and eventually became the youngest ever British rally driver at 19 and he's still at it. We would travel as a family with our caravan round the country with David taking part in all the events. We were often in the same company as a lad called Lewis Hamilton at the various gatherings. David and he raced their remote-control cars against each other of an evening. Whatever became of him?!

If you could travel anywhere, where would you go?

We have travelled round Europe quite a lot on holidays and have been on cruises down the Danube from Hungary and on the Rhine to Zermatt near the Matterhorn. What I would really like is to travel around Australia and New Zealand. I think that would be an interesting and exciting trip.

What does a perfect day look like to you?

Having the family round to our house and sitting together in the garden, having a good laugh on a lovely, sunny day.

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

I'd like to see Bentham Town Hall being used regularly. It used to be a hive of activity with celebratory evenings after Bentham Show, musical evenings, badminton, parties, plays, Young Farmers' dos. All sorts went on there. Also, I'd like to see Bentham participating again in all those leagues we used to play in; cricket, football, netball, tennis, rounders. There must be so much talent going to waste and potential not being used if our kids don't get to play competitively. We used to travel far and wide playing games against Lancaster and further afield. I know the Playing Field is reviving and I would like to see it back to how it used to be. It would be good for the adults as well.



Photo by Jon Brook of Bentham Imaging

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

I remember so clearly seeing the events of 9/11 on a TV. We were on holiday in Tenerife and couldn't believe what we were seeing, but that was as an adult. As a youngster I remember the massive rains around the time of the 1967 Wray flood. The ground seemed to ripple by the Wenning as though water was pushing its way underneath the grass. Then we saw the devastation in Wray afterwards: great pieces of tree wedged over the bridge. We did a sponsored walk to raise funds for the village. I also remember the bridge on Station Road being destroyed by the cracking ice in 1964. Mick Brown was doing his paper round and knocked on our door to tell us. Not world events, but they had a big impact in this locality.

There was a weir where the Station Road bridge is. It used to freeze in winter, and we used to skate there most winters.

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

A lovely teacher we called Gardener Wilson (who taught gardening!) at Ingleton School. He loved cricket. When I left school, I did an apprenticeship with Jim Sedgewick at the garage where the Spar is now. I owe him my training. However, when I finished there, I went to work at Angus' - more money but a bit boring. Then the garage at Grove Hill was opened by Mr and Mrs Parker and Jim went to work there. It got busy and Jim persuaded me to go and work there too. The garage went up for sale and Bernard Armstrong encouraged me to buy it. I was 27 and it was a big deal. I am so grateful to Bernard for helping me make that decision.

...../Continued on page 10

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

See my previous answer about what I would like to see in Bentham. Good sports facilities and a thriving Playing Field.

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

Mostly I have enjoyed my working life but working at Angus' could be boring at times. I did demonstrations of equipment and that was quite good, but there was quite a lot of hanging about between times. I did have a Saturday job on a farm when I was 15 which was tremendously hard work. I like to keep busy but that was over the top!

What's your most treasured possession?

My wife, Nora (not a possession) but she is the most precious person in my life.

How do you relax?

At home watching football (I support Liverpool FC) and motorcycle racing on TV.

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

A farmer.....and then I got that Saturday job!

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

The Goodwood Car Show. We go every year. It's amazing. You get to rub shoulders with all the amazing drivers and there's so much to see and do. It finishes with the most fabulous firework display. Superb!

Bentham Bonfire Night 2023 – A Great Success

By Linda Dickinson for the Bentham Bonfire Committee

The Bonfire Committee, comprising Kath and Tim Stannard, Wendy Dowbiggin and on the finances, Emma Greenep, would like to thank the following people for all their hard work in making this year's firework and bonfire night a great success.

For the gates, building and clearing up, and fire marshallng: Sue and Jim Moffat, Linda and John Dickinson, Carol Jones, Triston Stannard, Angela Chapman, Chris and Gill Ware, Sue Halsall, Leanne Charmer and Adrian Leigh. **James Shaw** for his brilliant tractor skills and **A I Harrison** for the loan of the magnetic sweeper. **Rio and Liz Lister** for putting out and retrieving the signs. **Tommy Abbotts** for his invaluable help. **Bernie Wills** for sorting the electrics. Our wonderful **wristband sellers:** Flowerfields, Black Bull, Temptations, Sun Dial and Riverside Caravan Park. **Playing Fields** for organising the Halloween fancy dress. **Bentham Auction Mart** for once more letting us hold the event on their land. **Bentham Town Council and**

Angus Fire for their generous financial contributions. Dave Turner, Jack Smith, Malkie Miller and **Walk the Plank** for the fabulous firework display and last, but by no means least, thank you all for coming along and giving your wonderful support.



Photo by Allan Hartley

New Woodland being Developed in Bentham... Could You Help?

By Jonathan Stubbs (07747-398384) and jonathanstubbs@gmail.com

If you've walked the footpath from Low Bentham Road to Burton Road or Bracken Hill Farm since the summer, you will have noticed that new fences have appeared. We have been working with Lune River Trust and the Woodland Trust for a couple of years to plan a new woodland. They helped us to get funding (including some funds from a regional hotel chain) to cover the cost of the fences, hedge laying and 2,000 bare root trees. However, the funding does not cover the cost of planting and we are hoping that there may be some people locally who will want to get involved in this exciting project.

The new woodland is being developed as we wanted the land to also support native wildlife. The wet land either side of Ellerbeck holds little for the sheep to get excited about, and it has the potential to benefit woodland and riparian wildlife. We also intend to build some leaky dams to help regulate the water flow and hence reduce flooding downstream.

We will be planting a wide range of native trees including Goat Willow, Grey Willow, Elder, Hawthorn, Guelder Rose, Osier, Dog Rose, Eared Willow, Crab Apple and Blackthorn; as seen in the planting plan below.

Alongside the benefits to wildlife, it also feels fitting to create a legacy in memory of mum, Dorothy Stubbs and her sister Lucy Hodgson who both sadly died in recent years. This land was farmed by their parents and grandparents; we thought it would be fitting to name the woodland the 'McNeal Woods', both Dorothy and Lucy's maiden name.

The 2,000 trees are scheduled to arrive in January 2024, and we are told it is best for the trees to be planted within ten days of arrival. If you would like to get involved with the tree planting, please let me know (*contact details above*) and I will keep you updated when we have the dates confirmed. We will provide hot drinks and toilet facilities; all we ask is that you bring appropriate clothing and a spade!



More from the 'So Far Very Unspectacular Career of (our favourite) Peasant Farmer'



By John Dawson (a farmer)

The last Monday in October brings with it the final Ingleborough gather of the season, meaning no more gathering days until the last Monday of June next year. We gather the fell five times in a grazing season for various management tasks such as shearing in June or dipping in August.

I have been involved in gathering days since before I left school which, by my reckoning, means I have been on top of that mountain nearly 200 times. I have missed the very occasional gather, I remember getting kicked by a cow many years ago and my leg nearly dropped off, I missed a gather on that occasion.

The remarkable collie dog is integral to a fell gather and I have been lucky enough to own several during my brief and (so far) very unspectacular career as a peasant farmer. They have varied in quality of work but the one common trait they do share has been enthusiasm for their task, it seems to me that the more a collie dog has to do the happier they are.

I once lost a very good dog, Tess, on a gather and it was evening before I could get back to look for her, as I suspected she was pretty much where last seen, looking for sheep and awaiting instruction. Incidentally, her full name was Tessmania and she was one very intelligent dog, she rests peacefully in our doggy cemetery, as do they all.

Of course, not all dogs are super talented and some appear intent on shortening the life of the shepherd, or at least drive them to the very edge of despair. I used to work for a chap who said the most remarkable thing about a shepherd was how they could swear fluently with a mouth full of fingers.

Another employer had just the one command and it was used for all occasions, it was simply "good lass" pronounced "gu lass" and this instruction did everything. He wound down the landrover window, (you did in olden times) gave the command and off she went out through that window like some kind of four-legged missile, she even wiped his nose with her tail as she launched over his lap and out the window, landing about fifteen yards away. At the speed of light sheep were rounded up before they knew what was occurring, it was the equivalent of a dawn raid. The trick was always to wind down the window before launching....

A gathering day morning can be a bit tense depending on the weather, wet and foggy delays the start due to poor visibility. Going gathering on a foggy day inevitably means going again on a clear day to find the sheep that were missed, this is frustrating for the shepherd but another day of fun if you are a collie. To put it into context only one gather this year started on time. "Do it right do it once" is supposed to be farm policy and, despite what the dogs think, they have no vote.

The dairy cows are milked in good time on a gathering morning and as the team arrive we often have a brew and ginger biscuit until the fog lifts or settles in for the day. This is a good time to catch up with local news, such as how terrible the weather has been, how poor the price of lamb is and how expensive is animal feed? We exchange tales of agricultural despair and disaster of which there are plenty, as Jane Austin said, "For what do we exist but to provide sport for our neighbours and laugh at them in our turn."

With several neighbours present it is almost inevitable that there is a little bit of territory marking and even the risk of an unplanned pregnancy, although this is more likely among the dogs than the neighbours.

The October gather means the sheep sale season is complete and the breeding season is about to get underway, the tups (daddy sheep) are on the starting grid with engines revving and top lips curled, romance is definitely in the air, or at least a little bit of lust, all they need is for the light to go green or someone to leave a gate open.

The sheep mating season is known as "Tupping time" for obvious reasons. Again, it is a busy time for shepherd and collie. Sheep come into season every fourteen days and can be a bit lazy when this happens. She may not go looking for the tup but expect him to visit, possibly with flowers or chocolate, or even both. This is unlikely, so the faithful collie ensures the romantic lustful meeting takes place by gathering the field to the tup so he can have a good look round to see if there is anything doing. It is generally acknowledged that a shepherd should not see a tup sat down for the first two weeks of tupping time as he should have something to do all day, every day.

By November cows are drifting in for winter and daylight hours are shortening, before long it becomes clear Christmas is appearing on the horizon, this is really bad and brings with it challenges that even the faithful collie cannot help with, such as what to buy the lady who has everything any lady could ever want?

Happy Christmas, I suppose.....

St John's Welcomes New Rector

By Libby Wheildon

We are delighted to welcome our new Rector, Reverend Canon Peter Greenwood to our parish. The service for his induction was held on Thursday 26th October in St John's Parish Church and was attended by well over 100 people including the Bishop of Leeds, the Rt Revd Nick Baines and many from Reverend Peter's former parish in Dorset. We heard from two of Rev Peter's former colleagues in their speech of commendation, of Rev Peter's kindness, his warmth, and his great sense of humour. We feel very lucky that he has chosen to come and join us in our community.

Please come and join us for our regular Sunday Services at 9am or 10.30am and as we look forward to December, to our special services celebrating Christmas. Come along with your children to our **Christingle Service on Sunday 10th December at 4pm**, to our **Carol Service on 17th December** and to our **Crib Service on Christmas Eve at 4pm**.

Our **Christmas Coffee Morning**, with special treats and carol singing takes place on **Saturday 2nd December** in Benthams Town Hall. Please come along if you can.

The photograph shows from left to right:

Rev Ian Greenhalgh, the legal representative from the Diocese, the Bishop of Leeds, Rev Peter Greenwood and the Archdeacon, Jonathan Gough.



Christmas Tree Collection

By Vale O Lune Young Farmers



**Saturday
6th January 2024**

£5 suggested donation per tree!

Call or text **07958 735245**
to book your collection!

Bentham Playing Fields Club House – “a building we don’t want and can’t get rid of”

By Bentham Playing Fields Committee

One of the main questions we get asked is:

“What are you doing with the old club house?”

As you are all aware, we cannot use it anymore for functions and events. You have all seen the outside of it and it does look a sorry state. With previous flooding and several other issues, inside is just as bad. The next question we get is: *“Why not just take it down?”* We wish it was as simple as that.

Unfortunately, when the building was put up many moons ago, asbestos was used. This is our main issue with the building and why we cannot just demolish it. Although it is just a small amount, it is enough that it must be professionally removed as the club house is in a built-up area.

Last year we got a couple of quotes to remove the asbestos and have the building demolished.

1st company quote

Asbestos removal – £18,000+vat Demolition – £21,500+vat

2nd company quote

Asbestos £20,850+vat Demolition £16,250+vat

A more recent quote was £50,000 for just asbestos removal.

This is a lot of money. Unfortunately government grants for asbestos removal ended on 15th December 2018, grants for demolishing buildings are also hard to get with grants for newbuilds or refurbishments a lot easier to apply for. Unfortunately, we can’t get a newbuild just yet and the Club House is past just needing refurbishment. So, we are stuck with a building that we don’t want and can’t seem to get rid of.

What with having to raise money for yearly insurance and maintenance costs, we have sometimes felt deflated. But we do have long-term, ambitious, exciting plans – and we need your help.

Our plans:

- Remove the club house.
- Extend the carpark.
- Build a new, larger purpose-built building, with more rooms and better facilities.
- A pump track installed for smaller children, where they can learn how to ride bikes (we all know how horrible the roads are around here and it is hard to find somewhere safe to learn)
- A new MUGA pitch.
- A track around the field, where you can cycle, walk or run. There will be benches to rest and pull up/chin up dip stations for keep fit purposes.

There is a lot to do and obviously this will take time...a lot of time, but we believe that with help, patience and perseverance...we will get there.





Phase One: Plans for 2024

Our focus will be fundraising for the removal of the asbestos. If we can get funds for this, our main hurdle will be gone and then we can get the ball rolling for our next phase. We have spoken to the asbestos removal company, who will remove the asbestos once we have the funds. We need to raise over £25,000 for this, although they can't give us an exact estimate due to price rises.

We have got events organised for 2024, as we do still need to raise funds for the running of the field, so this is a plea for your help. Please come to our events and support us when you can, dig deep, put on an event for us or help in any way you can.

Any advice is welcome. If you are in the asbestos trade or know of companies that may give grants or match funding towards this cause. If you are a business that would like to help, then please do. We know times are hard, but we need to push these plans, or they won't happen. We will be looking at our finances and totalling it all up in January, with quotes for demolition and a new car park. We thank you for your ongoing support and will keep you posted on the website and in Bentham News.

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Your Garden or Allotment in December

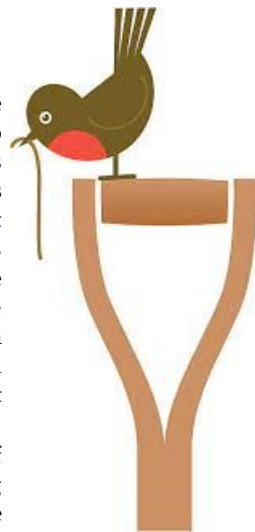
By Joyce Knapp

December can be a challenging month in the garden as we experience a wide range of weather conditions and need to respond accordingly. We may have to contend with hard frosts when it might be necessary to provide protection for any plants being over-wintered in an unheated greenhouse and the most effective way to do this is to line it with bubble wrap. If it proves too expensive to line the whole greenhouse, we can just cover the sides and roof that face north and east, where the worst of the frost comes from. If, however, this appears too much work, we can compromise by standing the plants on layers of newspaper and simply cover them with a layer of horticultural fleece when a frost is forecast.

On days that are too wet to venture outside, we have a range of options, from tidying out a garden shed or greenhouse, to sorting and cleaning our garden tools. When sorting tools, we can make sure the blades of cutting tools such as secateurs, shears and saws are clean by using fine sandpaper to remove any accumulated rust before sharpening the cutting edge. All that is left to do is to apply a drop of oil to any joints and moving parts to lubricate them. Spades, forks, rakes etc. can also be cleaned off with sandpaper and any wooden handles can then have linseed oil applied with an old rag, as this will not only strengthen the wood and extend the life of the shaft, but will also make it easier to handle when using.

If we are fortunate enough to have some good weather in December, we can look into completing the pruning of fruit trees such as apple and pear and on established trees we can leave alone any main branches (leaders) so long as they are healthy and well-placed. The side shoots (laterals) can be cut back to around 4 buds from their base if they face in towards the centre of the tree, whereas those facing outwards can be left at full length.

Last month I wrote a little about our inter-connection with nature and wildlife in our gardens and following on from that I just wanted to mention another trick that I have put into use over the years. This involves disturbing the surface of the soil around crops such as raspberry canes, using a rake, thereby uncovering any pests living in the soil and providing a ready meal for any foraging birds. I have a resident robin in my allotment that gets very close to me as I do any work that involves disturbing the soil and I can almost feel its sense of appreciation as it follows me around.



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People Page

Dear Bentham News

On our way to Bristol in the late 1970s, we visited an attractive historic market town in Shropshire not dissimilar to Bentham. There is ... a high street, a B road running through it, notable for its interesting architecture, with many shops and businesses. There were few double yellow lines, and the traffic moved slowly and gingerly through the town. We stopped off there again last year. Double yellow lines everywhere with fast traffic speeding through the narrow high street at 30mph with all the resulting noise, dirt and dust, not to mention the danger to pedestrians on the narrow pavements. In Bentham the Town Council has voted against the introduction of a 20mph zone from the school to Pye Busk and now are talking about more restrictive parking. Without some careful thought I can see Bentham becoming more like that Shropshire town.

All over the nation the trend seems to be towards slowing down traffic in residential areas. Burton, Ingleton, Settle and Lancaster are local examples, but for some reason not Bentham, despite the volume of traffic and heavy goods vehicles. It would be a good start if we at least introduced a 20mph zone from the school into town during the arrival and departure of pupils. I pick up my young grandchild once a week from the primary school, and it is certainly not a pleasant walk, with many children on scooters and on foot sauntering alongside this busy road.

So, councillors, if you have to vote again on this issue, please think of all the pedestrians not just the motorists. A quieter less speedy town is a more pleasant one.

Kevin Watt, High Bentham

Dear Bentham News

Readers will be aware of applications for new housing in High Bentham, a total of 106 houses in 4 different sites. 3 applications are pending, and the smallest development is due to start soon. Many excellent comments have been submitted by local people, all vigorously objecting on a range of issues, but the common theme is that our infrastructure is already at full stretch. The issues of traffic, parking, road safety, sewage, drainage/flooding and public transport have all been well rehearsed in recent editions of BN. The application documents are full of assurances about low impact, nature friendly, sustainable developments, seductively worded and portrayed to seduce planning officers with a myriad of boxes, all nicely ticked. However, what might look good on an internet map viewed from an office miles away (Driffild and Wigan for instance), doesn't necessarily reflect the situation in real life. Governments always insist that, "We are committed to prioritising brown field sites over agricultural land," but in practice, that has a very hollow ring about it. I think I now know what greenwashing means. I feel that we are being duped into accepting a deal which will soon cause a legacy of problems which should be addressed before developments take place, not when the developer has moved onto the next site. In any case, fields are like Beeching's railways – when they're gone, they're gone. Maybe others have different views?

Anthony Smith, High Bentham

Charity Thanks

Malkinson: Iris would like to thank everyone who has donated fruits for her jam and chutneys and made contributions towards her car boot sales and coffee mornings. Everyone has been extremely generous yet again and this year I have been able to raise £3,650 for Cancer Care and St. John's Hospice. A big thank you to the Hoggs 'n' Heifers and Total Wellbeing for selling my jams and chutneys. I couldn't do it without everyone's help. In total over the years, I have now raised over £60,000.

LUND Dorothy

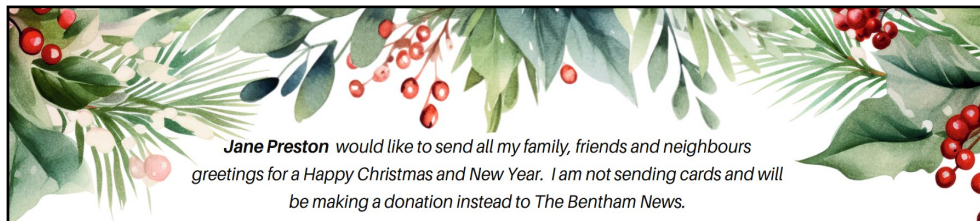
Dennis and family are very grateful for the many kind messages of sympathy and the love and support received after our sad bereavement. Special thanks to Rev. Jane Lee for a beautiful service, and to Lucy, also to B&W Funerals for their excellent care and attention to the arrangements and to everyone who attended. Thanks also to Simply Delicious and everyone who helped at the church hall. £800 was collected to be split between Parkinson's UK and the Stroke Association.

Warm Clothing Made with Love in Bentham

By Julia Collins

Members of the Bentham Craft Club have been busy knitting and crocheting blankets, garments and toys for the charity "Knit for Peace." This charity distributes items to women refugees in Britain and to disaster areas throughout the world where there is a need for warm clothing. Some of the items are made with donated wool and all are made with love. We hope to continue donating our work in the future.

The Craft Club meets in the Wenningdale Room at the Town Hall on Tuesdays from 10am to 12 noon.



Jane Preston would like to send all my family, friends and neighbours greetings for a Happy Christmas and New Year. I am not sending cards and will be making a donation instead to The Bentham News.

Margaret Wilson sends Christmas greetings to all family, friends and neighbours and a Happy, Healthy New Year.

Isabel Joel sends Christmas greetings to family and friends in Bentham, from Hillcroft Care Home in Galgate.

Kay and Frank Piper are now cosily and happily settled in their new home in High Bentham. We would like to wish all our dear friends Love, Joy and Peace this Christmas and for 2024.

Joe Morphet would like to wish all family, friends and neighbours a Merry Christmas and a Happy and Peaceful New Year.

Seasons Greetings

Once again we are back to celebrate and showcase our very talented local Crafts people, Artists, Makers and Bakers.

Not only is this the perfect place for your Christmas Shopping, there will be plenty of delicious food and drink to enjoy, live music, the Carol Concert, Ballon Artist, donkeys and lots more.

Also NEW this year the 'Christmas Tractor Run'



Christmas in the Mart
@BENTHAMAUCTION

**Friday 8th
December,
5pm - 9pm**

**Saturday 9th
December,
10am - 3pm**

**Admission £3,
children free**

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Bentham Police News

Your Safer Neighbourhood Team covering the Bentham, Ingleton and Settle area are: PS1006 Paul Evans, PS231 Ikhlaiq 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.



24 incidents were reported between 12th October and 10th November 2023.

These included a flood alert, anti-social behaviour involving a crime of violence, concern for safety/welfare, a suspect man in the Grasmere/Banks Way area and an internet banking fraud.

Crime Prevention - protect your home: Light Up and Lock Up

The darker nights are well and truly here, and this can catch residents out when it comes to home security. Too often, householders are making their properties an attractive proposition for burglars and thieves by leaving them in darkness. A few simple steps are all it takes to counter this risk – and this is where the police can help.

- a well-lit home gives the impression that someone is in
- use timer switchers to turn lights on while you are out
- don't leave curtains closed during the day, only in the evening and overnight
- lock all windows and doors
- keep valuable items out of view
- keep gates well secured

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

Contact Information:

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

2 Ring 101 to report incidents or provide information

3 Ring Crime Stoppers on 0800-555-111 to remain anonymous

4 Email

SNACraven@northyorkshire.police.uk

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Post Office Clerk

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burtontvillagestores@gmail.com

CHRISTMAS DRESSED POULTRY SALE

FRIDAY 22ND DECEMBER 2022 AT 5.30PM
At Bentham Auction Mart

OVEN READY TURKEYS, GEESE,
DUCKS, CHICKENS ETC.

All fresh from local farms

START OFF YOUR CHRISTMAS FESTIVITIES
WITH THE THRILL OF THE AUCTION
AND SUPPORT LOCAL FARMERS

SUPPORT FIELD TO FORK THIS CHRISTMAS

Enquiries to Rosie Wilson
Tel:- 015242 61444



Daisy
HAIR & BEAUTY

wishes you all a very Merry Christmas

Hair Cath or Sam
07796 148900

Beauty Emma
07971 830257

Main Street, High Bentham - 61671

Town Council Meeting on 6th November 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.

Councillors Adams, Gerrie, Hill, Paige, Ryan and Stannard were present with apologies from Cllrs. Burton, Jones and Marshall and NY Cllr Ireton. There was no attendance from the Police or Community Safety Officer but in addition to your BN reporter there were 4 members of the public.

Charity Christmas Tractor Run:

Emma Wallbank informed the Council that she was involved in organising a Charity Tractor run on Friday 8th December at 6.45pm starting and finishing at the Auction Mart, and coinciding with 'Christmas in the Mart.' All proceeds from the tractor run will go to FCN (Farming Community Network) a charity involved with the welfare of farmers and in memory of a friend who sadly took his own life earlier this year.

Police Report:

Written reports from the Police and Cllr Ireton were read out; the Police indicating there were 30 incidents reported for Bentham between 29th September and 2nd November including a 'stand-off' between 2 motorists on Mount Pleasant and a report of an internet banking fraud. The police diffused the 'stand-off' but have warned people to be on their guard for internet fraud and to report any instances on 101.

North Yorkshire News:

Cllr Ireton's report said the government had been splashing the cash, £540 millions of it to spend on local priorities and to produce growth, but dependent on a devolution deal between North Yorkshire and York City. All the negotiations have been concluded and the deal is expected to get the go ahead from central government in early November.

Ofsted have adjudged NY Children's Services outstanding. Finally, the **NY medical recycling scheme** dealt with 5 tons of equipment, including almost 7,000 crutches!

New Town Councillor:

Stephen Taylor has been co-opted onto the council, with only one vacancy remaining.

Planning Matters:

Two new applications were considered, and no objections were made to either. They were to vary a condition attached to the previously granted consent for High West End Barn, Cross Lane, Low Bentham, and for a change of use from commercial to residential in relation to The Bake House at the rear of 38 Main Street, High Bentham.

It was noted that consent had been granted for residential development, new access and associated works in relation to land east of Bank Head, Robin Lane, High Bentham.

Highways Matters:

Japanese Knotweed alert

Unwelcome news had been received from Burton-in-Lonsdale Parish Council that Japanese Knotweed has been found at Mill Lane, on the Burton side of the river, but has spread to the Bentham side. Elimination of this intruder is likely to be a lengthy and expensive process and the council are going to approach Burton to see how much it will cost to deal with the Bentham side and take matters from there.

Fallen tree near Shakey Bridge

This is on the 'town side' of the river and has been reported to NY Highways. All footpaths are looked after by volunteers, but pending removal you may have to negotiate the tree trunk if walking on the footpath.

Bentham Market:

The Town Council has been approached by a market trader from Kirkby Lonsdale who sells fruit and vegetables and cheese to explore the possibility of coming to Bentham on a Wednesday after Benthamers had asked him if he could come to Bentham. He had been shown Cleveland Square and seems enthusiastic. The council has approached North Yorkshire to see where the council stands on resurrecting a market and are waiting to hear. Amongst the councillors, opinion was divided on whether a market was a good idea, but after a vote the majority wanted to explore the opportunity further – watch this space. The market trader said that he would encourage other stall holders to come if the proposal gets off the ground.

Funding for Sports Clubs:

Cllrs Gerrie and Ryan have met with NY Sports Development Officer who has given us the opportunity to apply for funds. There are two funds – Cash for Clubs – with a maximum grant of £2,000 but it only applies to groups with members over 18 years old, and North Yorkshire Sport Rural Capital Fund which will match-fund qualifying clubs up to a maximum of £60,000, but applications have to be received by 24th January 2024. This is potentially good news for the Bowling Club and the Playing Fields Association. NY are anxious to support development of facilities for rural isolated towns – and Bentham fits the bill on that score.

More information can be found at www.cash-4-clubs.com and www.northyorkshiresport.co.uk/rural_capital_fund.co.uk

And finally - Good News:

After a gap of eight months or so, a **new Town Clerk, Claire Burrow**, has been appointed, and by the time you read this Claire will be working at the Town Hall Mondays to Wednesdays inclusive from 9.30am–12.30pm, as well as ‘behind the scenes’ for additional hours. Also, **Carrie Pillow** has been appointed as the new **Financial Officer**.

Date of Next Meeting:

The next Town Council Meeting will be on Monday 4th December at 7.30pm in the Lower Town Hall.

THE BARBER SHOP - High Bentham



RACHEL AND ALI

Wish all their customers
**Merry Christmas and
Happy New Year**



For opening times over the
festive period please ring
07761 725744 or 07851 464433



Simply Delicious
Outside catering



CHRISTMAS BOOKINGS

Up at 1922 Bar & Kitchen we will be hosting

**A Christmas party night on
Saturday 16th December
and a Christmas carvery on
Sunday 17th December**

Both of these events must be pre booked
by calling 015242 62455

**Festive afternoon teas on
Sunday 22nd December** to take away only.
Contact me direct for this.

*Please note: we are no longer serving a menu over
the weekends @ 1922 Bar & kitchen until next
year's season begins in March, but we do serve
Soup, Paninis, Coffee & cake daily.*

*We are still available for function bookings, larger
table bookings of 20 or more,
so don't hesitate to ask.*

**Please check my facebook page for updates
Contact Mandy on 07795 172511
www.facebook.com/simplydeliciousbentham**

Town Hall

Every Monday (not 25th)

Indoor Bowls 1 - 4pm, BR

Every Tuesday

Craft Club 10am-12noon, WR (*not 26th*)

Dance 9.30am - 12noon, LH (*not 26th*)

Every Wednesday

Pilates, 9.30 - 10.30am (*not 27th*)

Stepping Stones, 9am-12:30pm (*not 27th*)

Every Thursday & Friday 6-7pm (not 28th/29th)

Sandra Tallon Yoga BR

Thursday 7th December

WI, 7-10.30pm, LH

Saturday 9th December

Playing Fields Off the Wall Event



Events in December



Footpath (*see page 35*)



For December walks meet first at Lairgill for 9.30am.

Tuesday 5th. George Sheridan, 07905-069990, Bolton by Bowland, 6 miles.

Saturday 16th. Rick Clapham, 07792-935564, Barbon Beck and Brownthwaite, 8 miles.

Thursday 28th. Alison Kinder and Colin Stroud, 078547-89311, Ingleton circular, 3.5 miles (followed by lunch).

Town Hall - Meeting

Monday 4th December LH 7.30pm, Full Council Meeting.

Monday 18th December

Possible Full 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 - St John's. Christmas gifts & carol singing

9th - Pet Rescue

16th - The Hub

WI (*see pages 36-37*)

High Bentham

Thursday 7th, Christmas party LH

Low Bentham and District

Thursday 21st, 7pm in the

Victoria Inst.

Tatham Fells

Tuesday 12th, Christmas Party, 7.30pm at the Old School



Bentham Golf Club

Every Friday 11am - 2pm, Age Concern Bentham Friday Lunch Club (*also p 26*)

1st, 8th & 15th December. Then back 5th Jan.

Bentham Pantry Club

Wednesday 6th, 13th & 20th

11am - 12.30pm and 3.30pm - 4.30pm

Wednesday 27th 11am to 12pm only

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 2nd December

West Side Story (2021 film) 7.00 for 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>

Churches Together Carol Singing

Friday 22nd December

Join in singing favourite Christmas Carols on Friday afternoon 22nd December. We will meet outside the Coach House at 4pm followed by singing at Collingwood and outside Bowland View.

Collection for St Johns Hospice.



Victoria Institute

Every Monday

9.00 - 12.30 Office open, Enquiries/Bookings

11.30am - 2pm Community Link Cafe

Light lunches and activities

6.15 - 7.45 Tai Chi

Every Tuesday

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

4 - 9pm Helen Howard School of Dance

Term Time

Every Wednesday

9.00- 12.30 Office Open, Enquiries/Bookings

10am - 12noon Post Office Services

12noon - 2pm Community Link Cafe

Lunch Club

4 - 7.45 Helen Howard School Of Dance

Term Time

Thursday

Low Bentham W.I. 14th December 12noon

Christmas Celebration

Every Friday

10am - 12noon Post Office Services

Every Sunday

11am - 12.30 Cornerstone Church Service



Bentham Fire Station

Thursday, 7th & 21st December 10am

Bentham & District Dementia Friendly
Community Breakfast Club

Settle Victoria Hall (see page 27)

Local band 'Revival of the Fittest' Thursday 7th
December 7.30pm

Methodist Church

Mondays 4th, 11th & 18th 10 - 11.30 am

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

Children's Christmas Party

Bentham Methodist Chapel

Sunday 3rd December 2:30-4:30pm

Party games and food.

Free admission.

Children to be accompanied.



Pioneer Projects Looking Well Studios

**PIONEER
PROJECTS**

Every Monday

Meet Lairgill carpark 9.20am, 4th, 11th Dec.
Health Walks for Women.

Monday 10.30am to 12.30pm, 4th, 11th Dec.

Making Connections Dementia Group.

Tuesday 9.30 - 11am, 5th, 12th Dec. Little

Notes Music session. In the library.

Tuesday 10.30am to 12.30pm, 5th, 12th Dec.

Creative Community Hub.

Tuesday 11.45am to 1pm, 5th, 12th Dec.

Creative Writing Group face to face and
Zoom.

Wednesday 10.00am to 12noon, 6th, 13th Dec.

Sing Along to Every Song – face to face and
Zoom.

Wednesday 2 - 4pm, 6th, 13th Dec.

Art for All.

Wednesday 9.30am to 4.30pm, 6th, 13th Dec.

Barclays Bank.

Thursday 12.30 - 3.30pm, 7th, 14th Dec.

Community Art Shed.

Friday 10am to 12.30pm, 1st, 8th, 15th Dec.

Mental Health & Wellbeing Hub.

Friday 9.30am to 4.30pm, 6th, 13th Dec.

Barclays Bank.

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



*Wishing everyone a peaceful festive
season from everyone at Pioneer Projects*

Hip Joint (see page 6)

Friday 15th December with a Christmas/
winter solstice theme. We will be treated to a
lovely combination of seasonal theatre and
music. Tickets on sale 1st December by email
invitation or link in the Bentham News.

**The library will be closed from Monday 18th
December, re-opening on Wednesday 3rd January**
Bentham Community Library

Telephone 01609 534533

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!*

*Very Best wishes for a peaceful Christmas
from all the library staff and volunteers*



Hornby Lunesdale Probus Club

By Roger Carter (015242-22283)

The last speaker meeting of the year will be on **Monday 4th December** when **Lionel Wilson** will discuss **How much Water is there on Mars and should we care?** This talk was originally set for 4th September but had to be postponed.

The final Probus Club meeting of the year is the **Christmas lunch** on **Monday 18th December, at The Royal Oak in Hornby**. Members, partners, guests and friends are especially welcome, and we look forward to another splendid Christmas social. No speeches, no formalities, just good friendship to kick start the Christmas week.

Club meetings are held on the first and third Monday of each month. Guests, friends and visitors are always welcome to join us at the Hornby Village Institute at 10.15am for coffee and chat before the meeting. Our first speaker meeting of the new year will be on Monday 4th January. We wish everyone a most joyous Christmas and a truly peaceful New Year.

LVCS Hornby Swimming Pool

Christmas and New Year: The pool will be open all over the Christmas holidays as usual except for the 24th, 25th and 26th of December and the 1st of January. There will be extra family sessions, lane swims etc. Please check our website www.lunevalleypool.com for full details (or Tel: 01524-805666).

Keep Swimming! We so look forward to seeing you.

Important Event to Celebrate Older People

By Deb Hawkins

As you can see from the poster opposite the Community Link Café and The Friday Lunch Club are hosting an International Day of Older Persons, in conjunction with North Yorkshire Council.

It's an important date for your diary, on **Wednesday 17th January** from **11.30am to 3pm**, at the Victoria Institute in Low Bentham. There'll be refreshments, lunch, chatter and activities, and a special event between 1pm and 3pm when you can learn how to use an air-fryer. Everyone who attends will receive a **FREE air-fryer**, but you **must** book a place by contacting **015242-63162**.

Also call 015242-63162 if you require transport in the minibus, and please feel free to drop in and join us on the day for as long as you like.

Let's Celebrate
International Day of
Older Persons

Victoria Institute, Main Street, Low Bentham, LA2 7BX

Wednesday 17 January 2024, 11.30am - 3pm

Come and join us for refreshments, lunch, chatter and activities.
Special event 1-3pm - Learn how to use an air-fryer.

Please contact 01524 263162 to book a place.
Everyone who attends will receive a **FREE air-fryer!**

NORTH YORKSHIRE COUNCIL
VICTORIA INSTITUTE
CLC
SKILLS FOR LIFE
MULTIPLY
Aston Community Centre

*Don't forget the BN deadline date is **8th December** for the January edition*

Upcoming Charity Concert

By Matt Purcell

Local band 'Revival of the Fittest' return to Settle Victoria Hall on Thursday 7th December, for a charity concert in aid of both the Hall and the 'Hope for Tomorrow' Cancer Charity. The cancer charity provide the mobile Cancer Care Unit that regularly visits Booth's Car Park in Settle to offer cancer care. The Victoria Hall remains the world's oldest continuously operating music hall having been opened in 1853. Tickets are available from the Victoria Hall Box Office priced at £10 for adults and £2.50 for children. Doors open at 7.30pm. Further details can be found at

<https://>

www.settlevictoriahall.org.uk/ and

www.rotf.uk

HOPE FOR TOMORROW driving cancer care forward

CHARITY FUNDRAISER

at The Victoria Hall, Settle
THURSDAY 7th DECEMBER 2023

IN AID OF MOBILE CANCER CARE UNIT & HISTORIC VICTORIA HALL

MOBILE CANCER CARE UNIT
Currently based at Booth's Supermarket Car Park
Serving Local people of Settle and surrounding areas

Featuring Settle's very own Favourite Rock n Roll Band
REVIVAL OF THE FITTEST
Playing Music of the 50's 60's and 70's etc!

Doors Open 6.45pm Band on at 7.30pm

Tickets - Adults £10 Children £2.50
Available from - The Victoria Hall Booking Office Mon - Fri 10 - 2
Online - <https://www.ticketsource.co.uk/settlevictoriahall/>



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Musical Tea Party Raises £920

By Alison Easton

On the afternoon of Remembrance Sunday, Bentham Area Refugee Support Group held a concert in the Methodist Church in aid of 'Choose Love', the remarkable charity that gives swift and effective help to desperate people fleeing conflict zones or climate-ravaged lands.



The hall was packed, and the donation bowl brimmed with money. There are so many people to thank: the Methodist Chapel for the gift of their comfortable premises and excellent facilities; and our musicians - the brilliant fireworks of 'Loose Connections' traditional dance tunes, Kevin McSherry singing his own striking songs of displacement and the need for home, and 'Bentham Voices', led by David Burbage, with their honeyed singing of the need for love in harsh times. We thank too the refugee group's many volunteers for setting up and for delicious cakes and tea; and our appreciative, generous audience, including those who couldn't come but sent donations anyway. And thanks to 'Choose Love' for being there for hundreds of thousands of refugees.

Ewecross Historical Society Learns About Common Land

By Mary Taylor

Mike Winstanley welcomed speaker, Prof. Angus Winchester, to the Ewecross Historical Society meeting in Bentham Methodist Church on Monday 30th October. Angus gave an illustrated description of Common Land, and how it was managed over history. He said that, contrary to popular belief, all Common Land is owned by someone, usually the Lord of the Manor, and that before the Parliamentary Enclosure Acts of 1760 to 1860, half the land in this area was Common. In the south of the country the Common, sometimes called Waste, was often low-lying marsh, scrub or woodland, but in Cumbria and North Yorkshire the land was along the boundaries of Parishes or on the moors, for example Burnmoor, near Bentham, is still a Common. Commons were managed by Manor Courts, with the Lord of the Manor having rights to minerals, game and residual grass; the Tenant having rights to pasture animals in summer, but only the number that his farm could keep through the winter - these are called stints. The Tenant also had Turbary rights, to cut peat for his own fire and leave the cutting area in good condition. The third was to Estovers, the right to cut rushes, heather and bracken for bedding for animals or thatching their own buildings. Commons were also used as neutral places for meetings, fairgrounds, racecourses, executions, beacon sites, religious dissenters, political agitators, military musters and battlefields. A sudden change came about in 1866 with the Commons Preservation Society, but not until the poor people who lived on the common had had to leave. During the war, more fertile parts of Commons were used to grow food; now large tracts of land are used by the Military for training. By the time of the 1965 Commons Registration Act, 3% of England and 8% of Wales were registered as Commons, mostly in the upland areas. Angus concluded by saying that now attempts are being made in the lowlands to reintroduce grazing and clear scrub; and in the uplands to reinstate bogs and restrict grazing to restore the earlier habitat.

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Bentham Primary School – Lots Going On

By Mrs C Pearson and Mrs A McGregor, Co-Headteachers

Following the October half-term holidays, children have returned to school ready for the busy weeks ahead, which is just as well as we have lots of exciting educational opportunities for children in the run up to Christmas! Our youngest children in **Ladybird Class** have been learning about the importance of looking after teeth. They practised this important life skill by cleaning some very large dentures which were conveniently left out on activity tables! **Butterfly Class** children have been sharing stories and trying different healthy snacks, meanwhile **Hedgehog Class** children have been learning all about mathematical symbols greater than, less than and equals to. **Rabbit Class** have been discussing 'feelings' and writing about these in their own 'feelings books'. Moving up the school, **Badger Class** have learnt about European rivers, 'rounding' numbers in Maths and writing their own part of an adventure story in English. **Fox Class** have been making a Solar System for their classroom and have reflected on their class book 'Beyond the Bright Sea'. Finally, our eldest children in **Owl Class** have learnt about the human ear and how the brain interprets sound.

Art: This half term we have a Happy Art Club taking place after school with Alice Strange, a published illustrator of children's books and crazy kids' illustrations. **Sport:** Huge congratulations to Aidan, Freddie, Bobby and Lola who all managed to successfully qualify in an event in October to represent the school at the **County Cross County Finals** taking place at Giggleswick School on November 23rd – what an amazing achievement, and we will all be cheering our children on. Also, in October a team of Year 5/6 girls (Tanaia, Dora, Isabella, Elsa, Violet, Francesca, Layla, Tilly, Amelia and Talulah) played in the **Girls' Football Competition** at Settle College. They were overall first at the competition, conceding no goals and successfully qualifying for the Year 5/6 Football Finals. Next the year 5/6 boys have their chance in a Football Competition in November. In November the school also took part in a **Swimming Gala** at Settle Swimming Pool.

History: During November, children in years 4, 5 and 6 will all be taking part in a hands-on Viking History Day, learning about Viking clothing, food, games and battle tactics.

Christmas Panto Trip: On December 6th children in years 1 to 6 will be going on a school trip to The Grand Theatre in Lancaster to watch 'Jack and the Beanstalk'. We also have lots of other 'Christmas themed' activities planned over the coming weeks.

We have a vacancy for a **Co-opted Governor**. Ideally the vacancy would suit someone with experience and/or knowledge of the building industry, although we welcome enquiries from individuals from other sectors. For more information, please e-mail the school office via

admin@bentham.n-yorks.sch.uk.



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Springfield Bowling Club 2023

By Helen Cross (Club Secretary)

On November 8th the Club held their annual Presentation Lunch at Bentham Golf Club. Mandy provided us with an excellent two course meal which was enjoyed by all. President Alan Tonge spoke warmly about the work done over the years by our Club Captain Andrew Cross and Secretary Helen Cross. Sadly, they are moving away from Bentham and will be retiring from these duties. They were presented with wine and flowers and given a warm round of applause from everyone present.

TROPHY	WINNER(S)	RUNNER(S)-UP
Martin Leeming Trophy	Martin Carr Frank Farnill	Liz Farnill Malcolm Rush
Garlick Cup	Tom Davies and Diane White	Clifford Park and Audrey Shannon
Tom Davies Trophy	Andrew Cross	Ray Shannon
Mary Johnson Trophy	Pam Woof	Ruth Parker
Lister Shield	Helen Cross	Bryan Taylor
Jubilee Cup	Helen Cross Ruth Parker	Jeff Longshaw Martin Carr
Rose Bowl	Helen Cross	Pam Woof
Challenge Cup	Andy Abbott	Clifford Park
Jim Bush cup	Pam Woof	Helen Cross
Butterfield Trophy	Clifford Park	Tom Davies
Springfield Plate	Martin Carr	Julian Blake
Cardus Cup	Andy Abbott Julian Blake	Martin Carr Bryan Taylor
Captain's Awards	Mens Tom Davies	Ladies Ruth Parker

Springfield Bowling Club retained the Home Guard Cup for sixth year in succession!

This double competition has been running for many years and involves just the four bowling clubs in our area. This year it was held at Burton-in- Lonsdale in June. Team members were Tom Davies and Audrey Shannon, Andrew and Helen Cross and Clifford Park and Pam Woof.

Springfield BC also played in the 4th division in the Kendal & District League on Thursday evenings. They won promotion again for the 3rd year running taking them into the 3rd division next season. Three of the team members made it through to play in the individual Division Merits Championship in September. Andy Abbott came away with the Trophy and Andrew Cross was runner up.

In the South Westmorland League played on Monday afternoons the A team won promotion to Division 1 next season. The B team just missed promotion so will play in the 4th Division again next year.

The 2024 season will start in March 2024. New members are warmly welcomed. Phone 07754-076173 if you would like to know more. If you have never played bowls before and would like to try, watch out for the opening day poster on the Town Hall notice board. In the meantime, short mat bowls will be held on Monday afternoons in the Town Hall.

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Introducing Katie-Laura Massage Therapy

By *Katie-Laura*

It is a real pleasure to be living, working and raising my child in this area. I grew up in Burton-in-Lonsdale and spent much of my free time at my grandparents' farmhouse in Low Bentham. I am certainly an outdoorsy and active person, enjoying walking, mountain biking and running in my spare time. I have recently had the happy opportunity to begin working from 'Sole to Soul' in High Bentham on Wednesdays and Fridays and am also available for mobile bookings.

As a massage therapist I offer both Sports and Holistic massage treatments including Swedish and Aromatherapy massage, and Reflexology. I have just finished training in Warm Bamboo massage and Hot and Cold Stone treatments too, so these have been added to my repertoire.

I qualified in massage in the mid 2000s and worked mobile from then until I got the opportunity to live in Asia and qualify as a Dive Master, which is a chance that I absolutely jumped at! After many incredible and adventurous years of passionately exploring the ocean and absorbing Asian culture, I returned home and qualified in sports massage therapy, which has been a joy, and fulfils my thirst for knowledge and continued self progression. It also gives me the privilege of helping to take care of others, body, mind and soul. I am truly passionate about what I do and aim to provide my clients with the best possible experience. I am very keen to provide a space and time for my clients to unwind, de-stress and release built up tension.

I can provide a range of techniques within massage ranging from gentle, soothing and warming treatments, extending up to very deep tissue, high pressure, or vigorous techniques depending on the preference and level of muscle tension of my client. Communication on comfort level and preference is always encouraged, enabling me to tailor the treatment to you as an individual. It is an absolute priority for me that I ensure my client's comfort by providing a service of total privacy and anonymity, in a positive and calming atmosphere, marrying deep tissue massage with a holistic approach for optimum mental and physical wellness.

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Bentham Footpath Group - Three December Rambles (and Christmas Lunch!)

By Don Cartledge



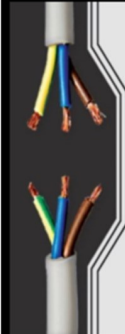
We have three walks in December and for each meet first at Lairgill at 9.30am. As is customary, the Thursday 28th 'Christmas Walk' will be followed by lunch, details of which will be made available and included on our website nearer the time. Referring to our website, could I remind Bentham News readers, and walkers in particular, that each of our walks are detailed on the site and include easy to follow step by step walk descriptions, photographs, maps, points of interest and even a video fly through. Simply visit "benthamfootpathgroup.co.uk" to see what's available, I think you'll be surprised!

It only remains for me to wish everybody a very happy Christmas.

The first December walk is on **Tuesday 5th**, and the leader is George Sheridan (07905-069990). The walk covers 6 miles around Bolton-by-Bowland and starts from the car park at the western end of the village. From the car park we follow paths up Skirdon Beck and join a minor road which takes us on to Forest Becks where we take a track up to Monubent Head. The walk continues across part of Fooden Moor to Raygil Head, Fooden and Bolton Hall Farm, returning to Bolton-by-Bowland via Bolton Park.

Rick Clapham (07792-935564) leads an 8-mile Barbon Beck and Brownthwaite circular walk on **Saturday 16th**. The start is the Community Hall in Barbon, from where we head south along field paths and follow a short section of a quiet road climbing up towards Brownthwaite. Then it's on towards Bullpot and heading north we reach Barbon Beck where we cross the footbridge and follow the riverside path through Barbon Park back to the start.

Finally, on **Thursday 28th**, Alison Kinder and Colin Stroud (07854-789311) take us on a short 3.5-mile Ingleton stroll. Parking is on the Hawes Road, above Ingleton, at the bottom of a rough track just before the road bends to the right. We set off steeply up the old stony track (Fell Lane) which is normally a main route up Ingleborough but in our case, before a mile, we turn right through a stone stile. Following field paths and crossing further stiles, we arrive at Clapham Old Road and a path opposite leads to Green Lane where we turn right. A path then leads through a caravan park and on to the A65 where, after a short stretch along the pavement, a further footpath leads through a small wood back onto Hawes Road and the cars. This 'Christmas' walk will, as usual, be followed by lunch (see above).



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Low Bentham and District

By Kathryn Brownsord

The October meeting was a talk by Rowena Lee: 'Tales from below stairs'. Rowena used to work in the IT business – very busy and stressful until she and her husband decided to change their lifestyle when she saw advertised in "The Lady" magazine a position of Housekeeper in Argyle at Barcaldine Castle and applied for it. Much to her surprise she got the job, and it was the start of a new adventure. The housekeeper for the Duke of Sutherland helped in showing her the ropes. She helped organise many social events at the Castle including a Goth Wedding and shared many anecdotes with us.

The Craft and Chat meeting was held at Christine Jennings' home where we enjoyed a lovely lunch and relaxing time crafting together. Luncheon club this month met at the Red Well Inn where we enjoyed a tasty lunch. It has been decided to forgo our monthly walks until next spring due to weather conditions. The competition of a 'kitchen item' was won by Christine Jennings and the raffle by Jennifer Watkinson.

We meet on 21st December, 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 our November meeting members of High Bentham

WI had an interesting presentation on the Hindu, Jain and Sikh festival of Diwali, also known as the Festival of Lights. The festival celebrates the triumph of light over dark, good over evil and knowledge over ignorance. It also marks the beginning of the New Year and a chance to start



afresh with good intentions. After the presentation members had some social time, playing a variety of games, including chopat (a lot like ludo, but played on a large, embroidered cloth, instead of a board and with a handful of cowrie shells instead of a dice) and karom, which is played on a wooden board with small nets at each corner. Flat round discs are scattered around the board by a striker, which is a slightly bigger disc, and which is moved by a forceful flick of the middle finger. The aim is to remove all your own pieces by knocking them into the corner nets before your opponent collects all theirs. We ignored the complicated details of the rules and scoring system and just had fun! Other members chose the more soothing activity of colouring in rangoli patterns, and everybody enjoyed the selection of Indian sweets provided.

Our next meeting, on Thursday 7th December, is our Christmas party and is open to members only, but we would be happy to welcome guests to join us for an evening of games and quizzes at our first meeting of 2024 on 4th January. We wish everyone in Bentham a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Tatham Fells

By Mary Taylor

Ruthie Woodhouse gave an entertaining and informative demonstration of How to make a Christmas Wreath to Tatham Fells Women's Institute members and guests on Tuesday November 14th in the Old School. A flower arranger for more than thirty years, Ruthie talked as she worked, and began by showing wet oasis glued into a plastic ring; she said that this is a more eco friendly way as the ring can be used many times. She began by putting in a swirl of short greenery round the inside of the ring, leaving room for a large candle if this is to be used for a table centre piece. Continuing with many varieties of foliage including larger fronds and eucalyptus



from the florists, cotoneaster and rhododendron from her own garden, Ruthie said that anything from the hedgerows can be used. Beautiful white roses followed as the wreath began to take on its Christmas appearance, followed by shiny baubles, a flourish of pheasant feathers and finished off with a chiffon bow. Debbie McIntosh won the lucky draw for the Wreath, and Linda Kirkby thanked Ruthie.

During business, President Ruth Garstang said that the committee for the coming year remains the same as last year with Carole Thurnham Vice President, Mary Kidd Treasurer and Jenny Herd Secretary. She observed that the Old School is much improved with the kitchen newly decorated and the roof repaired. Everyone agreed that the visit to the Abba Tribute in Morecambe on November 3rd had been a great success. The evening concluded with refreshments provided by Linda Kirkby and Joan Metcalf. The next meeting will be a Christmas Party in the Old School on December 12th.



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A Great Start to The New Judo Season

By Esmeè Holgate

I finished the end of last season with many medals and titles and travelled to eight different countries training and competing. I fought for England and for team GBR and trained alongside our Olympic squad gaining invaluable experience. I'm still travelling up and down the country to training sessions but I'm driving myself now since I recently passed my driving test, I'm sure this is a huge weight off my parents, who have always driven me everywhere until now. I must admit my schedule is more hectic than ever since I'm in my last year of A Levels and applying to universities alongside my training.



I spent most of my summer holidays training but a great deal of time going back and forward to Paris training alongside the French Team to get me in the best shape to start the new judo season. Independently flying to France when I'm only 17 and managing the metro system on my own seemed daunting at first but I must admit I'm quite confident now and it's just another life skill that judo has given me. Even mum isn't as anxious letting me travel alone anymore or so she says!

September was the first competition of the English Closed and it went perfectly to plan. I fought in the Junior Under 21s which was an incredibly hard group, and I was thrilled to bits by being The Bronze Medallist. This put me straight back into The England Squad for another year and I decided to try fighting the Senior category which mainly meant fighting fulltime athletes. It was a real battle, and I really gave it everything I had, and managed to get back on that podium as Senior Silver medallist albeit with lots of bruises and a black eye.

The first international competition of the year was hosted in Wales in October, and I knew it was going to be hard, but I can honestly say it was as tough as it gets. Every fight went nearly fulltime, and a few went well over, and it came down to who wanted it the most. I won Bronze in the Junior category and felt exhausted but knew I had to do it all again in the afternoon in the Senior group with much older and experienced fulltime athletes. I just kept focusing on the fight at hand instead of thinking of how many fights I needed to win to get to podium fights. I did stand out as being young and I'm sure my opponents thought it too. My final fight, which I won and gave me the bronze medal, was exhausting and I was obviously elated about it, but the biggest success was going up against the woman who won Gold. It was neck and neck and boy did we battle each other going into extra time and I felt even though I lost that the win was within my reach which is an exciting realisation for me at my age.

With the last two months wins my rankings are high, my confidence is good and I'm on track for another successful year and if it doesn't go quite to plan it won't be because I'm not training hard enough or determined enough.

Fund Raising: During summer our amazing village came together to support me in raising funds at a coffee morning, which was a great success, and it was lovely to hear how supportive my community is with the encouraging words said to me on the day. The Conservative Party held a quiz night to raise funds to help with my ever-increasing judo costs and Longstaffe Education Foundation and Jimmy Macdonald at B&W Funerals once again kindly helped for another year. Without such help it would be impossible for me to continue and I'm extremely grateful.

A huge thank you must go to our very own Tomi Tatham at TNT Gym at Cowan Bridge who continually works me hard and keeps me in the right headspace. He has tirelessly given his time to me for four years working alongside my GBR coaches. Living so remotely he has really been a huge part of my success by making sure I'm conditioned on my doorstep without extra travelling to Birmingham. He might know nothing about Judo but when it comes to Strength and Conditioning and Motivation he's up there with the best!

If anyone thinks they could sponsor or donate or know of anyone who might be interested in helping then please would you contact my mum, Cherry, on 07759-019232.

Photo shows Esmeë Holgate & Tomi Tatham at TNT Strongman 2023 competition. Esmeë won gold!!

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A Christmas Tale – at the Zoo

By Frank Piper of High Bentham

It was Christmas morning at the zoo. A cold, raw wind ruffled the lion's mane. He half-opened his eyes, yawned, had a good stretch and a scratch. Another yawn and then, looking across to the adjoining compound, he said, "You awake, Elephant?"

Of course, she was! Her ears flapped like a large butterfly,

"I've been awake ages and I am hungry. Why hasn't breakfast arrived?"

"Well, you will have to wait a bit longer" said the Lion, "Man is on holiday today!"

"What! Another holiday" said Elephant "Does that mean loads of nosey visitors?"

"Not today", replied Lion, "today is one of their rather special holidays. We'll see our keeper and that will be it. All the rest will be busy enjoying themselves. I thought you elephants were supposed to have a good memory. Remember last year? It's called Christmas!"

Elephant hung her head in shame (memory not up to scratch...) and blew hard at the surrounding straw.

"Don't get upset, Lion. Man forgets things too."

"One thing they don't forget" suggested Elephant "is their holidays!"

"That's right...but sometimes, they forget what this holiday is all about."

Elephant was intrigued, "What is it about, then?"

Lion was sure he had explained it all last year, and with a deep sigh, a roll of his eyes and a flick of his tail he started to explain:

"It is the anniversary of the birth of Jesus..." The elephant interrupted,

"Well, what is so special about him?"

"He was the son of God, the creator of all things. God sent Jesus into this world to show man how he should live..."

"Oh, and has man forgotten this?"

"You could say that I suppose" Lion replied, before continuing, "Jesus taught that the only way to find true happiness is to love one another, understand one another and share the wonders and beauty of the world together."

"So, in that case" suggested Elephant "they aren't doing a very good job of it are they?"

"No! In fact" said Lion, "some people saw Jesus as a threat to their power and they had him crucified. But those that loved him kept alive his message by writing it down and teaching it across the world. Christmas is to celebrate the birth of Jesus, but" – and here Lion sighed deeply – "some people have forgotten the real reason for Christmas and just enjoy sending and receiving presents and having parties."

"Why don't we just stop celebrating this holiday, then?" asked Elephant.

Lion was on firm ground now – he knew the reason.

"Well, that would mean Man has given up all hope for the future and for salvation. That would never do, would it?"

Elephant – still thinking of breakfast – agreed.

"Merry Christmas" said Lion, "you will remember why Christmas is celebrated next year, won't you?"

"I'll try to remember. Merry Christmas to you, Lion."

Lion shook his head gently, closed his eyes, and couldn't help wondering. Firstly, about Elephant's memory (or lack of it!) and secondly, about the arrival of breakfast!

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Taking Care of our Garden Residents this Winter

By Jill Franklin

I love exploring our local woodlands at this time of year. However, I was shocked to read that UK forests are likely to face catastrophic ecosystem collapse within 50 years. It makes me even more determined to make a home for wildlife in my garden.

If you would like to help nature, here are some things you can do this winter:

- Keep garden foliage. Hollow stems provide shelter for a wide range of insects and invertebrates, so let plants stand in your garden until the weather starts to warm up. Beneficial garden creatures will love these homes to live in over winter and your garden will benefit next year.
- Birds find winter very challenging. Short days and cold nights mean they must eat lots of food in a short amount of time to have the energy to survive until morning. Help them maintain their body temperature with energy-rich seeds like sunflower hearts or suet balls. Top up feeders regularly so that birds don't make wasted journeys to find food - they need huge amounts of energy just to stay warm at night.
- Don't cut back mature ivy until the spring. This evergreen plant is a brilliant cold-weather home for insects and birds, for whom the berries are also an energy-rich snack.
- Leave fallen leaves if you can. It's now thought that the use of leaf blowers is contributing to the drop in insect populations. Gathering by hand is a much more gentle process - you can easily decide where to leave leaf piles as a winter home for hedgehogs and insects and where leaves really do need to be cleared. Leaf litter provides essential warmth to much wildlife, including butterflies which shelter in leaf litter, either in egg, pupal or adult form to safely wait out the winter and emerge in spring.

For more ideas, have a look online, there is so much we can all do. As we take care of each other this Christmas, it would be wonderful to think we are taking care of our garden residents too!



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GCSE Maths question from Kevin Watt of High Bentham

If you travelled from Bentham to Pye Busk (a distance of 0.9 miles) at 20 mph, how much time would you save if you instead drove at 30 mph?

Answer: Quite difficult really, my dad told me the answer.

It is 54 seconds.

Now a further test question, GCSE English.

What would you do with all the extra time saved?

Answer:?????

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.

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Copy deadline is 8th December for the January edition.

Please note we cannot guarantee the inclusion of any articles after this date.

Printed by John Mason Printers, Skipton