

BENTHAM NEWS

April 2024 | 🎉 Issue 450 🎉 | Recommended price £1



Welcome News:

The Bentham Hub Belongs to All of Us Now!

Photo by Jon Brook of Bentham Imaging of Hub trustees, Lesley Barker, Mick Reid and Sharon Haslam at The Hub Open Day on Sunday 10th March. (see page 4 for an update from The Hub)

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Person of Bentham – Andrea Taylor

Andrea, well-known in Bentham, maybe because for many years she was a frequent caller at our homes as the friendly “parcel delivery person”, has her 60th birthday in April 2024. This month seems a good opportunity to feature her as our 73rd Person of Bentham.

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

I have lived in Bentham all my life. I was born in Lancaster Infirmary and lived with my parents and younger brother on Main Street. I went to Bentham Primary School and Ingleton Middle School and then on to Settle High School.

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

When I was 15 years old, I represented Great Britain as a sprinter and hurdler at an athletics meeting in Denmark. I'm told that my 100 metre and 200 metre sprint records still stand at Settle High School.

As a child, I was involved in an incident at Bentham Auction Mart. When I was 9 years old, during a pre-sale viewing, I was playing hide-and-seek with my friends when the yard foreman, Arthur Carroll, spotted me. Arthur was a big fellow, well over 6 feet tall with size 13 hobnail boots that my father, who ran the shoe shop on Main Street, had specially made for him. I was so scared that I jumped into a wardrobe and fell through the bottom. I escaped and ran home praying that Arthur wouldn't tell my mother. I eventually owned up at my mother's 80th birthday party in 2023. If looks could kill!

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

The Galapagos Islands and Antarctic, travelling with Sir David Attenborough.

What does the perfect day look like to you?

I'd have a full English breakfast in one of the cafés in Bentham and then I'd go along Main Street chatting to people and walk down to the Wenning with my dog, Alfie. In the evening I'd go to the Lancaster Grand to watch a tribute band and treat myself to a takeaway on the way home.

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

I would love to have watched the coronation of Queen Elizabeth II on TV. Our country cannot be beaten for ceremony and pageantry. I'm proud to be British on occasions like these.

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

I vividly remember the Falklands War in 1982 and I watched a fascinating documentary about Simon Weston, a Welsh Guardsman who had been badly burnt when the troopship he was on was bombed. The documentary followed his many operations and the struggle to rebuild his life.

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

Frank and Molly Hammond used to run evening classes for children in the Scout Hut, which was where 'Sole to Soul' is now. Frank would run art classes from 5–7pm and Molly would teach crochet and knitting from 7–9pm. I went from when I was 7 years old until I was 10.

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

I would build a floodlit athletics track around the playing fields, with a two-tier pavilion with showers, a toilet block and a veranda. All surrounded with landscaping and trees.

What's the worst job you have ever done?

I worked as a waitress in a café in Kirkby Lonsdale. I couldn't believe the mess American families would leave for me to clear up.

What's your most treasure possession?

Obviously, my children and grandchildren are the dearest things to me, but they aren't possessions. I'm very fond of my dog Alfi, but again he's not really a possession. I have a 'Tiny Tears' doll from 1968, I loved her then and still love her! I was privileged to have a proper 'Silver Cross' dolls' pram as a child.

How do you relax?

I lie on the sofa listening to the radio and googling on my computer or phone.

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

I didn't have any particular ambition, but I ended up as a secretary. Now I'd like to be Doctor Pimple Poppers assistant.

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

I never tire of watching 'Pretty Woman' with Richard Gere and Julia Roberts. I also like watching the early Disney films from my childhood such as 'Bedknobs and Broomsticks'. 'The Lion, The Witch and The Wardrobe' is also a great favourite.



Photo by Jon Brook of Bentham Imaging shows Andrea with Alfi

Can You “Pledge a Day”?

By The Hub Trustees



Now we have the keys to our new building, we can begin Phase One of the refurbishment.

We are keen to retain, enhance and return as many original features of this historic, iconic building as possible. But firstly, as many of you may have seen at The Hub Open Day on Sunday 10th March, the building, which has been empty for some time, is in need of a lot of TLC.

Never mind the BBC's DIY SOS, how about DIY THE BENTHAM HUB?! Calling all traders and craftspeople: can you “Pledge a Day”, or goods, or time to help?

So, if we feed you, will you come and help?

Jobs will include plaster boarding, plastering, plumbing, electrical work and joinery – and we have a kitchen to replace.

We have our very own Nick Knowles, Mick Reid, who is our project manager.

If you want to discuss anything about “Pledge a Day”, please contact Mick, on mick.reid49@outlook.com, or call in at The Hub and leave your details.

Many Bentham residents have volunteered to help with tasks that need doing, like cleaning and painting, which will be wonderful, but that is Phase Two and Phase Three: after Phase One has been completed.

Let's get Phase One started – we're really looking forward to hearing from you. Together we know we can make this exciting community project happen.



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£2,030 Raised for Farming Community Network

Following the magnificent Charity Tractor Run at Christmas in the Mart in Bentham in December, Emma Wallbank and Ellie Townley, who organised the event, were able to present a cheque for £2,030 to FCN (Farming Community Network).

Here's a photo showing three very happy, smiling people as the cheque is handed over. Well done to all concerned for helping to raise over £2,000 for such a good cause.



Save the Curlew!

By Victoria Benn (victoriabenn@friendsofthedales.org.uk)

With curlews now one of the UK's most critically endangered species, Yorkshire Dales environmental campaigning charity, "Friends of the Dales" have taken action to make this year's **World Curlew Day on 21st April** really count. Its Creative Campaigners (aged 20-30) and other friends have made in the region of twenty life-size curlew sculptures from foraged and recycled wire – under the expert guidance of Dales-based artist, Lesley Knevitt.

Make a date to come and see the team at its one-day outdoor installation and **awareness raising event on Sunday 14th April at Malham**. The curlew will be placed in the field alongside the pathway that links Malham village to Janet's Foss (by kind agreement of farmers Neil Heseltine and Leigh Weston). Through information giving, activities and instructions on how to make your own wire curlew, "Friends of the Dales" aims to raise awareness of the bird's endangered status and the things we can all do to help improve their survival rate. There will also be a short online curlew knowledge quiz with the chance to win a year's individual membership to the charity.

"Friends of the Dales" will also be making available the resources created for this event to village, community and environmental groups wanting to run similar events.

 Friends of the
DALES
YORKSHIRE DALES SOCIETY



Lonsdale Wheelers: Friends, Fun and Fitness

By Sue Bloxham

Lonsdale Wheelers is a *British Cycling* affiliated club based in Burton-in-Lonsdale. The Club has a Standard Group and a Recreation Group (Rec Group). We always choose the quieter roads for our rides which might mean hillier routes, but our aim is to avoid main roads like the plague. All rides include a café stop.

The Standard Group offers longer, faster rides up to 70 miles and uses WhatsApp to arrange 2 or 3 rides per week dependent on the weather and the availability of riders. This group also organises occasional car-assisted awaydays and overnight trips. For example, we have been to Shropshire and the Peak District in the last couple of years. We've also had several weeklong trips to Mallorca (the Mecca for great cycling) as well as mainland Spain and the French Alps.

The Rec Group is designed for cyclists who are looking for a leisurely, sociable, morning ride with friends, with no competition or pressure to 'keep up'. We are almost all on electric bikes and typically

cover 20-30 miles. We plan rides on the 2nd and 4th Sunday morning of each month through the summer and typically start at 9.30am from the Burton-in-Lonsdale Pavilion or the Sun Dial in Low Bentham. The group is a roughly equal mixture of men and women.

The Rec Group starts its new season on 14th April with a leisurely 18-mile circuit along Mewith Lane with a café stop in Clapham and return via Ingleton. On 28th April there is a 20-mile loop into the Forest of Bowland with a stop in Wray.

Club membership is available for only £5 per annum to cover British Cycling affiliation and admin. We welcome new members to either group. If you are interested, or would like to see more information on our rides and other events visit Lonsdalewheelers.weebly.com or email our secretary on timrollinson@icloud.com to find out more.



Photo above shows recreation group on a leisurely cycle through Leck last year



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A vibrant rainbow arches across the sky, starting from behind a line of trees in the foreground and extending towards the top right of the frame. The trees have yellow and green foliage. The background is a clear blue sky.

High Sheriff Visits Pioneer Projects

By Lynda Burns

On Friday 23rd February, it was a delight to welcome the High Sheriff of North Yorkshire to Pioneer Projects in High Bentham to present an award for services to the community - and a cheque for £500.

This year's High Sheriff, artist Clare Granger, takes a particular interest in organisations using art and creativity to help improve people's inclusion and wellbeing. This interest has seen her visit many fantastic projects over the year, so we were touched that she chose to recognise Pioneer Project's work with this award.

Pioneer Projects have been delivering wellbeing-focused creative activities across Craven for over a quarter of a century, working across ages, with a real focus on people experiencing poor mental health and those living with dementia. Clare visited our regular Friday 'Mental Health & Wellbeing Hub' and was welcomed by several of our regular participants, staff and trustees. She saw first-hand some of the amazing work they produce, and commented on the warm, inclusive and welcoming atmosphere.

It was great to see the High Sheriff giving creative approaches to health and community such a platform and helping to highlight how important they are to the residents and communities of Craven. If you would like to know more about Pioneer Projects' groups for yourself or someone you know, please get in touch: 015242-62672 or email office@pioneerprojects.org.uk



Photo above shows (L to R): North Yorkshire High Sheriff, Clare Granger; Pioneer Projects Chair of Trustees, Richard Pattinson; Dr Jane Burnett, Pioneer Projects Trustee and Leon Fijalkowski, Pioneer Projects Strategic Director.



Would you like to try Crown Green Bowling?



The green is now open! We have three teams playing in the South Westmorland and Kendal Leagues during the summer season. We also have club competitions and friendly matches against other local clubs. Every Wednesday we hold a club afternoon and new members are always welcome! It doesn't matter if you have never bowled before. Don't worry if you do not have any bowls of your own as we have spare sets for you to use!

On Saturday 6th April we have a coffee morning at the Town Hall. Please come along and enjoy a cup of coffee and meet the members.

There will be various stalls (including cakes) and a raffle.

If you would like more information,
please contact the Secretary... Pam Woof Tel: 61387

Bentham's Sue Ryder Shop to Close

By Aine O'Sullivan (National PR Officer)

Sue Ryder has operated a charity shop in High Bentham since 1998. The shop's lease expired at the beginning of March 2024, and, with careful consideration, we took the difficult decision to cease trading.



We would like to take the opportunity to thank our very dedicated and supportive volunteers, our staff and our loyal customers, who have been committed to raising vital funds and enabling the charity to provide expert and compassionate palliative care and bereavement support. If you wish to continue supporting Sue Ryder, our nearest shops can be found in Morecambe.

The Bentham News
wishes you all

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Bentham Primary School – Exciting Times Now and in the Future

By Mrs C Pearson, Headteacher

As we near the end of the Spring Term, it is an opportunity to reflect back on what children have achieved so far this academic year. As well as classrooms busy with children enthusiastically learning and engaging in class projects, children have also been given lots of opportunities to join in with After School Activities, school visits, sporting events, national celebrations and much more.

In March, children in Badger and Fox Class visited The Whitworth Art Gallery in Manchester. This was a wonderful opportunity for them to explore the world of digital art and media supporting class learning. They also enjoyed a hands-on animation workshop. Children in Hedgehog and Rabbit Class visited The Judges Lodgings in Lancaster, where children have looked at education throughout history. Meanwhile our oldest children in Owl Class joined with other children from North Yorkshire schools for a 'Crucial Crew' event organised by North Yorkshire Police. 'Crucial Crew' is a wonderful opportunity for children to meet with other children of their age and learn about good citizenship – aiming to reduce accidents, injury and crime. Also, during March, four of our children, Aidan, Lola, Bobby and Freddie, represented the school at a County Cross Country event, which they all qualified to take part in earlier in the year. On 13th March a small group of children took part in an adventurous Caving Experience and ventured down Thistle and Runscar Caves near Ribbleshead, led by experienced outdoor adventure provider, 'Olly Roberts Outdoors'. Children in Years 3 and 4 joined in with a cluster football tournament at Settle College on 14th March. We have continued to give children opportunities to join in after school Multi-Sports Clubs, including 'This Girl Can' and 'Boys-A-Loud', and there has also been an opportunity to join an after-school Art Club.

Mrs Chapman secured local adventurer and celebrity Shaun Gash to visit the school, meet with children and hold a series of Wheelchair Basketball sessions for children. There is no doubt that Shaun is an inspiration to us all. At the time of writing, Mrs Duckett our Family Support Assistant, is organising our annual 'Bentham's Got Talent' show; a lovely opportunity for children to showcase their talents and perform to an audience made up of family members and class friends at a special assembly. This year, World Book Day proved to be as popular as ever with children in all classes invited to dress up a wooden spoon as a character in a book, and there were some wonderful creations.

As readers may have already heard, there are some exciting times ahead as after the Easter Holidays Bentham School collaborates with Austwick C of E Primary School. This is a wonderful opportunity for all stakeholders. As Headteacher, I am excited to start a new chapter in leadership as Co-Executive Head and be involved in the future growth and development of both schools.

Finally, can I just take this opportunity to express once again how grateful our school is to all those individuals and businesses who made a financial donation to support the cost of residential visits for our families this academic year. There was a remarkable response and the monies raised has meant that all families have been provided with some financial support. Thanks too to the Black Bull Hotel in Bentham, for kindly donating an Easter Egg for every child to enjoy this Easter.



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People Page

Editorial note: BN received an anonymous letter for the April edition. Unfortunately, although it was on a subject which we support – a complaint about litter being dropped from vehicles – we have been unable to publish it. Our editorial policy, which is in the information box on page 47, states “Bentham News is willing to withhold printing names on request, but names, addresses and telephone numbers must accompany all items sent to us for publication.” If whoever sent the letter would like it published, please send us contact details, and if requested we will publish it anonymously in the May edition.

Searching for “Jim Fogg”

BN has been approached by John Newell who is trying to find any history or information about an author called “Jim Fogg”. He may have lived in Bentham and may have died in 1989.

If you can help John in any way, please email him at: Bikersmag.co.uk@gmail.com

Thanks

David St Pierre - Marie and our whole family wish to thank everyone for the thoughtful cards and appreciated support after the sudden loss of David. Our special gratitude to Revd Canon Peter Greenwood for guiding us through an uplifting service of farewell to David. Thanks are due also to B&W Funerals, Tara and to Bentham Golf Club for providing the perfect venue and buffet.

Ann Staveley - Christine, Alan and Family would like to thank everyone for their kind messages and flowers after the sad loss of Ann.

We would also like to thank B&W Funerals, Rev Stephen Dawson, Flowerfields, Mandy from Simply Delicious and Bentham Golf Club for all their help.

News from Neighbours

Lunesdale Probus Club – A Talk for Animal Lovers

By Roger Carter

Animal lovers of the Lune Valley should not miss the entertaining and informative talk that we have for you at our only April meeting: on **Monday 15th April. Steph Weber** will tell us about the work of the charity **Animal Care in Lancaster (and district)**.

This charity takes domestic animals from all over the northwest and nurtures them until they can be re-homed. They work with the RSPCA to care for abandoned and ill-treated animals or when the owners can no longer look after them. Even with 37 kennel spaces, 20 cat pens and 30 rabbit and other small animal spaces, they are full all year round!

Guests, friends and visitors are always welcome to join us at the Hornby Village Institute at 10.15am 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 on Lunesdale Probus Club, please contact 015242-22283.



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Burton-in-Lonsdale Community Aim to Purchase the Village's Last Remaining Pub

By Marilyn Smith (O.B.O. Burton Community Inn Group)

After much recent speculation, the last remaining pub in the village of Burton-in-Lonsdale, The Punch Bowl, was listed for sale on the open market on 20th February. Since 1988 The Punch Bowl has been the sole survivor in a village that once boasted 8 pubs, and so it was decided to seize the opportunity to secure the ownership of The Punch Bowl for the community. It had been rumoured for some time that this might happen and so, in anticipation of a likely sale, the Parish Council were successful in applying for an Asset of Community Value (A.C.V.) to safeguard the community interest in the pub. This was granted in April 2023.

After two hugely well supported public meetings, we felt the go ahead had been given by the community of Burton to embark upon putting together a bid to purchase The Punch Bowl and bring it into community ownership. Since then, volunteers have emerged from all over the village, offering their time and skills, and we now have a very strong team in place to drive this bid forward. We are currently working towards putting together an application to the government's Community Ownership Fund (C.O.F.) which we hope could potentially bring in a grant of up to £250,000 or more, to invest in the future of our community. We already have a thriving community-owned shop and numerous well-supported groups within the village and have been overwhelmed by the support received. Our campaign has already been featured in the Yorkshire Post and the Craven Herald and interest has been shown from BBC Radio Cumbria.

If we are successful in our mission to bring The Punch Bowl into community ownership, it will ensure the survival of this important asset not only to village life, but also to the wider rural community, and will secure a much-needed facility for the many tourists who visit this lovely part of England.

For further information please email burtoncommunitypub@gmail.com or follow us on Facebook – **Burton-in-Lonsdale Community Inn.**



Photo kindly provided by Fisher Hopper and Bentham Imaging

St John's Parish Church – A Different and Joyful Way to Worship

By Libby Wheildon

Our Sunday morning service on 25th February was the first of a new format of 'Something Different' services, which Canon Peter Greenwood has just introduced to take place every 4th Sunday in the month.

We arrived in church to a café style format, with the chairs gathered around tables instead of in lines, and refreshments served straight away as well as at the end of the service. Sitting at our tables, sipping our tea and coffee and eating biscuits and cakes, Canon Peter led an informal service, giving us all an opportunity to chat and share ideas, interspersed with hymn singing, prayers and a fun craft activity. The children sang and played musical instruments to accompany the hymns. We all agreed it was a different, yet very joyful,

way to worship together on a Sunday morning. Our next 'Something Different' service takes place on 26th May. Why not come and join us? You will be made very welcome.

You are also warmly invited to come and enjoy a cuppa and a cream tea on Easter Monday, 1st April from 2pm-4pm (this is not an April's fool!). Freshly baked warm scones with jam and cream plus a fantastic selection of other cakes on Easter Monday, what could be better?



Did You Know ?



The first edition of The Bentham
News was printed in November 1986!
This is the 450th edition!



Andrew Taylor

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“20’s Plenty” Petition

By Kevin Watt

In collecting signatures for a petition to reduce the speed limit in Bentham, there has been a resounding ‘Yes’. From the 258 people asked so far, 93.8% of people wanted a reduction with 16 against and five undecided.

The main reasons given for not wanting to sign were: “It’s pointless unless it is enforced”, “It will cause tailbacks and traffic jams”, “People drive at 20mph anyway” and some people said they just liked driving fast.

Some people thought that the recent 50mph speed restriction on the A683 to Lancaster increased the journey time by as much as six minutes. In fact, it only takes 38.4 seconds longer discounting Claughton, Caton and the bends on the Crook o’Lune.

Eventually, we hope to collect over 1,000 signatures. One person said, “Make it 2,000”, maybe she was right. I have lived here for over 48 years, during this time there has been an incremental increase in volume and speed of traffic. Bentham was once a fairly peaceful town, so it would be great to at least see an incremental reduction in traffic speed. When vehicles drive close to narrow pavements, it is quite unnerving. For children walking and scootering back from primary school, it’s just crazy.

So please sign our petition, if you would like to see at least the beginnings of a pedestrian-friendly town.



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Walking around Bentham Golf Course

By Isabel Marshall

Can we politely ask that people walking around the golf course follow the footpath routes, which are marked with large yellow posts?

The gravel paths that weave around the course are for golf buggies and course machinery. Walking along these paths could put you in danger of being hit by a golf ball or vehicle. If you are walking with dogs, please keep your dogs in close control or on leads.



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Your Garden in April

By Joyce Knapp

The month of April is seen by many as the start of the gardening year because, as the ground finally warms up and stays warm, we can get going with many of the jobs we have been anticipating during the cold winter months. In the flower garden we can sow seeds of a wide variety of hardy annuals ranging from the large, blousy, mauve/purple blooms of poppies like Patsy's Plum, to the more sedate flowers of marigolds that can be found in shades of orange and yellow. The poppies will grow well if we just sprinkle the seed liberally in situ, but we may prefer to start marigolds off in trays of seed compost in a greenhouse, to be planted out once they have developed into strong, young plants.

If we are aiming to feed the birds by growing plants that provide food for them, we can start with sunflowers, teasels or forget-me-nots. The teasel can grow up to a metre or more in height, producing a beautiful architectural form, but beware, as it produces spiky leaves that are not always child friendly. On the other hand, the sunflowers are always a great favourite with youngsters, especially when the plant grows taller than the child! Meanwhile the good old reliable forget-me-not will continue to hug the ground even as it produces its delicate blue/pink flowers. The seeds of each of these can provide a source of food for a wide range of birds to feast on, the only word of warning is to keep an eye out for seedlings, grubbing out any unwanted ones to prevent them from taking over your garden. Looking at sowing seeds, I intend to grow nasturtiums under and around my apple tree this year, partly because they look so good but mainly because they are reputed to help prevent a form of blight damaging the fruit. I am also going to sow seeds of Tansy around my raspberry canes as these are reputed to ward off the flies that lay eggs on the fruit, leading to an infestation of maggoty raspberries.

There is very little pruning to do this month although winter-flowering heathers will benefit from a light all-over trim that will keep them compact and encourage flowering next year. We can also prune *Viburnum bodnantense* and this is done simply by removing 1/5 old stems, along with any weak/straggly shoots to produce a more open and healthier shrub.



Surgery News

By Beth Cooper – Lead Practice Nurse

Bentham Medical Practice has signed up to the Spring COVID booster programme. The booster will be offered to nursing home residents, housebound patients and patients over the age of 75, or those who are under 75 but who are classed as immunosuppressed.



Did You Know ?



We have a website:
www.thebenthamnews.co.uk



How to Massage a Cow

By John Dawson, a farmer

One of the most enjoyable parts of being a peasant farmer is being part of the changing seasons and working with them. The depths of winter bring with it as many disasters as summer, the only difference being that winter disasters tend to be cold, unpleasant affairs compared with the warm, sunny summery ones, worth noting that both types lead to despair.



Winter days are full of routine and the dairy cows are top of the list every single day. There is much to keep an eye on with the cows and more so when they are inside for winter. A book could be written (and many have been) about the management of the housed dairy cow. Usually, books like this are written by those who have never actually kept cows but do know how it should be done.

In my experience the building itself is the starting point, it is where she lives for the next few months and she must feel safe, secure and perfectly at home, a bit like a child at primary school. For instance, there should be no “dead ends” where a shy cow can be confronted by a bully cow who may well do the bovine equivalent of demanding dinner money with menaces. Water troughs must be easily accessible, cleaned out regularly and always full. There should be more cubicle beds than cows as some cows do not like to sit next to another cow. The beds at ‘Bleak Bank’ have thick rubber mats on them to help provide comfort, they are cleaned and freshly bedded with sawdust and a hint of lime every day.

Passageways should be wide, and the concrete underfoot must be nonslip so she is confident when moving about and can display her natural behaviour, particularly if she is on heat. There must be plenty of room at the feed fence so that the shy cows can eat without keeping one eye out for potential dinner money trouble.

We have a rotating cow brush with heavy nylon bristles, when nudged by a cow it comes to life and gives her a massage that some would pay a lot of money for, sometimes I stand watching and sometimes I have a go. Occasionally I accidentally nudge the brush with the scraping out tractor, it’s as near as I have ever come to using a car wash.

All this must be in place before turning your attention to the finer detail such as a balanced diet to help each cow keep healthy and fulfill her potential. The old agricultural saying “If you want to get steam out you must put coal in” comes into play here. Usually, animal feed companies are very willing to help with this and often arrive with laptop in one hand, price list in the other and pound signs in their eyes.

We sell our milk to Arla, a farmer-owned cooperative, we are part of their “Arla Care” package which means that if cows go out to graze in summer the milk can be marketed as such. The Care package means we have regular inspections by a vet employed by Arla, (paid for by us) our own vet is invited to these visits by Arla (employed and paid for by us) and if they are not away skiing or lying on a beach, they may well pop along to help drink coffee and eat ginger biscuits.

Usually, the Arla vet is no longer in active veterinary practice but is happy to dream up schemes to justify their salary, don the occasional pair of upmarket wellies and share the

depth of their wisdom with the average peasant who obviously doesn't know the first thing about keeping cows, poor thing.

So, there may be three of us looking at our cows and only myself not on an hourly rate. Ironically, when the two vets enter our cowshed all the cows get excited at two strangers appearing with little warning. The first thing they do is evacuate their bowels, (the cows, not the vets) the next thing they do is rush to the far end of the building and start climbing over each other, I think vets must smell funny to a cow. The Arla vet then proceeds to explain the importance of a tranquil cowshed.

Round the kitchen table, ginger biscuit in hand, our own vet may well feign interest in what the Arla vet has to say about the latest animal health thinking. I even saw her take notes once and then go through them with a fancy highlighter pen before having another biscuit and wondering how to become an Arla vet which could be a pleasant change from nocturnal calvings.

A few days later a written report about the visit is produced, this used to arrive on expensive shiny paper but now to save the environment it arrives by email with our vet copied in. Often, it bears little resemblance to the actual visit, and we file it away on a cloud (or something) all this because our cows go out to graze in summer, remarkable. Meanwhile, we continue to work hard and keep animal welfare at the top of our list....

History of Chapel-le-Dale Surveyed

By Mary Taylor

'A field survey in the valley of Chapel-le-Dale: piecing together the historical evidence', was the title of Dr David Johnson's illustrated talk, given to Ewecross Historical Society in Bentham Methodist church on Monday evening, February 26th.

Dr Johnson had found from ancient documents that in 1506 the Dale was called Weysdale, and in 1755 the river was the Wees, and from present day field names found that one of the names 'pant', meaning a hollow, was in use before Roman times. Aerial photos and maps of the field boundaries and drove ways showed limestone terraces with fields in the valley revealing ancient parallel field banks. Dr Johnson said that a field called Brows, now a stinted pasture, is a good example of a wood field, with the trees used to shade and shelter the animals, and

that where primroses now grow is evidence of a wood field. From the 1200s the whole area belonged to Furness Abbey containing the manors of Twisleton and Ellerbeck, the Abbey bought Southerscales for £600 which would be millions today. Dr Johnson had found remains of seven leats, watercourses, which had been dug out through limestone pavement and shake holes, following the contours of the land to take water from a stream high in the foothills of Whernside to farms called Scales, an occupied summer pasture. From a document of 1297 Elias de Scales had two cows, two calves and 20 sheep. In addition to the three present dwellings named Scales, Dr Johnson had discovered the remains of a larger farm near the road entrance and two smaller dwellings west along the ridge, as well as many cairns where stones had been removed from the fields; he had even found a metre wide wall containing surplus stones.

He was introduced and thanked by Chair, Mike Winstanley.

Tremendous Tunnelling!

By Alice Ellwood

On a cold bright January afternoon, a group of Bentham volunteers headed over to Goodenber Play Area and set to work on the willow tunnel. In the past the tunnel has been beautiful and strong, wild and overwhelming, spindly and haphazard. At one point we have even had to have it cut it right back as it had grown too large to weave and was completely out of shape.

But this day was different – Ali Clough has been helping twist and shape parts into beautiful plaits and arches so our job of feeding in the extra wispy canes was much easier.

Being able to get out in the winter while the willow is still flexible and malleable, plus the lack of rain, meant we got much further than past working parties and we have ended up with a rather lovely piece of play equipment for our children. We know that they will run through, pull around, and use the tunnel, but that is exactly why it is there. We know it won't ever be perfect, but it's in good shape now for the spring and maintenance will be a lot easier.

So, if you've not been down to the play area for a while, why not take a look? You can also see the new equipment we have in place: a basket swing, new climbing dome, and a children's rocker. Our Chair, Charlotte Mouncey, has done a brilliant job fundraising, organising and supervising the works, while our treasurer, Emma Edwards, has been invaluable with the finances too. You may not know that Councillor Gareth Adams also does a lot of work helping maintain the park and arranging things behind the scenes to help keep our playground in good shape and we are very lucky to have him! Thank you to all who are involved with keeping the play area neat and tidy.

We were also pleased to see a new face at the working party and very grateful for their help. We are a voluntary committee of three and really appreciate all the support we can get to keep this park running for our young people. If you are interested or able to help in any way, please get in contact via messenger (search Goodenber Play Area on Facebook) or by calling Charlotte on 61915. Keep your eyes peeled for more news in Bentham News and on Facebook, coming your way soon.

Photo above of Emma Edwards and Collette Austin working on the willow tunnel





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Home to School Travel North Yorkshire – Consultation Ends on 12th April 2024



By Amanda Newbold, Assistant Director, Education and Skills

North Yorkshire Council has started a consultation on proposed changes to the Council's Home to School Travel Policy. A face-to-face event was held in the Ingleborough Community Centre on March 21st and now people are being asked to complete an important questionnaire before the consultation period closes on Friday April 12th.

The overall cost to the council of providing home to school travel is significant and rising at pace.

The increase in expenditure is driven by 2 factors: firstly, the number of eligible children who have Education, Health and Care Plans has increased by 47% since 2018/2019, and secondly, the operational cost of providing the service.



The current population of 5–16year olds in North Yorkshire schools is c.75,000 and the number of those accessing free home to school transport is c.10,500. So currently the Council provides free transport for 14% of the total school population aged 5-16 (5% primary, 25% secondary) and for c.86% it is not.

The Council is exploring a variety of ways to deal with this cost increase, and really values your input. So please access the link below to read the background information to this issue and then fill in the travel survey questionnaire by 12th April.

<https://www.northyorks.gov.uk/your-council/consultations-and-engagement/current-consultations/home-school-travel-policy-consultation>

If you would rather fill in a paper copy, then please call the customer service centre on 03001-312-131 but be quick, the deadline is very soon!



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Events in April



Town Hall

Every Tuesday

Blue Moose Dance 9.30am-12noon, LH

Craft Club 10.00am - 12noon, WR

Yoga with Suzie 5pm-6pm & 6pm-7pm, LH

Every Wednesday

Stepping Stones 9.00am-12:30pm, BR

Pilates with Sally Horn 9.30am - 10.30am, LH

Town Hall - Meeting

Monday 8th 7.30pm, LH

Full Town Council Meeting.

Monday 22nd 7.30pm, LH

Council Finance Meeting

Town Hall - Coffee Mornings

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



Saturday 10am - 12noon

6th - Springfield Bowling Club

13th - Bentham Youth Club

20th - Victoria Institute

27th - High Bentham WI

Town Hall - Prostate Cancer Support Group Meeting

Thursday 11th 7.30pm - 8.30pm, LH

E-mail - bayprostategroup@pm.me

Playing Fields AGM

Bentham Playing Fields AGM is on Tuesday **2nd April** at 7pm at the 'Black Bull' upstairs. We would welcome anyone wanting to join our committee or please come along if you want to help at any of our events – that would be amazing. *Ingrid Ellershaw*

Footpath *(see page 31)*



For April walks meet first at Lairgill for 9.30am.

Wednesday 10th, Alison Kinder and Colin Stroud, 07854 789311, Gilpin Beck, 5.5 miles

Thursday 18th, Mary Pickstone and Valerie Eccles, 07979 607191, Stocks Reservoir, 7 miles

Friday 26th, Mary and Kate Taylor, 61672,

Wyresdale, Scorton, 6.5 miles

Saturday 4th May, Terri Kweicinska, 07972 653791, Bardsea, 6.5 miles

Bentham Fire Station

Thursday, 11th & 25th April. 10am

Bentham & District Dementia Friendly Community Breakfast Club

Bentham Pantry Club

Wednesday 3rd, 10th, 27th, 24th April.

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.

Methodist Church

Toddle-In

Mondays 8th, 15th, 22nd & 29th Apr 10am-11.30am

For parents/carers of children from birth to school age. £2 per family includes drinks and refreshments.

WI *(see pages 36 & 37)*



High Bentham - Thurs 4th, 7.30pm, Town Hall

Tatham Fells - Tues 9th, 7.30pm, Old School

Low Bentham and District - Thurs 18th, 7pm, Victoria Inst

*Don't forget the BN deadline date is
12th April for the May edition*

Victoria Institute

Every Monday

9.00am - 12.30 Office open, Enquiries/Bookings
11.30am - 2pm Community Link Cafe
Light lunches and activities
6.15pm - 7.45pm Tai Chi Qigong

Every Tuesday

4.00pm - 9.30pm 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

4.00pm - 6.15pm Helen Howard School Of
Dance - Term Time

Every Friday

10am - 12noon Post Office Services

Every Sunday

11am - 12.30 Cornerstone Church Service

Thursday April 18th

Low Bentham W.I. 7.00pm

Saturday April 20th

Coffee Morning in Town Hall High Bentham-
see page opposite

Bentham Golf Club

Every Friday 11am - 2pm, Age Concern

Bentham Friday Lunch Club

5th, 12th, 19th & 26th April

Burton Film Group

The Burton Film Group is ready for the April film! So 'Barbie' will be shown in Burton Village Hall on Saturday 6th April. As usual doors will open at 7.00pm for a 7.30pm start and £5 tickets will be available on the door. Wearing Pink is optional!

Ewecross Historical Society - AGM

Monday 29th 7.30pm, in the Methodist Church.

Visitors welcome at no charge

Pioneer Projects Looking Well Studios

**PIONEER
PROJECTS**

Every Monday - Meet Lairgill carpark 9.20am, (except 1st), Health Walks for Women.

Every Monday - 10.30am to 12.30pm, (except 1st) Making Connections Dementia Group.

Every Tuesday - 9.30am - 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.

Tues 9th, 2pm to 4pm, Book Group in the Library

Every Wednesday - 9.30am to 4pm, Barclays Bank.

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

Every Wednesday - 2pm to 4pm, Art for All.

Every Thursday - 12.30 - 3.30pm, Community Art Shed.

Every Friday - 9.30am to 3.30pm, Barclays Bank.

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

Friday 5th, 10am - 2pm, Looking Well - Spring Celebration - join us for some seasonal fun! Tea & coffee. Singing. Seed swap and Spring crafting.

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

Bentham Community Library

Telephone 01609 534533

library@pioneerprojects.org.uk

Monday 2:30pm - 5:00pm

Wednesday 10:00am - 2:00pm

Friday 2:30pm - 4:20pm

Saturday 10:00am - 12:00noon

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HIPPIE JOINT, sorry, HIP JOINT!

A Murder Mystery event

By the Hip Joint Team

On Friday April 19th at 12.30pm in the

Victoria Institute, Low Bentham, Hip Joint goes Hippie!

Revisit the 1970s and enjoy solving our latest MURDER MYSTERY.

The play is set in the home of Queenie, an artist enjoying her 70th birthday party, surrounded by family and friends. We join her as guests at her celebrations in Freshwater Bay on the Isle of Wight. Happily she remembers the 1970 Festival that inspired her to move there as a young woman in her hippie days. But after the party a terrible 'accident' changes everything. Queenie turns from dancing to The Who to wondering whether she's in the middle of a whodunit. Fortunately, she loves nothing more than to put on her sleuthing hat and invites the audience to help her work out what really happened. Watch and listen carefully as you question Horace King, Grace, Jack and Jo Kerr to solve the mystery.

Put on your party glad rags and your thinking caps and get into the mood. Join Queenie as a detective and dig deep for motives and plots.

Food: At Queenie's party you'll savour some delicious flavours of the seventies for a truly immersive retro experience.

If you haven't been to a Hip Joint party before, you'll leave with a smile, planning to come back soon.

Simple Booking: The cost is £12.50, including the booking fee. Go to www.trybooking.co.uk/DGDJ. Buy tickets by card or use PayPal. 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. There is the option of a £6 ticket if you are on a reduced income, please email hipjointbentham@gmail.com to obtain a ticket. Any queries, please email hipjointtickets@icloud.com.















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Bentham Town Council Meeting: 19th February 2024

Report by Peter Hardy

Both reports of Town Council meetings in this BN, are not the official Town Council minutes, but a general report of matters discussed. The official minutes will be published on the BTC website in due course.

Attendees: Councillors Rachel Naylor, Debbie Howard, Thomas Marshall, Mark Paige, Tony Burton, Gareth Adams, Howard Hill, Tim Stannard, Liz Ryan and Phil Gerrie. Town Clerk Claire Burrow, 2 members of the public, PCSO Jayne Grace, PC Ian Hunt and the Bentham News reporter.

Apologies: Councillor Taylor.

Declaration of interest: Tony Burton re: item concerning flooding in Springfield (below).

Comments and Concerns: A member of the public requested that the headstone for his late wife be inscribed with his name also. The intention was that on his passing the stonemason would come out to add the necessary date. He was supported by another member of the public who said that the gentleman had no family nearby and if permission was granted it would give him peace of mind. It was established that this had occurred in other areas with policies like Bentham.

The **Police Report** was delivered: please see details in Bentham News (*page 42*)

The police representatives were concerned that members of the public were not reporting instances of suspicious behaviour because they felt nothing would be done. It was stressed that a need for more resources must be proofed and without reports coming in nothing was likely to change. The message was, please report suspicious behaviour: ring 999 if something is happening now, such as strangers on your property, and 101 if reporting after the incident.

Planning Applications:

ZA23/25557/FUL Resurfacing the parking area by Low Bentham Victoria Institute had been approved.

ZA24/25674/LBC and ZA2/25672/FUL No objections to works at the Brown Cow (formerly Coach House).

ZA23/24968/REM Application on appeal approved at land on Greenfoot Farm, Greenfoot Lane, Low Bentham.

Sale of the Community Youth Building: To sign contract and transfer ownership: resolved and carried unanimously.

Consider approval of inscription and **fixing of brass plaque to bench** by a member of the public. Thomas Brown will fix the plaque, but the member of the public will be invited to attend.

Consider **adding inscription on a headstone** of a person still living: unanimously agreed, member of the public has given permission for his personal data to be published.

Course of action regarding the **paving outside Miller's Court** due to a member of the public falling. Town Clerk to establish ownership of said land.

Request to have footpath alongside Brown Cow (Coach House) resurfaced to make more accessible to pushchair and wheelchair users. As considered a public footpath the Town Clerk will contact NYC.

Town Clerk to respond to planning application re: **Rollershed**.

Movement of Internet and 2 phone lines to Sky Business: approved.

Letter of thanks to be sent from Town Clerk to **Mr Hinde** for the posters of past pantomimes which are now on display in the Town Hall.

Town Clerk to contact NYC about the continued **problems with flooding in Springfield**.

Items for next meeting and minor items for interest:

Councillor Marshall sends apologies for next meeting.

Parking issues on Main Street, especially near the Black Bull and Co-op.

Town Council Meeting on 4th March 2024

By Jane Proctor

Our two new co-opted Councillors, Debbie Howard and Rachel Naylor, took their place alongside Cllrs Adams, Burton, Gerrie, Hill, Paige for their first council meeting. Apologies were received from Cllrs. Marshall, Ryan and Stannard for the March meeting of Bentham Town Council. There was no attendance by North Yorkshire Councillor Ireton, the Police or Community Safety Officer but in addition to your BN reporter there were 2 members of the public.

Law and Order - The police sent a written report setting out brief details of the 28 incidents which occurred between 19th February and 3rd March, one of which was sheep on the road. No mention of which road, but one cannot help thinking not an uncommon event in these parts. There seems to be a trend developing for the theft of diesel and farm type vehicles with Mewith Lane a bit of a hot spot. (*See Police Report on page 42*)

There was no report from our replacement Public Safety Officer and comment was made that she has not been very visible since taking on the role. The new PSO has refused to take on responsibility for checking the batteries and pads on Bentham's defibrillators, something Craig Lyon did, and which led to a discussion on just what is her remit for the town. The clerk will write and enquire.

Defibrillators - These were discussed in the context of who is to look after them following the departure of Craig Lyons and whether we have sufficient. Enquiries are to be made to see if a willing volunteer will assume this responsibility of checking batteries and pads. If you think you are qualified and willing to undertake the task, please get in touch with the clerk. The Town Council owns the defibrillators at The Town Hall, Bentham Surgery, Naylor Myers and the Victoria Institute. Additionally, there are non-council owned defibrillators at Bentham Station, the School, the Golf Club, Riverside Caravan Park and the Bowling Club. A quote is awaited to fit the existing defibrillator onto an external wall at the Playing Fields in Wenning Avenue, and enquiries are being made to see if the Bowling Club defibrillator can be fitted externally also.

Highways - Parking on Main Street opposite the Co-op was the big issue. It was felt the culprits who park on the double yellow lines were probably locals and given the problems of Traffic Enforcement Officers getting from Harrogate to Bentham (with the closure of the A59 at Kex Gill), and the reluctance of the Highways Department at Northallerton to come and repaint the double yellow lines, no solution was immediately apparent. What was suggested was a local campaign of leafleting offending vehicles to see whether that may work. The clerk will contact Traffic Enforcement and North Yorkshire Highways and make representations for some action from each of them.

The Town Hall - Despite three visits to fix the problem of the automatic door not opening consistently, the problem persists with the result that the council are withholding payment for the last 'repair' visit. The doors are 20 years old, and it was felt they may be reaching, or have reached, the end of their useful life and advice is to be sought from a different company to see if the existing problem can be fixed and to seek a recommendation from them as to a sensible way forward. Cllr Adams has been asked to acquire some new 2 litre jugs for the upstairs kitchen and the broken drawstrings on the curtains in the ballroom will be fixed.

Bentham Masterplan - Cllr Gerrie reported that the completed plan is to be presented to the Skipton & Ripon Constituency Committee by the Assistant Director for Economic Affairs of North Yorkshire imminently. If, as is to be hoped, the Plan gets the go ahead, the Committee plays a key role in promoting and encouraging regeneration and development of areas such as Bentham. It will give Bentham some leverage when trying to engage with North Yorkshire as all the relevant departments have approved the draft, and 'signed up' to the plan.

After the plan has been adopted there will be further discussions between North Yorkshire and the Town Council in terms of next steps, and at that point various Community Groups may be asked to help lift the vision off the page.

The Community Youth Café - It was reported completion of the sale had taken place and it was agreed the whole of the proceeds, some £60,000, will be placed on deposit in the Council's Public Sector Deposit Fund with a view to ringfencing the money for some worthwhile future project. The costs of sale, solicitors and estate agents are to be met from the Council's general funds and not from the sale proceeds. The Chair of the meeting wished the new owners well.

Planning - There was no objection to the one application on the agenda (ref ZA24/25751/FUL) for the erection of a single-storey garden office at Weststonegate, 13 Main Street, Low Bentham LA2 7BX.

Other Matters:

School buses – North Yorkshire Council are running a 'Home to School' consultation on who should pay for transport to school and it is important for parents to make their voices heard. Living on the edge, as we do in Bentham, neighbouring councils may have different rules, and it seems there is a prospect of having to pay for a child to get to a North Yorkshire school whilst getting free transport to a Cumbria school. (*see article on page 22*)

Philip Harvey Playing Fields – All the equipment has been safety checked and the paths and signage are being cleaned. Negotiations are to be opened with the owner of the footpath leading to the playing fields to see if it can be made more 'user friendly' especially for parents with pushchairs.

Memorial Tree – an English Oak tree is to be planted at the Philip Harvey Playing Fields in memory of her late Majesty Queen Elizabeth II.

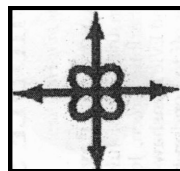
Date of the next meeting – Monday 8th April 2024 at 7.30pm in the Lower Town Hall. Members of the public are welcome to attend, and the agenda will be published on Bentham Town Council website in advance of the meeting.



Bentham Footpath Group -

Three April Walks

By Don Cartledge



Just three walks in April plus advance notice of the first one in May. For all these walks, meet first at Lairgill for 9.30am.

Wednesday 10th is our first walk and Alison Kinder and Colin Stroud (07854-789311) are the leaders. The walk covers 5.5 miles around Gilpin Beck and starts from a lay-by on the left, about 0.6 miles from Crook Church (just before the B5284 descends steeply and swings right by some white cottages). First, we walk down to a clapper bridge over Gilpin Beck and on to Bateman Fold. Then, following a cart track, it's on to Winster Valley Road which we cross to arrive at Bryan House Farm. Crossing the road again we proceed through Foxhill Wood to Foxhill Bank, High House Farm and Brow Head Farm to reach Milldam. Finally, it's back to the start via Spigot House.

A pleasant 7-mile ramble around Stocks Reservoir is led by Mary Pickstone and Valerie Eccles (07979-607191) on **Thursday 18th**. It starts from School Lane car park in Gisburn Forest on the reservoir shore in the Forest of Bowland. This walk is fairly easy and follows tracks through woods, over moorland and around the reservoir in an anti-clockwise direction. The reservoir itself attracts a wide variety of birdlife, so you may want to bring your binoculars. Near the parking area is the site of the old Stocks Church which was rebuilt further away from the reservoir, and we pass this near the end of the walk.

Wyresdale is the location of our final April walk on **Friday 26th**. The walk covers 6.5 miles and is led by Mary and Kate Taylor (015242-61672). Parking is at the

Scorton picnic site, from where we follow the Wyre Way up to a road which crosses the M6, then a footpath leads on to Park Gate Bridge. We continue over the fields through Cliftons to Sykes Farm, then take a road for 300 yards where a path leads on to Salisbury Farm. Turning right, we reach a road leading to Street Bridge from where we rejoin the Wyre Way back to the start.

The **first May walk on Saturday 4th May** promises to be something special as it includes not only strolling by the sand and the sea, but also passing an ancient stone circle, then over moorland and alongside a tarn. This Bardsea and Urswick walk is led by Terri Kwiecinska (07972-653791) and covers 6.5 miles. Parking is free in a large lay-by off the A5087 from where we start up the lane towards Bardsea, then follow a quiet track to the edge of Birkrigg Common. At this point we pick up a walled green lane to Far Mount Barrow before turning back parallel to the sea, heading towards Urswick Tarn. Crossing fields, we reach another walled green lane to Sunbrick and onto the common to the stone circle, then it's back across the A5087 (crossing carefully) and along the coastal path to return to the cars.



Encouraging Aphid Predators – Ladybirds, Wasps and Earwigs

By Jill Franklin

April is an exciting month, full of anticipation about the year ahead. While I'm planning what I'll grow, I'm also thinking about how to encourage wildlife to do their job. Considering wildlife now means we stand a better chance of naturally managing some of the garden insects that might try and take over.

Last year, in the unusually high temperatures, many gardens experienced large populations of aphids. With over 500 UK species, but commonly known as 'greenfly' or 'blackfly', they can reproduce very quickly. Within a couple of weeks of maturing, one aphid can produce over 50 offspring, giving birth to live young with those offspring also having their young inside them. So, if a grandmother arrives on a new plant, she can give birth to a mother with a granddaughter already developing inside. They are the masters (or should that be mistresses?) of speedy reproduction. That's why you get so many aphids in the blink of an eye.

To make sure you have many aphid predators this year, start thinking about what to encourage and protect now. **Ladybirds** are great aphid hunters - their larvae can each consume 50 to 60 aphids per day. They're unusual looking bugs (their appearance varies by type of ladybird) and need to be cherished. Please look out for them. If you see an insect and want to know more, send a photo to the UK's leading insect science charity, the Royal Entomological Society - <https://www.royensoc.co.uk/understanding-insects/identification-help/>

Wasps are also brilliant at controlling aphids. Last year we had a wasp nest in our garden shed and decided to keep it so the wasps could help us control any aphids. Wasps build their amazing papier-mâché nests in March and April so, if you can let them be, they will help you by eating aphids and flies - their main food sources.

The other big consumer of aphids is the often-misunderstood earwig. **Earwigs** live in moist, dark places. They are one of the world's most caring insects, looking after their young, or "wiglets", in an underground chamber. They love to hunt, and they love aphids. With the predators of aphids reproducing so much more slowly than the aphid, they all need our help to reproduce as successfully as they can in our gardens. So, if you lift a stone and startle a mother and wiglets, carefully replace the stone. They are your aphid-eating friends!

Jill's photo (right) of ladybird larva



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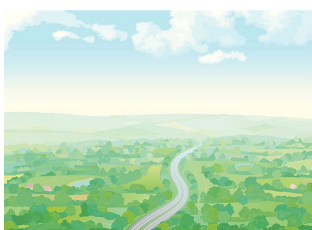
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Tatham Fells

By Mary Taylor

'Enclosures and Stints', a complete mystery to some of Tatham Fells Women's Institute members, were explained on Tuesday March 12th by Dr Mike Winstanley during his illustrated talk. Showing present day aerial photographs alongside



earlier maps, he showed the position of the common or waste land which was

'Enclosed', the spelling at that time was 'Inclosed'. In 1787 Bentham Moor, between Bentham and Burton was enclosed, as can be seen from above by the field boundaries all being in straight lines. In 1812 an attempt to enclose Tatham failed, but yielded to the Enclosure Act of 1853, and at last in 1965 Lythe Fell and the Lancashire part of Burnmoor became recognised as 'Regulated Stinted Pasture'. A fence between Lythe Fell and Yorkshire was finally erected in the nineteen seventies with the cattle grid being put in recently.

Names reveal history, as in Old Moor Road, Moor Head and Fairheath Head; the quarry from which the stone was obtained for making the roads was then on the common, it is now part of a wood near Thimble Hall. Mike gave the names of the owners and tenants of that time and told of many meetings often held at Tatham Bridge Inn, he also spoke of the Manor Courts and of Disputes.

Sue Dodgson thanked the speaker who judged the competition for three scones;

winners were first Kath Coats, second Mary Taylor and third Kath Dickinson. President Ruth Garstang spoke of coming events including the Lancashire Federation Spring Conference and Quiz. The last WI walk was in Chapel-le-Dale, the next one is on Friday 5th April. The evening concluded with refreshments provided by Sue Dodgson and Jean Easterby. The talk at our next meeting on 9th April will be 'The smaller isles of the Hebrides in a small boat' by Steve Halliwell.

Low Bentham and District

By Kathryn Brownsord

At our March meeting in the Victoria Institute, Viv Barclay gave a talk "Viv's Mumentous Atlantic Row". She explained all the preparations and extensive training she was doing before her 3,000-mile South Atlantic Row. Viv had to undertake tests to prove she was capable both in mind and body before her entry into the world's toughest row – from La Gomera to Antigua. Funds had to be raised and she told us that over £100,000 was needed to complete this task. She is doing this challenge for the Menopause Charity and is still collecting sponsorships. Should she complete this solo challenge she will break the Guinness World Record by becoming the oldest woman, at the age of 59, to cross the South Atlantic solo. Viv will hopefully have been rowing all day in Booths Supermarket (one of her sponsors) on 16th March hoping to gain more sponsors her for this Mumentous challenge which will take place in



December this year.

Kitty Ellershaw won the raffle and the winner of the competition, "A Holiday tip", was won by Sheila Brown. We had entered a team into the Bentham Agricultural Quiz; we didn't win but they say it is the taking part that matters. Eight of our members went to see Gilbert and Sullivan's "The Gondoliers" at Hornby – a very enjoyable evening. March craft day was held at Jennifer Watkinson's home where a lovely few hours were spent crafting. Sue Fitzsimmons organised our luncheon in March when we dined at the Red Well – always enjoyable.

Our April 18th meeting will have a talk by "The Westmorland Red Squirrel Society", and at our May 16th meeting we will be testing our antique skills in "Curiosity Corner". We hold our meetings on the third Thursday of each month, visitors are very welcome and we are always open to new members. Why not come and join us?

High Bentham

By Jan Stuver

At the March meeting of High Bentham WI Jeff Coates and Chris Williams of the North Yorkshire Rotters' voluntary organisation came all the way from Northallerton to tell us about the shockingly huge amount of good food that is thrown away annually in this country. Not only is this wasting a lot of people's hard-earned money, but the methane released by the rotting food also adds to global warming. They passed on useful tips for keeping waste to a minimum, including planning one's meals ahead, and buying food accordingly; using up leftovers to make a tasty meal the following day; and making use of your freezer to preserve food getting closer to its use by date and for freezing surplus cooked

food to reheat at a later date. Also, making sure that your fridge is at the correct temperature of between 0 and 5 degrees. We also received a lot of excellent advice on home composting and heard about the



new processing plant that deals with most of the household waste in the county.

By the time you read this, many of you will have already seen that the contractors have done the paving and raised bed for the WI garden around our bench outside the Medical Centre. Hopefully by the summer we will have finished preparing the beds and got at least some of the herbs and medicinal plants into the ground.

Our next meeting will be on Thursday 4th April and will be an "in house" presentation on Easter Customs around the World. Visitors are always welcome to join us at 7.30pm in the Lower Town Hall. We also hope to see you at our Coffee Morning on Saturday 27th April.

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Friends, neighbours and relatives of the late Mary Harrison gathered at the bench outside her house on Low Bentham Road on Thursday 14th March to install a plaque on the bench in her memory. A happy, joyous moment to remember a much-loved person in our community.

RIP Mary.

(photos by Sue Halsall)



Music in the Fells

By Jane Proctor

The Church of the Good Shepherd, Lowgill will host the first concert of Music in the Fells 2024 performed by Eden Valley Baroque on **20th April at 7.30pm.**

Katherine May playing harpsichord and Michael Sanderson playing baroque violin and viola and voice formed Eden Valley Baroque following their move to Cumbria from Berkshire in 2019, a move which they have never regretted — *see photo on page 48*

Katherine was once described as a, “feisty and urbane harpsichordist” by the music critic of The Times. She is a graduate of the Royal College of Music and has performed extensively in the UK, Europe and Canada. She has many CD recordings to her credit.

Michael graduated with a music degree from Nottingham University and during his career has performed with the glitterati of the film and music world working with the likes of Liz Taylor, Richard Burton and Placido Domingo. In 1989 he was appointed a Lay Clerk (gentleman chorister) at St George’s Chapel, Windsor, and has sung on many Royal occasions. Again, he has performed extensively throughout the UK and Europe including working with the Berlin Philharmonic under Sir Simon Rattle.

Together Katherine and Michael form Eden Valley Baroque and have put together a varied programme for 20th April entitled, “Music for a While”. It will be an entertaining and memorable evening and will be followed by drinks and light refreshments at The Old School. Tickets are £15 (children 16 or under free) and are available from Jane Proctor (07508-981299) and Dawn Johnston (07712-087412).

Will You Be Able to Vote?

By Jane Proctor

On 2nd May 2024, York and North Yorkshire Combined Authority Mayoral Election will take place, and at some point during the next 10 months there will be a General Election. There may be some people who think they are entitled to vote that have a nasty shock. It's worth taking a few minutes to make sure that you are not one of them.



Is your name on the Electoral Roll?

All UK citizens over the age of 18 are entitled to vote in elections provided their name is included on the electoral roll. You can check with the Electoral Registration Officer for the constituency in which you live and which for Bentham is at Northallerton. The full address is:

Electoral Registration Officer

Civic Centre

Stone Cross

Rotary Way

Northallerton DL6 2UU

Email: elections@northyorks.gov.uk tel: 0300-131-2131

Your name can be included on the register if you are over 16 but you cannot vote until you are 18. For those Benthamers who are 17 now but who will be 18 in the next few months it is worth checking out the position. Similarly, for anyone who has recently moved address.

Do you have acceptable photo ID?

If you intend to vote in person at your local Polling Station on voting day you will need to produce photo ID before you are given your voting slip. Acceptable ID includes a passport, driving licence, concessionary travel card (bus pass) or PASS card. If you have none of these the Electoral Registration Officer will provide, at no cost, a Voter Authority Certificate. Unless you can provide acceptable photo ID you will be denied your right to vote, and it is reported that some 14,000 people found themselves in that situation before the last local elections.

It's worth taking a few minutes now just to check out how you stand.



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News from the Fells of many uses of The Old School

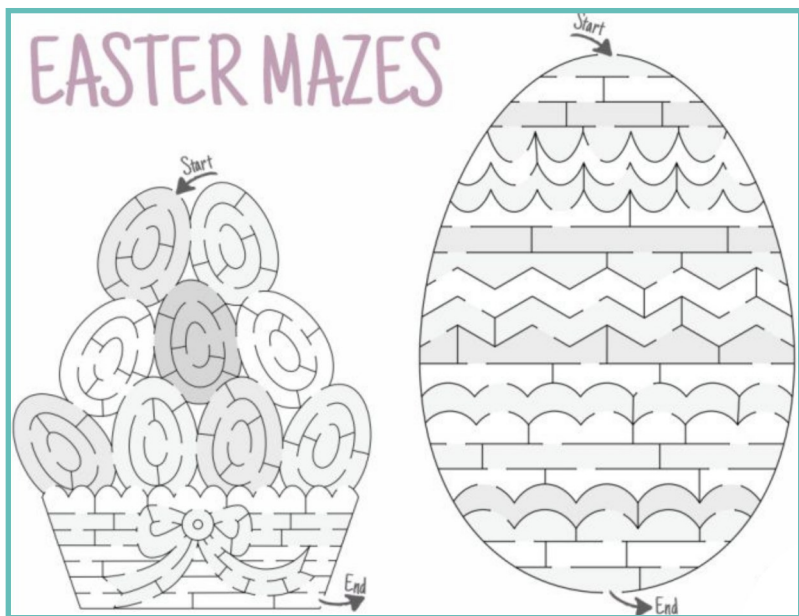
By Helen Wilkinson

The curlews and lapwings returned to the fells in the last week of February, and the oystercatchers can be heard calling down by the river. The Old School AGM was held in February and plans were made for repairs to windows and barge boards, and some external painting. The committee would like to thank everyone who supported our roof appeal so generously. The money raised paid for the necessary repairs to this much-loved building.

The Old School had been full the weekend before when the Village Society held a domino drive and supper. I managed to lose most of my games and came last! But the supper was very good, and I did win the booby prize. It was also in use for drinks when W Robinson and Son from Forton, and John Foley from Holden Clough, Bolton by Bowland, came to answer a range of questions with humour and extensive knowledge. We learnt about flowers and vegetables, including how to grow a watermelon, which we will endeavour to do in the school poly tunnel; watch this space! The evening raised over £800 for church funds.

Rebecca Dobson at Lower House Sensory Farm is busy preparing for the summer season and this year will be continuing the dementia-friendly walks in Hornby and Wray and working with Army Veteran organisations.

The theme for Wild Church at the end of February was the journey through the wilderness; although conditions in the Old School yard were more arctic than hot desert, everyone enjoyed making magnets and cooking flatbreads. On Mothering Sunday some of the school children shared their thoughts about their mothers and it was with great sadness that we remembered John Lee and included his mother, Lucy Lee, and her family in our prayers, and the family of John Huddleston.



Bentham Police News

Members of your Safer Neighbourhood Team covering the Bentham, Ingleton and Settle area are: PS1006 Paul Evans, PS231 Ikhlal Mohammed, PC188 Jane Carpenter, PCSO5561 Jayne Grace and PCSO5881 Julia Runciman. They will be keeping you updated on recent crimes and incidents in Bentham and the surrounding area.



There have been 48 incidents reported between 11th February and 11th March 2024.

These have included: Safeguarding, abandoned or hoax calls, vehicle blocking pavement on Doctor's Hill, Low Bentham, sheep on the highway, suspect circumstance with theft of diesel on Mewith Lane, suspect vehicles and persons on Brow Lane, stolen vehicle recovered by Lancashire Police in Low Bentham, theft and civil dispute concerning caravan in Low Bentham, suspect person in Robin Lane, suspect vehicles on B6480, missing persons and concern for welfare, anti-social behaviour, criminal damage, crime involving violence and shop theft.

Two Requests for Information:

- Overnight Sunday 3rd - Monday 4th March, a black, Ford Transit van parked on Lakeber Drive, High Bentham was broken into. The van did not contain anything valuable, and nothing was stolen from within. A ring doorbell camera with motion sensors caught footage of a suspect entering the van at about 3:30am on Monday 4th. There was no clear facial footage, but the suspect was described as a young male wearing a black puffer jacket and grey tracksuit bottoms. If you have any information about this, please contact North Yorkshire Police on '101' and quote incident number 12240039508.
- Sometime between 15th February 2024 and 9th March 2024 a John Deere Ride-On lawnmower was stolen from a property near Stoneley Barn on Mewith Lane. If you have any information about this, please ring '101' using ref 0159.

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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By Brendan and Michael McSherry

The West Riding Classic 2024: 30, 60 and 70 miles, Clapham-Clapham, North Yorkshire, The Final Ride Sunday 26th May 2024

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The West Riding Classic starts and finishes at Clapham Village Hall and there are three routes to choose from: Short (30 miles), Long (60 miles) and Extra Long (70 miles). And there is plenty of climbing – 2,000 metres of vertical ascent on the extra long route – as the route navigates each of the famous three peaks Ingleborough, Pen-y-ghent and Wharfedale.

The West Riding Classic also supports three great causes, Cave Rescue Organisation, Goma Cycling Clubs and IWGB.

There are descriptions, elevations and profiles of the three routes – and the official cheeky shortcut – on our website, www.theopenwheel.com

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- 10am – 11am: short route, 30 miles

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Tatham Fells Primary Celebrates Books and Mothers, and has an Inspection



By Fiona Ip Headteacher

We had a very busy Thursday during Book Week. Everyone, including teachers, was dressed as their favourite book character for and then in the afternoon we opened our doors for all the parents in a Mothers' Day celebration. We had a wide range of interesting Characters for World Book Day and every child got to talk about, write about and draw their character for our entrance display. Thanks to all the parents for making it possible. The afternoon's Mothers' Day celebration was lovely. The children had all written about their mums explaining why they were special to them and read their letters to them. It was amazing how different they all were and the children were very proud of their hard work.



School Inspection: In March we had a one-day non-graded inspection. The children loved talking to our inspectors who could not believe how polite, well-behaved and articulate they were. They loved our setting and curriculum and it was such a positive experience that children cried that they weren't coming back the next day (the teachers were glad they were not back on day 2!)

We offer free Nursery places for all 3 and 4 year-olds all day on Thursdays and Fridays from 8.20am to 3pm. Please email bursar@tathamfells.lancs.sch.uk for more details.

Our Little Explorers club on Friday afternoons will continue this term with sessions being held even when the weather is unfavourable as we also have the cabin classroom available. Please see our posters on our Facebook page (Tatham Fells CE-VC Primary School) for more details. All toddler and pre-schooler families are welcome. Visits to school are always welcome as our children love to show what a fantastic school we have in an idyllic location.



Top photo, (L to R) Olivia Thistlethwaite, Ava Mason, Isaac Mason, Dottie Stokes, Oscar Wynn

Photo left, Top row (L to R) Alyssa Parkinson, Ruby Lowther, Faith Parkinson, Winnie Ray, Elizabeth Jones, Alec Cowling

Bottom row (L to R) - Logan Edmondson, Callum Hannafin, Tommy Hewitt, Teddy Whitaker, Jacob Briggs-Dixon, Ashton Gardner



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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 call/message 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.

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Photo of Katherine May with her harpsichord and Michael Sanderson with his baroque violin, which they will be playing at Lowgill church on 20th April - see page 39 for details of the concert.

