

BENTHAM NEWS

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Person of Bentham – Sue Dixon

Interviewing Sue in her home was a pleasure, surrounded by all the paraphernalia that go along with being a busy mum and grandmother. Farming and family are important aspects of her life, but there's so much more – please read on.

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

That's easy!

I have lived in Bentham all my 64 years. I was born at 12 Summer Hill; I have an older sister and 2 younger brothers but I'm the only one who has stayed in Bentham having moved 7 times but only within a 3-mile radius of where I was born – and by the time you read this I will have moved an 8th time!

My dad Frank Taylor was the last farrier at Green Smithy, and he shod his last horse when he was 71 in 2000. After we lost dad in 2013 mum (Margaret) decided she should move back and live in the village, and is still living independently on Collingwood Terrace, she will be 92 this year.

I met Andrew on St Patricks day 1976 at a Young Farmers' Dinner Dance at Hornby Institute.

We were married 3½ years later and have been happily married for 45 years. We have four children, Aimee, Hannah, Megan and Laura, who all live close by so we are very fortunate we see our eleven grandchildren (so far!), very regularly.

When we moved to Pinewood Cottages in 1989, we lived next door to **Wendy Dowbiggin**: we soon became close neighbours and Wendy was and still is a very special part of our family. We only had Aimee and Hannah at that point; Megan and Laura were born over the next 3 years. When we first moved Wendy told us she did not want to be a child minder but that soon changed when the girls won her over and she used to love having them for tea and taking them for walks or out for the day.

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

I went to the early Bentham News meetings in Keith Cowling's house in Tweed Street when he was trying to see if there would be any interest in starting a newsletter. I remember us talking about what features it could include, such a 'Hatches, Matches and Dispatches'! Keith made some snacks including homemade Houmous which I had never had before but remember it was delicious. Anyway, he did go ahead with the newsletter idea, which is now Bentham News and still going strong after 37+ years.

I was chorus girl in Bentham's first pantomime, 'Cinderella'.

In 1984 I did a free-fall parachute jump with Bev Wilcock, for charity. When it was time to jump, we had to climb out of the aeroplane and stand on the wing, count down and then just let go, falling backwards! It was incredibly exhilarating; I still remember the silence as I floated through the air.

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

We've travelled to Europe and especially enjoyed Crete, Portugal, Ibiza & Formentera but have decided there are so many lovely places in the British Isles that we've decided to explore on our home soil. We love Scotland and the Scottish Islands, and have visited Lewis, Harris, Skye, North and South Uist, Colonsay and Oronsay. Northumberland is another favourite, the bay from Bamburgh Castle to Seahouses is beautiful.

I've not seen the Northern Lights so maybe we'll have to go to Norway or Iceland to see them although we may be lucky enough to catch a glimpse at home.

The train journey through the Rockies is something else we'd both like to do.



Photo by Jon Brook of Bentham Imaging

What does a perfect day look like to you?

A perfect day would be with the girls and the grandchildren; we enjoy going for a walk or getting together at one of the girls' homes; playing games; rounders and cricket are favourites and sometimes they've even created mucker courses which is great fun. Finishing with a Jacobs Join meal, BBQ or takeaway. We enjoy going away together as a whole family, which is lovely. The Big Stone is somewhere I love to go too, the open space and the panoramic views of the '3 Peaks' are just amazing whatever the weather. It brings back lovely memories of my own childhood, our children's childhood and now our grandchildren love going there too.

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

I'd like to have been there when the Berlin Wall came down in 1989, and for the future I would love to witness something that, sadly, will never happen....world peace.

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

The memories of the Aberfan disaster in 1966 still haunt me. I was the same age as some of the school children buried in that landslide many tragically losing their lives, I still think about it.

Closer to home, the flood in 1967 which devastated parts of Wray. The house where Andrew used to live was washed away. I remember there was a 21-mile sponsored walk to raise money for the hardship fund.

I also remember the Wenning Bridge going down in 1964 – I was only 4 but my dad took me and my sister down to see the damage on our way to school, everyone had to take a massive detour to get into Bentham.

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

I went to Bentham Primary and Ingleton Secondary Modern – the middle school system came in a couple of years after I left school. Miss Ann McClernon one of my primary teachers was a lovely lady who I remember was young compared to all the other teachers, she had a gentle way of teaching and kept discipline but in a very different way from the much stricter Miss Park and Miss Hazzard. She taught us that there were kinder ways of being a teacher.

My parents have also had a great influence on my life, always encouraging us in whatever we wanted to do. My dad even let me paint his nails when I was training to be a manicurist.

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

So much comes down to money, and Bentham could do with more investment. I would refurbish the Town Hall and make it more user-friendly. We need a management group to organise events and make use of the building – there used to be discos every other Friday evening and now young people really don't have many places they can meet their friends and get together.

I'd love to build a fantastic sports facility with a swimming pool and would make sure there was a budget to staff it. I'd love to see the sports teams thriving like they did in the 1980s with opportunities for team activities for everyone.

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

I've had a number of jobs in my life and enjoyed them all for different reasons, however most jobs have aspects that are less enjoyable. I think the job I like least is typing up from a Dictaphone.

I've been a hairdresser, I started at "Judith's" part time when I was 13 and when I took over the salon, I made it unisex and named it "Hairlines", which it's still called today. When I was doing my hairdressing apprenticeship I did a manicurist course too; I've been a secretary and a playgroup leader.

I helped Steve, and later Kevin, the fishman at our Wednesday market, and the butcher in Settle market on a Tuesday.

I cooked the dinners for Low Bentham primary school and later for High Bentham school. I remember making curry one day thinking the children wouldn't like it, but it became a favourite.

At Queen Elizabeth School in Kirkby Lonsdale, I worked as an IT technician and in careers. I now work for Richard Turner & Son.

You've had so many jobs, do you have a favourite?

I loved working in Careers at QES, helping to arrange work experience was just one aspect of my role, I got great job satisfaction working and guiding the children, helping the less academic students who didn't realise they could still do a degree course without doing A-Levels. It was very rewarding, and I felt like I "made a difference" – that was my favourite job.

What's your most treasured possession?

They are not possessions, but the most treasured thing in my life is my family we are blessed that our grandchildren all live close by.

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Introducing BN CIC.

What is a Community Interest Company and why have we taken this course of action?

By Bentham News Editorial Team

On 2nd April 2024, Bentham News became a Community Interest Company.

Bentham News has been publishing monthly reports of life in Bentham for over 37 years, the April BN was our 450th edition.

We have had our ups and downs in that time but have kept going. Every edition of BN involves the work of 100 or so volunteers, something we are very proud of. We also pay small monthly fees to 2 local people to provide consistency and professionalism to what has become a very successful and well-loved part of the community life of Bentham.

But we live in litigious times. If we write something that someone doesn't like, they don't come and talk to us about it, they reach for legal advice and threaten us with legal action. This is unpleasant and invariably unnecessary, but has become a fact of life for us, and other publications nationally. This threatens the continued existence of Bentham News.

To ensure the future of Bentham News and to look after the mental health and financial security of the group of volunteers who make up the editorial heart of BN, we have tightened up our legal status. We are no longer a group of individuals without a legal identity or legal protection, vulnerable to attacks on our integrity and finances, but a Community Interest Company Limited by Guarantee.

The Company is not established or conducted for private gain: any surplus or assets are used principally for the benefit of the community. The objects of the company are to carry on activities which benefit the community and (without limitation) to produce a free, monthly publication, in printed and digital form, to be distributed widely within the rural community of Bentham. BN CIC has 7 directors (Jon Brook, Shirley Brown, Peter Hardy, Dawn Johnston, Anne Preston, Jane Proctor and Pam Woof). The liability of each director is limited to £1.

Readers of BN will not notice any difference.

We are the same Bentham News we have always been.

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How do you relax?

I enjoy cooking and reading, I find gardening therapeutic. I also enjoy walking.

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

I'd like to have been a nanny and travelled around with a rich family, but I was told I'd need to train as a nurse first, and I didn't think I could do that. I also told the careers advisor at my school that I would like to go into the army or the police and was told I was too short. In fact, I was told that if I already had a part-time job and they offered me a full-time job, then I should take it. End of careers advice - job done!

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

Not really, although I do enjoy reading, but nothing too heavy. I am currently reading 'Noughts and Crosses'. Not recent I know but we went to the Status Quo End of the Road Tour in Blackpool in 1984 which was brilliant. It would have been amazing to be at the "Live Aid" concert in 1985, I remember that night in the 'Byres' (now the 'Hoggs'n'Heifers') they didn't give you any change it went into big jars on the bar for the famine relief in Ethiopia.



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Why Are We Voting For a Mayor?

Report compiled by Shirley Brown

Because there has long been a feeling that decisions about the future development of Yorkshire should be made in Yorkshire rather than in Westminster, the idea of transferring powers and funding from national to local government has grown in strength. Ensuring that decisions are made closer to local people, communities and businesses is the aim of devolution.

This process goes back to 2016 when the Cities and Local Government Devolution Act introduced directly elected mayors for collections of local authorities in England. A devolution deal created York and North Yorkshire Combined Authority on 1st August 2022, coinciding with the celebration of Yorkshire Day. This reorganisation simplified the process of agreeing and implementing a devolution deal. The devolution deal recognises York and North Yorkshire's ambition to become England's first carbon-negative region and commits to provide a £7m investment towards this. It also includes a role in developing the region's cultural potential and tourism.

What Powers Will the Mayor Have?

The mayor will head a new combined authority controlling a £18million per year investment fund and dedicated budgets for functions including transport, skills, housing and policing. The role of the mayor is to work alongside local leaders to create a long-term vision and secure more investment into the region. The mayor will serve for 4 years after which they can choose to stand for re-election.

The mayor will have certain powers and responsibility devolved to them by central government:

- Responsibility for a 30-year £18million pa Mayoral Investment Fund
- Full devolution of the Adult Education Budget
- Powers to improve the supply and quality of housing and secure the development of land or infrastructure
- Powers and funds to improve transport
- Responsibilities for community safety and power to appoint a Deputy Mayor who will carry out many of the duties currently held by the Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner.

I Agree It Matters, So Where Do I Vote?

To vote in person at a polling station, you will need to bring photo ID (such as a passport or driving licence) with you. You vote for one person as this election will use first-past-the-post to elect the mayor. All registered electors living in the region aged 18 or over are entitled to vote.

At present North Yorkshire Council is controlled by the Conservatives while City of York Council has a Labour Administration. There are 6 candidates to choose from:

Candidates:

Felicity Cunliffe-Lister: Liberal Democrats
 Keane Duncan: Conservative
 Kevin Foster: Green
 Paul Haslam: Independent
 David Skaith: Labour Co-op
 Keith Tordoff: Independent

The River Wenning Group Report: Sewage Spills Increase by 66%

By John Smithson and other members of the River Wenning Group

If you care about our river, please read on.

Last June in the Bentham News we published the Environment Agency's 2022 figures for sewage overflow spills from the three Wastewater



Anyone for a swim in the River Wenning?

Treatment Works (WwTW) in the Upper Wenning. The combined flow time for these spills was 99 days. In 2023 it went up to 164 days in total, 66% higher than the year before. The average increase for England was 54%.

Here are the 2023 figures, including Wastewater Treatment Works on the Lower Wenning:

Austwick Pumping Station - 103 spills for a total of 1972 hours

Clapham WwTW - 61 spills for 376 hours

High Bentham WwTW outflow UUG 1141 - 115 spills for 412 hours

High Bentham WwTW outflow UUG 1142 - 97 spills for 1173 hours

Low Bentham WwTW - 0 spills. **(Does this mean that the storm tank installed there to hold rainwater is working? Is this what's needed elsewhere?)**

Wray WwTW (flows into the Hindburn which joins the Wenning) - 181 spills for 166 hours

Hornby WwTW - 29 spills for 11 hours.

So, in 2023 the combined flow of sewage from 586 spills into the Wenning totalled 171 days, almost half a year's worth. How did that happen? Last year was the sixth wettest on record. Despite that, no apparent change has been made to the local Wastewater Treatment Works, either to cope with new building, or with increased rainfall which is fed through the sewage works and, we are told, causes the spills.

Will there be change? United Utilities promise us a 60% reduction in pollution events over the next five years. The full five-year plan can be viewed online at: 'United Utilities - Our Business Plan 2025 to 2030.' The Wenning appears in the Lancashire section.

The UK Government also promises change. It has declared that 100% of storm outflows are now monitored and has announced a consultation to ban bonuses for water company bosses when criminal breaches have occurred. It has earmarked £180 million to cut spills, quadrupled company inspections next year, and launched a portal for water company workers to report breaches.

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Yet surely, we already have a system in place. Why is it failing? The Environment Agency has a statutory duty to carry out water quality tests in all rivers, but budget cuts mean it can't achieve this. Since 2015 it has only managed 7.5 prosecutions per year against polluting companies. Its 'Storm Outflows Discharge Reduction Plan', published in September 2023, aims "to restore and enhance the environment for the next generation" by 2050.

What can the concerned public do? Future intentions are fine, but to survive the current level of pollution our rivers and wildlife need action now. Water companies need to abide by existing laws and the Environment Agency and OFWAT need to enforce them.

The River Wenning Group is grateful for generous financial support from the Yorkshire Dales Millennium Trust, the wonderful Bentham Hub and local business Alcedo Selection. This will enable us to carry out water quality testing in 2024, working with the Lune Rivers Trust and others to identify sources of pollution and protect our river. We'll keep writing articles for the Bentham News and adding to the 'Wenning' window on Main Street.

If you'd like to know more, please email us at: riverwenninggroup@gmail.com

(And for a fuller version of this article, you can email John Smithson: johnsmithsonis@gmail.com)

Photo by a member of the River Wenning Group shows Bentham's storm drain discharging into the Wenning



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Spring Has Come to Bentham Primary School

By Mrs C Pearson - Headteacher

I am absolutely delighted that those children who took part in the County Cross County Finals, representing our school on 12th March were all placed in their individual events. Congratulations to Aidan for coming 16th, to Lola and Freddie for coming 5th and Bobby who came away with a medal and 2nd position in his race. Be Proud.

One of our ex-school Governors, Wendy, has been in to school and re-planted some of our troughs ready for Spring – thank you, they look lovely. Miss Harrison, one of our Teaching Assistants, has kindly agreed to support children in life-skills sessions with some gardening activities around school – we are looking forward to seeing some beautiful plants grow over the coming months. With planting and Spring in the air, I recently received delivery of a raised bed, compost and seeds from the Yorkshire Show. This is part of an initiative to encourage children to explore their 'green fingers', grow some plants and enter a county competition to see whose garden will grow the best! Our Early Years children, supported by our Early Years team, will be leading this initiative. A big thank you to Mr Hewitt, one of our grandparents, who kindly volunteered to help school with some repairs to gates and fences.

Following auditions for our very own 'Bentham's Got Talent' competition, we are looking forward to welcoming families back into school on 10th April to watch those children who got through to the second round of the competition perform. I and other members of staff are proud of all the children who took part in the process – we really do have some incredibly talented children. Thank you to Mrs Duckett for organising this lovely opportunity for children.

FOBS hosted an Easter Bingo on 19th March in the school hall. It was lovely to see so many families joining in, having fun, winning prizes and tucking into a delicious pie and peas supper! Thanks to FOBS and other volunteers and to G&Mo's for preparing the delicious supper. Thanks to all those who supported our Scholastic Book Fair. It was lovely to see so many parents, carers and children enjoying the books, making some purchases and eagerly heading off home to read together.

Towards the end of April our Year 4 and 5 children will be taking part in a residential visit to Carlton Lodge. Children are looking forward to this mini break with their friends and some adventurous outdoor activities. Over the Summer Term, we also have trips for children in other classes to look forward to, including a visit to the Manjushri Kadampa Meditation Centre, Sizergh Castle and Greenlands Farm.

We currently have a couple of vacancies for 'relief' Mid-day Supervisors at the school. These roles would suit someone who does not want to commit to a permanent part-time position but would perhaps be available when lunch-time cover is required at the school on an ad-hoc basis. Any successful applicant would be required to undergo an enhanced DBS check. For more information, please contact the school office on 015242-61412.

Finally, we welcome Dr Miller onto our Board of Governors. Dr Miller brings with her a wealth of knowledge and experience together with enthusiasm for children's education.

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People Page

Thanks

Letters



Dear BN

I saw this sign on a walk up to High Bentham. This makes sense as cutting verges at this time of year destroys the lives of many insects who ensure the propagation of flowers and vegetables.

Thank you to the person who took the trouble to make and place this sign.

Tony Bennett



A Discovery One Monday Morning

By Kate Taylor, Leader on 'Walks for Women'

During one of our Monday morning 'Walks for Women', we saw this rather lovely bench at the top of Woodman Lane in Burrow with Burrow. The inscription is "Pew with a View", donated by Burrow Parish Meeting. It looked very inviting! It was installed to commemorate the coronation of King Charles III on 8th May 2023.

Stepping Stones Baby & Toddler Group would like to thank the Spar and Bentham's Freemasons for their recent kind donations, with which we have been able to buy some much needed new resources. This support is gratefully appreciated.

The Group has been running for over 6 years now, welcoming and supporting families from Bentham and the surrounding area. We meet every Wednesday during School term times in the Town Hall Ballroom from 10:00am until 11:30am, why not come and join us.

Local Mencap Group Go 10-Pin Bowling

By Liz Whitfield

Members of Bentham, Ingleton and Burton Mencap group recently had a trip to the Matrix Superbowl in Skipton. The morning was enjoyed by all the young people, their carers and the committee. It was obvious our beneficiaries spent more time at the bowling alley than some of their carers! The outing was made possible by the kindness of those who made donations to our group and the funds raised at our coffee morning last year. We will be holding another coffee morning in Bentham Town Hall on Saturday 1st June to raise funds to cover our insurance and hopefully fund further outings. Your support is much appreciated.



Photo of Matthew, Jack, Sam and Sean enjoying themselves

Bentham Beagles Running Club

April is the start of a new membership year for the Bentham Beagles. But before we start looking ahead to the coming running year, we first had to complete a roundup of the past year. Our AGM and



Presentation night is always a great evening full of lots of fun and laughter. 31 Bentham Beagles and their families got together in the Town Hall for the evening with a lovely supper of pie and peas served by Simply Delicious.

We celebrated personal achievements with many members taking part in events for the first time, and others taking part in runs from 5k to ultras. Members who completed our club championship were presented with their trophies, congratulation to everyone who took part and our three overall winners:

Men's Championship: Ladies Championship

1st Simon Denny

1st Lisa France

2nd Ed Evans

2nd Kimberley Towler

3rd Nick Armstrong

3rd Diane Armstrong

Our annual club awards are nominated and voted by our members:

Big Stone Trophy – Most improved runner over the last twelve months was awarded to Kimberley Towler. Kimberley joined the Bentham Beagles last May and has been a great member, embracing all club runs, taking part in the championship, and organising and suggesting some great routes. **Club person of the year** was awarded to Janet Monaghan, Janet is a great committee member, organises some varied training sessions and has arranged different guest speakers over the year. **The Armstrong Harrold Shield for grit and determination** was awarded to Kathy Cartledge who has overcome many personal challenges this year and after an operation is now back running, not only at club nights but park runs and 10kms. A lady in her early eighties really is a shining example to us all.

As we start our new membership year, it is a great time to join the Beagles. If you would like to come along, check our web-site www.benthambeagles.co.uk and email questions to benthambeagles@live.co.uk

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Support Volunteers Required for Friday Bus Journeys

By Deb Hawkins

Have you got some spare hours on a Friday? The (Bentham Age Concern) Friday Lunch Club is a weekly luncheon club held at the Bentham Golf Club for the older members of the community in Bentham. We have a minibus to take our members to and from the Golf Club but are in urgent need of volunteers to accompany the driver, when collecting members from their homes and assisting them on and off the bus and seeing them back home again. It involves about 2 hours in the morning from 10am–12noon and approximately an hour in the afternoon from 2pm. There is a rota, so each volunteer helps about once a month, and this is very flexible.



If you're interested and would like more information, please contact: Deb Hawkins, c/o Bentham Older People Together (BOPT), tel: 015242-63162, email: benthamolderpeopletogether.com



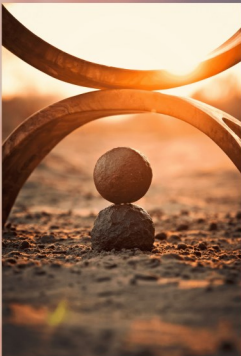
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Wildflowers at the Quaker Meeting House at Low Bentham

By John Keen - for Bentham Quakers

Every June there is a beautiful display of wildflowers (mainly yellow Hawkbit and white Oxeye daisies) in the burial ground at the Quaker Meeting House at Calf Cop on Burton Road at Low Bentham (close to Bentham Pottery). It's a hidden secret few people get to see. Friends would like to encourage anyone interested to pay a visit. The Meeting House is sign posted up a drive from Burton Road. There is car parking at the top of the drive. No dogs please.

The Meeting House is an attractive 18th Century building. If you would like to see inside when you visit, we may be able to arrange this. Please telephone me on 07940-825626.



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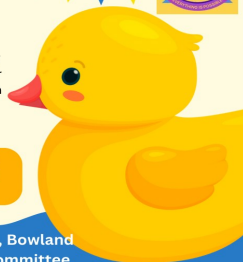
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The Bentham duck race is back! Buy and name your ducks and join us for the big swim at 2pm, followed by fun and games on the playing fields!!
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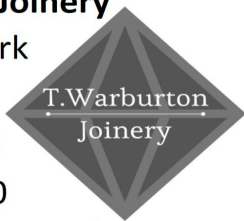
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May in Your Garden or Allotment

By Joyce Knapp

By the month of May, we will be sowing seeds of hardy plants, be they flowers or vegetables, so now is the time to start looking at thinning out the young seedlings and keeping the soil moist around them. We can get the best out of our edible crops by providing just enough space for them to grow strongly and this will vary from carrots that can be left as close as 2" apart, to beetroot which need to be around 4" apart. Regarding water, we can apply it sparingly, prioritising young seedlings which may need help to get established, whilst also noting that it is best to water either in early morning or late evening to reduce evaporation.

Still in the vegetable garden/allotment, we can earth up potatoes by drawing the soil up onto each row to create a ridge 6" high; this will allow all the developing tubers to be covered. If any tubers are exposed to sunlight, they turn green and at this stage become inedible as they are poisonous. This year I am continuing to develop easier methods of growing crops where possible and have decided that the digging of potato trenches is no longer viable, so now I simply plant each seed potato using a standard bulb planter. This small hand tool works by removing a plug of earth allowing the seed potato to be dropped in, before the soil is released back into the hole. These are still set at the spacing specified for each variety and when I have earthed them up, I will apply well-rotted manure between the rows, allowing the rain and worms to incorporate its goodness into the ground.

May is the month to sow seeds of tender plants, be they flowers such as nasturtiums, or vegetables e.g. courgettes and French beans. Following on the theme of 'easier gardening' I now sow French beans and nasturtiums in situ, removing the need to water and care for them when grown in a greenhouse.

Moving into the fruit garden, May is probably the best month to prune plum trees, just as the buds burst. By pruning now rather than in winter, we avoid allowing a disease into the tree. The technique with established trees is to simply thin out any overcrowded branches and then seek out and remove any dieback spurs. Still on the theme of fruit, it is advisable to remove any flowers shooting up amongst the leaves of rhubarb as this will lead to a much longer cropping period.

In May we can prune winter flowering shrubs such as Forsythia by removing stems that have flowered back to an upward-facing shoot, whilst Mahonia will benefit from having any overlong stems cut back to a well-placed new shoot.



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Churches Together

By Mavis Speight

Spring came early this year - and so did Easter. And the churches of Bentham came together on Good Friday at the Cenotaph for a short service to remember Christ's crucifixion on the cross. On Easter Sunday, we at the Methodist Church had our own church services, when we celebrated Christ's resurrection. And what a joyful occasion it was!

Later this month we'll be celebrating Pentecost (formerly called Whitsuntide), and everyone is invited to join us at 10.30am on Sunday 19th May at the Methodist Chapel on Station Road. After the service we'll be having a shared meal, followed by a discussion about what more we as a church could do in Bentham. We would value any thoughts you might be able to contribute to that discussion.

At the Methodist Church we are already involved, along with the other churches, in running the Pantry Club every Wednesday in our chapel hall.

Starting this month we'll also be holding a short service in Bowland View for the residents. This will take place fortnightly on Wednesdays at 4pm starting on May 8th with different churches leading each time.

Our church hall is also available to hire for birthday parties or other special family events. To make a booking please ring Mrs. Anne Duncan on 64930.

'Friends of the Dales' Summer Programme

By Victoria Benn

Yorkshire Dales environmental campaigning charity, 'Friends of the Dales', launches its summer programme on 1st May with a seven-mile easy-moderate walk from Long Preston railway station to Settle station as part of the popular 'ride2stride' Settle-Carlisle walking and music festival programme. With further guided walks offered throughout May to August in Wensleydale, Smardale, Grassington and the Howgills, there is something for everyone.

The charity is also hosting its first all-terrain wheelchair guided walk in collaboration with the charity, 'Access the Dales' and walking company 'Where2Walk'. Early bookers can also secure the use of an all-terrain Trampler or Terrain Hopper wheelchair for this event. For full details and booking links for all these free events visit: www.friendsofthedales.org.uk.

Why not sign up from Friends of the Dales free e-news on its homepage to receive news and events information direct to your inbox?



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The History of Bentham Cricket Club

By Andrew Chappell

I am currently researching the history of cricket in High and Low Bentham and if anybody has photographs, scorebooks, newspaper reports, stories, funny or otherwise or any memorabilia about cricket in Bentham especially the whereabouts of the cricket club honours board that was on the Sports Club wall, I would be glad to take copies of them and return the originals to you. Also, I would welcome any Bentham football club photographs, especially from the 1960s up to the present day. Please feel free to contact me either in person or by giving me a call on 015242-62274, I look forward to hearing from you, many thanks in advance.

There are two seasons that proved really eventful in the history of Bentham cricket, 1895 and, fast forward 80 years, 1975. The following information is taken from the newspaper reports in the Lancaster Standard dated 27th September 1895 and the Morecambe Visitor dated 3rd and 10th September 1975.

In the 1895 season Bentham won the Lancaster and District Cricket Leagues only division, playing 12 matches, winning 9, drawing 3 and losing 0. The presentation of the cup took place at the Queens Hotel in Lancaster where several members of the club were accompanied by Bentham Brass Band to receive it. Afterwards a triumphal march to the railway station took place, the cup being carried by a club official whilst the band played "See the conquering hero comes". On their arrival home a large crowd had gathered to greet them, a procession was formed, led by the brass band and a wagonette with the team members aboard to the town hall where 140 people sat down to eat in the lower room before adjourning to the upper room where dancing was then indulged in for the rest of the evening.

In the 1975 season Bentham won the Lancaster and District Cricket League 1st division having to do so by winning a play-off against Galgate after they both finished the campaign with 35 points: Bentham having played 18 matches, winning 10, drawing 5 and losing 3.

The play-off took place at Caton where Bentham batted first and mainly due to Ian Taylor's fine knock of 56 scored 137 runs for 7 wickets in 40 overs.

Galgate's reply started badly with Doug Haigh taking 2 wickets in his first over before finishing with 5 wickets for 16 runs. Galgate were skittled out for 84 with 14 overs still left to be bowled.

The league's bowling award for taking 5 wickets in an innings went to Doug Haigh who achieved the feat no less than 10 times during the season, that's some achievement!



The photo above shows the Bentham captain Tony Burns(left) receiving the trophy from Lancashire bowler Jack Ratcliffe at the league's annual presentation night and not a brass band in sight nor sound!



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Coffee Morning, Meditation Course and a Concert at St John's Parish Church

By Libby Wheildon

As part of our Easter celebrations, we ran several Easter Craft sessions with the children in Years 4, 5 and 6 at Bentham Primary School. Over two afternoons, the children make a coloured clay cross decorated with jewels and beads to take home; a decorated egg; their own decorated cross; and played an Easter lotto game together. Our afternoons in school culminated with an Easter Service held in school on the last day of term. Thank you to all the children for their fabulous artwork which helped to decorate our church for the Easter celebrations.

Our **Easter Egg Bingo** held at Low Bentham Institute on in March was well attended and raised just short of £300. Thank you to everyone for helping us all to have an 'eggstra' special time together. Our **Cream Tea** on a rainy Easter Monday afternoon was also well attended and raised £232 to put towards our new, soon to be built, Children and Families' Room.

Looking forward, we invite everyone to our **Coffee Morning on Saturday 4th May** in Bentham Town Hall, where there will be crafts and plants for sale, many other interesting stalls and, of course, delicious coffee and cakes. Also in May, we are starting a **meditation course** based on Benignus O'Rourke's book, 'Finding Your Hidden Treasure'. It's a great book, and the course is for anyone, whether you've been a meditator for years or have never meditated. The book is written from a Christian perspective and is a great resource for those of any faith or none. The course begins on **Saturday 11th May at 10am** and after that fortnightly on Saturday mornings in St John's Church, Low Bentham. Please contact: peter.greenwood@leeds.anglican.org for more details.

Finally, we invite you to a concert in church on **Saturday 8th June at 7pm**. Perfect for a summer's evening, the concert, featuring a selection of modern and religious pieces, is performed by Exultate ladies' choir from Morecambe. Tickets cost £8 (children are free) and refreshments are included.

Please contact me for tickets:

libbywheildon62@gmail.com

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



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Come and Give It a Go!

By Gayle Denny

We look forward to welcoming you and your families to our friendly Sports and Sheepdog Trials on June 8th. 'Lowgill Sports and Sheepdog Trials' - what's it all about? Well, it's a traditional sports day that originally started as Tatham Fells schools sports day around 100 years ago, when the school was located by the Church of the Good Shepherd.

It has evolved over the many years it has run and although some things have been brought into the 21st century, many things have stayed the same. These days, the sports are open to everyone, not just members of the school. There are events for all abilities and ages, so we encourage you to come and give it a go!!

The sports are held on the second Saturday of June; this year being the 8th. The Sheepdog Trials are located on Botton Road outside of Lowgill and run from 8am with last entries entered by 2pm. Come and watch the skilled dogs and handlers to see what it's all about. The rest of the sports then start at 3pm at Lowgill, opposite Tatham Fells School. The day kicks off with the classic "fancy dress" event which is open to all ages. It's a bit of fun, especially for those creative, imaginative people who are perhaps not so keen on sports.

Maybe you've always fancied having a go at a Fell Race? Or Cumberland and Westmorland Wrestling? Or learning the very traditional sport of Quoits? We also have a lot of novel events such as the plank race, welly throwing, a pillow fight and who doesn't love an old-fashioned sack race? The Young Farmers will be joining us again with the "ducking stool" and we will have the obstacle event "the blind sheepdog trials" for everyone's entertainment!

The fun, laidback atmosphere of the day means that everyone can get involved, whether you're a seasoned pro or just fancy trying something new. All events have good prize money, but it's not the winning that counts, it's the taking part (and the ice cream, cakes or burger you can treat yourself to afterwards). It's only £3 for adults and 50p for children, which allows everyone to take part in as many events as they like, or you can just watch and enjoy in this beautiful setting.



Search for our Facebook page for more details and updates.



Events in May



Town Hall

Every Tuesday

Blue Moose Dance 9.30am-12noon (not 28th May). LH

Craft Club 10.00am - 12noon, WR

Yoga with Suzie 5pm-6pm & 6pm-7pm (7th May only), LH

Every Wednesday

Stepping Stones 10am-11:30pm, BR. Term times.

Pilates with Sally Horn 9.30am - 10.30am, LH
Ann Lee 6-7pm, LH

Footpath *(see page 43)*

May walks meet first at Lairgill 9.30am.

Saturday 4th, Terri Kwiecinska, 07972 653791, Bardsea, 6.5 miles.

Thursday 9th, Bernie and Sheila Garrett, 07805 296711, Ingleborough, 9 miles.

Wednesday 15th, Bryn and Sandra Craggs, 62416, Buckden, 8 miles.

Tuesday 21st, Rick Clapham, 07792 935564, Dentdale, 7.5 miles.

Thursday 30th, Susan Badley, 62502, School Knott/Orrest Head, 7.5 miles (Inc. bus return).

Footpath AGM, Thurs 9th May, TH, WR.

Town Hall - Meeting

Wednesday 8th 7.30pm, LH

Full Town Council Meeting

Bentham Fire Station

Thursday, 9th & 23rd May 10am

Bentham & District Dementia Friendly Community Breakfast Club

Town Hall - Coffee Mornings



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

Saturday 10am - 12noon

4th - St John the Baptist Church

11th - Bentham Area Refugee Support Group

18th - Bentham Praise Choir

Bentham Pantry Club

Wednesday 1st, 8th, 15th, 22nd & 29th May

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.

Town Hall

Electoral Services

Thursday 2nd May.

Polling Station. LH.

8am - 10.30pm

Prostate Cancer Support Group Meeting

Thursday 8th 7.30pm - 8.30pm, LH

E-mail - bayprostategroup@pm.me

Chris Dancer's Drum Circle

Saturday 4th May - 12pm - 3.30pm

Rosie Jackson's Sewing Class

Thursday 16th May, 10am—3.30pm, WR.

Methodist Church

Toddle-In

Mondays 13th & 20th May 10am-11.30am

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

Lune Valley Swimming Pool: Important Notice

After undertaking studies and funding submissions, the Trustees will be announcing some good news about future plans at the **AGM at 7pm on Thursday 23rd May** in Hornby Institute. We need members and users to attend to approve our business plans and to vote on a new Trustee. You can see the agenda for this important meeting and our accounts at www.lunevalleypool.com

WI *(see pages 36 & 37)*



High Bentham - Thurs 2nd, 7.30pm, TH, BR

Tatham Fells - Tues 14th, 7.30pm, Old School

Low Bentham and District - Thurs 16th, 7pm, Victoria Inst

Victoria Institute

Every Monday

9.00am - 12.30pm Office open, Enquiries/
Bookings

11.30am - 2pm Community Link Cafe

Light lunches and activities

6.15pm - 7.45pm Tai Chi Qigong

Every Tuesday

4pm - 9.30pm Helen Howard School of
Dance - Term Time

Every Wednesday

9am - 12.30pm Office Open, Enquiries/
Bookings

10am - 12noon Post Office Services

12noon - 2pm Community Link Cafe
Lunch Club

4pm - 6.15pm Helen Howard School Of Dance
- Term Time

Every Friday

10am - 12noon Post Office Services

Every Sunday

11am - 12.30pm Cornerstone Church Service

Thursday May 16th

Low Bentham W.I. 7pm

Bentham Golf Club

Every Friday 11am - 2pm, Age Concern

Bentham Friday Lunch Club

3rd, 10th, 17th, 24th & 31st May

Burton Film Group

Indiana Jones & the Dial of Destiny will be
shown in Burton in Lonsdale Village Hall on
Saturday 4th of May. Doors open at 7pm for a
7.30pm start.

Hornby Jazz

On Friday 17th May Wyre Levee Stompers, a
real trad 'band with full front row of trumpet,
trombone and clarinet backed by a four-piece
rhythm section. Led by our friend Pete Lindup
on trumpet.

Start time 7.30pm for 8pm. Ticket price £18 on
the door or on line at Hornby Village Trust.

Pioneer Projects Looking Well Studios

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PROJECTS**

Every Monday - Meet Lairgill carpark 9.20am,
(except 6th), Health Walks for Women.

Every Monday - 10.30am to 12.30pm, (except
6th) Making Connections Dementia Group.

Every Tuesday - 9.30am - 11am, (except 28th)
Little Notes Music session. In the library.

Every Tuesday - 10.30am to 12.30pm, (except
28th) Creative Community Hub.

Every Tuesday - 11.45am to 1pm, (except
28th) Creative Writing Group face to face and
Zoom.

Tues 7th, 2pm to 4pm, Book Group in the
Library

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

Every Wednesday - 10.30am to 12noon,
(except 29th) Sing Along to Every Song - face
to face and Zoom.

Every Wednesday - 2pm to 4pm, (except
29th) Art for All.

Every Wednesday - 3.45pm - 4.45pm, (except
29th) Lego Club, Bentham Library.

Every Thursday - 12.30 - 3.30pm, (except
30th) Community Art Shed.

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

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

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

Bentham Community Library

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Friday 2:30pm - 4.20pm

Saturday 10:00am - 12:00noon

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Bentham Line Success in National Awards

By Rod Tickner, Press Officer of Leeds-
Morecambe Community Rail Partnership

rod.tickner@cloud.com



FOBS with their 'Gold' station award

BN readers will remember that in the March BN (page 14) the Bentham Line was short-listed for all 5 of their entries for these national awards. The outcome is that at the National Community Rail Awards held at Swansea Arena on Monday 18th March, the Bentham Line was the winner of the "Community Creative Projects and Station Arts" award. This was for the "Rail to Sail" project, which came to fruition in June 2023: it included a specially commissioned large artwork, located in the newly refurbished passenger lounge at the ferry terminal showing the new ferry 'Manxman' which went into service in July 2023 in a scene which also included a railway train to symbolise how two different transport systems can help make the interchange between one mode and another both easier and quicker.

Celebrating the success, Bentham's Gerald Townson, chairman of the CRP, said "The Bentham Line was delighted to engage with so many local partners on this multi-aspect project which included 'first-class' artwork for the station and port terminal together with panels recording the history of rail and sea journeys to the Isle of Man over the last 125 years."

It gained second place in the photographic competition on the theme of "Capturing the essence of Community Rail" and the Friends of Bentham Station (FOBS) received their Certificate of Excellence at Gold level in the Community Rail Awards category "It's Your Station" being one of only four recipients. The CRP was also shortlisted in the "Best Marketing Campaign" category for their "Destination Wellbeing" project and a further photo which was entitled "5 star hotel opening shortly" about creating wildlife habitats.

Brian Haworth's photo of the artwork at Heysham Port



Bentham News has been contacted by solicitors acting on behalf of Lotein Limited who own the freehold of Millers Court. They state that the ‘rough pavement’ outside Millers Court, and which was mentioned during the course of a Town Council meeting in February, is not owned by their client. They have also written to the owners of Central Buildings and the Town Council.

Bentham Town Council Meeting: 18th March 2024

Report by Peter Hardy - These are not the official Town Council Minutes. Both reports of Town Council meetings in this Bentham News are general reports of the matters discussed. The official minutes will be published on the Bentham Town Council website in due course.

Councillors present: Gareth Adams, Howard Hill, Liz Ryan, Phil Gerrie, Mark Paige, Tony Burton, Debbie Howard, Stephen Taylor and the Town Clerk Claire Burrow, also 15 members of the public and the BN reporter.

Apologies: Councillors Thomas Marshall, Rachel Naylor and Tim Stannard.

Members of the public spoke against the proposed development on Butts Lane. Issues raised were the limited scope of the wildlife survey which lasted one day, carried out by one person which did not include relevant habitat existing on adjoining land. A summary paper was distributed to the council by a member of the public illustrating "spills" of untreated wastewater for years 2020, 2021 and 2022. The identified reason was Hydraulic Capacity, where the facility has insufficient capacity. It was stressed that more housebuilding would add more stress to this facility

Year	Spills	Hours	Days	%Year	Avg Dur. Hrs
2020	160	2438	101.6	27.8	15.2
2021	197	1605	66.9	18.3	8.1
2022	163	855.1	35.6	9.8	5.2
Total	520	4898.12	204.1	18.6	9.4

For the source of the figures used, please see links <https://environment.data.gov.uk/dataset/21e15f12-0df8-4bfc-b763-45226c16a8ac> and <https://experience.arcgis.com/experience/c9b8f3ba094c429aa30e0e2b6eaf43ac>

It was pointed out that there was likely to be increased car use due to limited public transport in Bentham and this could further speed up climate change. Another member of the public pointed out that it was likely that traffic from the development would use Goodenber Road so that its "roundabout" would need to be remodelled.

It was agreed to engage a person to ensure **defibrillators are checked** at a cost of £1,100 per year. Springfield Bowling Club have a defibrillator currently mounted inside and Councillor Burton will discuss with them mounting this externally.

Planning:

There were no objections to: ZA24/25766/FUL concerning 38 Main Street and ZA24/25781/HH, Old Pottery Barn, Mewith Bungalow, LA2 7DL.

298.3 2022/24482/OUT Both Liz Ryan and Phil Gerrie declared interest in this item.

...../Continued from page 28

Land east of Butts Lane was discussed. The council recognised that there were outstanding issues with highways, biodiversity and wastewater and are urging NYC to ensure due diligence regarding the site. It was suggested that members of the public with ponds and protected wildlife on their land offer access to the NYDP Wildlife Conservation team to ensure a more comprehensive survey could be carried out.

Parking issues in Bentham led to a diverse discussion and it seemed the council are frustrated by the lack of consistency in the answers received from NYC when the same question is asked by the council and by a member of the public. A member of the public was told that Main Street will be resurfaced, and yellow lines will be repainted after the work is completed. The council have been told that the existing yellow lines do not need any attention but have no knowledge of the supposed resurfacing. Footnote: some yellow lines were repainted on Wednesday 27th March. The Town Council will continue to request visits from traffic wardens.

Greenfoot Lane, Low Bentham will be closed from 3rd to 5th April 2024 for a new water supply to be connected.

The **tourist office** will be requesting volunteers via Facebook and Bentham News. 'The Black Pig' is to be contacted to arrange a meal for last year's volunteers. It was considered impractical to open on Sundays at present.

The **bank balance is £85,336** and it was agreed to transfer £25,000 to the deposit funds. Payments made can be found in the official minutes.

A presentation of **The Bentham Masterplan** was given to the Skipton and Ripon Area Constituency on 7th March in which councillors commented that it was a comprehensive and well written document, which identified a big gap in funding to Bentham and Ingleton. Officers were requested to demonstrate how to make applications for funding. Councillors questioned the inadequate road network and the access to Angus Fire, a large employer in the local area. The Masterplan team have requested **500 copies** and will present the document to Bentham Town Council on Monday 8th April at 7pm. There will be a public meeting in May, consisting of the Bentham Masterplan team, the Economic Strategy Team, Councillor David Ireton and Bentham Town Council.

An **A3 sized 'No Dogs' sign** will be purchased and then fitted by Thomas Brown at the cemetery.

Calendars will be printed for next year, but the quantity will be reviewed.

Town Councillors will attend two evening training sessions in June and July.

North Yorkshire Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner report had been received. Adequate to good was the summation.

Bentham Playing Fields Association has funds to enable the removal of asbestos. The funding came from Fellstead Development 106 agreement and a grant from the Yorkshire Dales Millennium Trust. The building will be sealed for 6 weeks. This is a 3-stage plan, remove the asbestos, seek planning for the new building and then build. A small committee will streamline the process and The Bentham Masterplan will be used to support future grant applications.

Bentham Town Council Meeting held on Monday 8th April 2024

Report by Pam Woof

Present: Councillors Adams, Hill, Burton, Gerrie, Howard, Paige, Marshall, Ryan, Stannard, Taylor and Naylor, plus the Town Clerk, Claire Burrow and several members of the public. There were no representatives from NYC, the police or public safety office.

Public Comments and Questions:

Gareth Whitaker, Headmaster of Settle College spoke first. He expressed concern about the **ongoing travel provision for local children to Settle College** which is a key provider of secondary education (11 to 18 years) in the area. He said that North Yorkshire Council is currently undertaking a consultation about free transport provision for children to their nearest school. The current cost to NYC is £4m per annum across the academic year. Any changes would come into force for pupils starting in the 2025 academic year. NYC have identified 6 students that would qualify for the service from September 2025. Mr Whittaker has challenged this figure saying that he believes that 75 students would be affected. The local coach firm that currently runs the bus service states that the journey from Bentham to Settle is actually shorter in time than to Kirkby Lonsdale although the distances are similar. Q.E.S. have not been consulted. He asked the Council to respond to NYC in support of the continuing provision of free transport because it is vital for local children and the ongoing viability of the Primary and Secondary Schools in our area. Councillor Adams thanked Mr Whitaker for his comments, saying that the Council has been contacted about the consultation. He had responded personally to NYC about the matter as the Town Council felt that comments from individuals would be better than from the Council itself. *See back page.,*

Other members of the public expressed concern about the **poor bus service for Bentham** residents. They said that the routes and timetables are inadequate. Recently, on one Wednesday there was no bus service at all because of a break down! They asked that the Council do more to improve the current public transport situation. Councillor Adams replied on behalf of the Council explaining that they could only put the points raised to the people who run the services. Councillor Gerrie explained that he had been in contact with the bus provider to try to resolve the issue but with no success. He also pointed out that now that HS2 had been cancelled, money has been allocated to NYC for improving public transport in the county. The major towns have received money for transport, but Bentham has received nothing. He proposed that Bentham TC should go back to Andy Clark at NYC to take up the issue of better transport services for Bentham once again. Other councillors agreed. Councillor Adams asked members of the public to respond differently if an occurrence happened again. He asked them to contact NYC transport services straightaway to let them know about the situation rather than waiting until the next Town Council meeting to make a complaint. (NB: From 8th April 2024, Kirkby Lonsdale Coach Hire will run the bus service).

Police Report: This was accepted (*see page 41 in this Bentham News*)

Planning Applications:

2022/24458/OUT: Councillor Marshall left the room during this discussion. Outline application for up to 27 dwellings with all matter reserved except for access on Low Bentham Road, LA2 7BP. COMMENT: Access to this site should be a single central entrance rather than one at either end.

ZA24/25848/LBC: Proposed conversion of Horse and Farrier into a single dwelling. NO OBJECTION.

ZA23/25514/FUL: Change of use of land for the installation of ground mounted solar panel PV arrays at Bentham Golf Course, Robin Lane, Bentham LA2 7AG: GRANTED.

ZA23 25516/FUL: Change of use of land for the site of 5 high quality camping pods. Construction of road and parking, Bentham Golf Course, Robin Lane, High Bentham LA2 7AG: GRANTED.

ZA23/24928/OUT: Outline application for residential development with access, layout and scale for consideration at Green Head Farm, Cross Lane, Low Bentham LA2 7ES: GRANTED.

Finance:

The money from the sale of the Community Youth building has now been received. The current account stands at £81,873.51. All upcoming payments were approved, and the majority of Councillors agreed that an account should be opened with Myers. There will be a finance meeting in two weeks time.

Ongoing Issues:

A member of the public has offered to monitor the defibrillators around the town. The council will consider his offer and look into the necessary paperwork and contract details needed.

Dog Poo bins have not been emptied often enough. Is it that the bins are too small or that they are emptied too infrequently? The council will contact NYC in an attempt to solve the problem.

A request has been made by the Town Clerk to NYC for increased parking enforcement on Bentham Main Street in particular. The Rights of Way officer has inspected the path beside the Brown Cow and has found it "adequate for the time of year, with potential of increased flooding to properties if tarmacked."

Town Hall Matters:

Councillors discussed various matters and will investigate the servicing of the automatic doors and the annual maintenance of the clock and finding a booster for a better WIFI connection. They will also investigate purchasing a suitable microwave for the ballroom kitchen and acquiring a small trolley that will fit into the lift. This would be used to move chairs when they are needed on the other floor level.

Highways Matters:

NYC have given notice that they will be restructuring and repairing High Bentham Main Street sometime in 2024/2025.

Various streetlights are not working, and the Council will investigate ownership of the lights at Cleveland Square entrance and Duke Street with a view to solving the problem.

A small piece of land where the toilets used to be on School Hill will be purchased by the Council from NYC. It was owned by Craven DC and the price is thought to be minimal.

Marketing Committee:

After consideration of Councillor Ryan's report, it was agreed that this Committee should be re-started and re-named the Marketing and Development Committee. This Committee will assist with websites and social media, promote the Town Hall and review hire charges, run the Tourist Information Point with assistance from members of Bentham's tourism industry and develop a Council Business Plan, have links to the Bentham Masterplan and a Youth Committee.

...../Continued on page 32

...../Continued from page 31

2024 Bentham Calendar misprint:

Following the incorrect dates for the month of June on the Council's Bentham Calendar 2024, Council will contact the publisher, Stramongate Publishers.

Council training:

There will be 2.5 hour YLCA Council training session for Councillors on 30th September, 2024.

Reports from Councillors:

Councillor Marshall reported that the Longstaffe Charity now had a new President. Ian Wood who replaces Dr Clive Story who has stood down after many years of service.

Councillor Ryan reported that Bentham Playing Fields Association now has a new Chairperson, Heather Knowles, who has taken over from Lisa Guy.

The Next Full Town Council meeting:

Wednesday 8th May, 7.30pm and the public are invited to attend.

Bus Timetable

582 High Bentham - Hornby Effective: 08/04/2024 - **Wednesday Only**

High Bentham, Robin Lane Bottom	09.14	Hornby, War Memorial	14.15
High Bentham, The Conservative Club	09.15	Melling, Gillison Close	14.20
Low Bentham, Main Street	09.19	Wennington, Nether View	14.26
Wennington, Nether View	09.27	Low Bentham, Main Street	14.34
Melling, Gillison Close	09.33	High B, Conservative Club	14.38
Hornby, War Memorial	09.38	High B, Robin Lane Bottom	14.39



Beyond the Dormitory Window by Ian McCart

A diary narrative from the 1970s following the fortunes and escapades of two Low Bentham adolescents – in love, both new to employment and desperately wanting to be married! An hugely amusing story, endearingly readable, sometimes scurrilous, somewhat cheeky, but above all, a very personal heart-warming tale of romance.

300 pages with photographic artwork courtesy of John Hebblethwaite.



Softback copies available directly from the author at £15.00 (postage paid).

Contact via e-mail: imccart@aol.com or tel: 07749669850

or Via Amazon in hard, soft or E-book
(ISBN 978-1-83563-194-2)

'very well written throughout... Publisher's proofreader



'Beyond the Dormitory Window' (article submitted by Ian McCart)

Did you read/enjoy Ian's publication 'From a Dormitory Window' published in 2022 in which the author took a nostalgic look back at his years spent in the boarding-house at Bentham Grammar School? That story of Ian's formative years was brought to a logical conclusion with A-levels and with the end of schooling in July 1973.

But that wasn't the end of his love affair with that part of the West Riding of Yorkshire or, indeed, with a young lady living in Low Bentham. That original memoir spawned the same question from a good many readers: "What happened next?" Well, that query was the spur that the author needed and his newly published book 'Beyond the Dormitory Window' provides the answer!

Ian's follow-on memoir covers the years – 1973 onwards – living in Low Bentham whilst commencing work in 'the world out there' in Lancaster. Be prepared to transport yourself back to Bentham in the 1970s – Barclays Bank (where Ian's girlfriend started work), McManus chemists, Angus's (of course!), Tom Guy's (frequented by the author's future father-in-law whilst the author was a John Houghton customer!), walks along the Wenning and around the 'square mile' and visits to a girlfriend's Bentham relations and to her boyfriend's family in Suffolk and Lancashire.

Part two of Ian's memoirs, which is stylishly illustrated, contains many amusing anecdotes (and confessions!), all told in a slightly mischievous, genuinely open, and entertaining way. We follow the story of 'two peas in a pod' (as the author's future mother-in-law described the author and his girlfriend) as, cocooned in their very own air-tight bubble, they scrimp and save every spare penny to shorten the timescale towards their eventual wedding – which is where, suitably, Ian's memoir comes to a close.



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The Humble Dandelion – One of Our Most Important Wildflowers

By Jill Franklin

No Mow May is one of the best innovations of recent years. It's done a phenomenal job in raising awareness of the vast amount of wildlife that lives in, and on, grass - and how easily we can attract that wildlife to our own gardens by simply letting it grow. If you take part, what emerges will surprise you (*see also Sue Halsall's article on page 42*).



At last year's Chelsea Flower Show, the humble dandelion - one of the UK's most important wildflowers - caused a huge fuss when it took centre stage in several of the most prestigious show gardens on Main Avenue. Many of the gardening establishment were outraged - but they shouldn't have been. The dandelion, perhaps our most undervalued wildflower, is one of the earliest sources of nectar for our insect friends (*see photo*). Each flower is made up of around 100 tiny little flowers, all packed with nectar and pollen and, while in flower for most of the year, its peak flowering time is from late March to May, when many bees and other pollinators emerge from hibernation. It really is a lifesaver for pollinators in spring.

Bumblebees, solitary bees and honeybees all visit dandelions for food, along with lacewings, ladybirds, hoverflies, beetles and butterflies and more. Goldfinches and house sparrows eat the seed. Despite this, most of us gardeners miss out on the spectacle of watching wildlife feast on our dandelions, because we wage war on them. The dandelion is actually the same family as asters, chrysanthemums, cosmos, dahlias, marigolds and zinnias - so why do we treat them so differently?

Our own *No Mow* results last year surprised us. We learnt so much by just watching all the beautiful activity. Each evening tiny silvery grass veneer moths rose out of the grass, my first encounter with these stunning creatures, and we had a huge range of wildflowers which brought in honeybees, solitary bees, bumblebees, butterflies, moths and a host of insects.

The dandelion was the most popular flower in our *No Mow*, and even if you can't take part in *No Mow May*, just think of all the bees and butterflies you could sit and observe on a sunny day by retaining this wonderful wildlife 'feeding station'.



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Tatham Fells

By Mary Taylor

On Tuesday evening, 9th April, Tatham Fells Women's Institute members sailed with Steve Halliwell around the smaller Islands of the Hebrides in a small boat. Towering cliffs dwarfed the former lifeboat as Steve sailed beneath the magnificent basalt columns of Fingel's Cave on Staffa; he said that many of the islands have been formed by this rock with the cliffs providing safe nesting places for seabirds. Although many of the islands are uninhabited now, Steve's slides showed the remains of former villages, and he said that farmers from the larger islands take sheep onto the uninhabited ones for summer. He also had beautiful pictures of rare flowers only found in these remote places, and little puffins that are not at all afraid of people. Sometimes they ran the boat up the beach to explore an island, sailed up a geo or anchored out at sea and went in by a small craft. Steve concluded with sunset over Iona.



He was thanked by Ruth Garstang before judging the competition for Anything Scottish; winners were first Helen Wilkinson, second Linda Kirkby and third Mary Taylor. During business President Ruth Garstang congratulated the three teams who had taken part in the Lancashire Federation Quiz and announced coming events. The evening closed with refreshments provided by Ruth Holden and Gill Gilbertson. The topic for the next meeting on 14th May will be 'A Breath for Life' with Jean Dean.

High Bentham

By Jan Stuiver

On April 4th members of High Bentham WI learned about Easter Customs all over the world, and the pagan roots of many of our own local customs. A PowerPoint presentation on the subject got members chatting about their own Easter Customs and revived many childhood memories. In honour of the season, hot cross buns were served during the refreshment break; while members signed up to help at our upcoming coffee morning, or to join an evening walk through the lower levels of the Ingleborough Nature Reserve to see the spring flowers early in May.



Our meeting on May 2nd will be our 'birthday meeting' with a Jacob's Join supper provided by members. Mohammad, from G&Mo's café, will be joining us to tell us a little about his life both in Egypt and in Britain.

Our evening walk from The Old Quarry nature reserve opposite Ribbleshead Station to Colt Park will take place sometime in the week beginning May 6th. I would like to take the opportunity to thank all the members who helped at our Coffee Morning on April 27th and the people of Bentham who came in to have a drink and a cake. Looking ahead, on June 6th David Dale, a storyteller, will be entertaining us, and on July 4th our speaker will be Brian Topping with 'Tales of a Customs Officer'. Members of the public are very welcome to attend these meetings as a visitor, at a cost of £4. Meetings are held at 7.30pm in the lower hall of the Town Hall.



Low Bentham and District

By Kathryn Brownsord

Our annual meeting was held in March this year to bring us in line with our new year end. President Christine Jennings welcomed everyone and thanked the committee for a sterling year's work. Special thanks were expressed to Kathryn Brownsord and Kitty Ellershaw for their work and loyal support as they retire from the committee this time. A new committee was voted in for the coming year. Christine gave a resumé of the varied speakers and activities we've enjoyed over the last 15 months (this was accompanied by a few giggles) followed by Kitty's financial report.

The winner of the most points gained in the monthly competition was Sue Fitzsimmons, who was presented with an M & S voucher and trophy. A tasty supper was served by the committee.

April craft day was held at Christine Jennings' home, where a lovely few hours was spent crafting. Sue Fitzsimmons organised our luncheon in March when we dined at the Royal Oak in Hornby – always enjoyable.

At the 18th April meeting we had a talk by "The Westmorland Red Squirrel Society" which we'll report in next month's Bentham News. The 16th May meeting will be a test of your antique skills, "Curiosity Corner". Just to remind you that our meetings are held on the third Thursday of each month and visitors are very welcome at a cost of £5 and we are always open to new members.



Ewecross Enjoy an Evening of History and Folk Songs

By Mary Taylor

Ewecross Historical Society members enjoyed a delightful evening on Monday 25th March as Peter and Barbara Snape told of their new and ongoing research into the Lancastrian collector of folk songs and music, Anne Geddes Gilchrist OBE FSA, with several members of the Gilchrist family in the audience.

Born in Manchester in 1863, one of eight children, Anne was one of the early pioneers of the Folk Music Journal along with Ralph Vaughan Williams and Cecil Sharp. She was also a renowned archaeologist taking part in excavations at Cockersands Abbey and she even unearthed the Saxon Cross in Bentham which is now in St John's Church. Peter interspersed the story of Anne's varied life by playing his accordion as Barbara sang some of the folk songs that Anne had collected from all over the north inviting the audience to join in with the chorus. One was a sad ballad collected from a sailor at Southport; several catchy tunes came from Sunderland Point where Anne had copied them onto a grocery bill. A happy song was about a gypsy girl going to London, also The Jolly Boys of Overton who went fishing. Some of the audience remembered one of the songs from 'Singing Together' at school. Some of the singers that Anne interviewed failed to finish their songs as they said they were too rude for a lady to hear. The speakers showed slides of Anne and some of her family, closing with a moving picture filmed in the early 1950s. Peter and Barbara were welcomed and thanked by Mike Winstanley.



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News from the Fells of a Dawn Service, Mended Cattlegrids, Deer and Oystercatchers

By Helen Wilkinson

On 16th March the Village Society held their annual Quiz; nine teams enjoyed answering questions set by Martin Knowles and Raymond Lowis. The winning team was Prim's Posse; Mary Myers, Jennifer Batty and Simon, Gayle and Primrose Denny. On Good Friday 71 riders enjoyed a dry and sunny afternoon when they competed at the annual Lancs MCC trials on Ivah Allotments.

Around twenty people gathered at the Big Stone for a dawn service on Easter Sunday. Organised by Bentham Churches Together this was led by Revd. Canon Peter Greenwood from the Ingleborough team. As the clocks had changed that night, 6.30am arrived after a very short sleep, but it was worth it to watch the sun rising above the Three Peaks (*see photo*) while listening to calls of the grouse on the cold clear morning.

The damaged cattle grids near Park House and on Aikengill have both been replaced; although it is still wise to drive over them slowly as there is a quite likely to be a pothole to fall into on the other side. Lowgill Sports committee are planning this year's Sports Day which will be on 8th June starting at 3pm; the sheepdog trials will start at 8.30am (*see article on page 23*). The deer that usually roam over a large area can often be seen hiding in the bracken on Ivah hill, just a pair of ears visible when you look carefully; maybe there will be a fawn appearing soon. This year I thought that the pair of oystercatchers that nest on the edge of the fell had not returned, but suddenly they were on the wall in their usual spot, arriving a few weeks later than those down by the river. They must have decided to have a longer stay at the seaside or maybe were just waiting for some dry weather!



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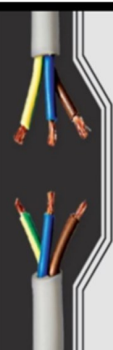
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Bentham Police News

Members of the team from your Safer Neighbourhood Team covering the Bentham, Ingleton and Settle area are PS1006 Paul Evans, PS231 Ikhlaz 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 were **48 incidents reported between 12th March and 4th April 2024.**

These included a civil dispute, absconder, checks for probation, domestic dispute, suspect drug driving – an arrest was made, harassment, theft – online on snapchat, road traffic collision with vehicle hitting a wall on Burton Road, concern for safety/welfare, crime of fraud involving EasyJet and some anti-social behaviour.

Crime Prevention - Bogus Police Officers

We would like to make you all aware that we have had an increase of bogus police contacting people and informing them that they are going to be a victim of crime (fraud). Please be aware that North Yorkshire police will **NEVER** arrange for an officer to come to your home address and collect valuable items from you (watches, cash, credit/debit cards etc). All officers will have a warrant (ID) card on them and if you have any doubt about an officer's identity, please call 101 or 999 depending on the urgency. You can report concerns about speeding on this website:

www.northyorkshire.police.uk/search?q=speeding+concern

North Yorkshire Community Messaging is a free email messaging service from North Yorkshire Police and the Office of the Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner, providing news and updates on policing matters that are relevant to you and your local community. Sign up and receive email alerts about policing activity and initiatives in your local area as well as crime prevention advice and information. You can also reply directly to your neighbourhood team and provide feedback via surveys. www.northyorkshirecommunitymessaging.co.uk This is a useful site about crime and policing in England which allows you to search for incidents recorded in your area: www.police.uk.

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Put Your Lawn Mower Away for May!

By Sue Halsall

The conservation charity, Plantlife, is once again urging people to put the lawn mower away for the whole of the month of May. This is the sixth year of their campaign, **No Mow May**, which aims to allow flowers to bloom in lawns and verges, thereby providing food for pollinating insects and later in the year, seeds which feed the birds.

A staggering 97% of wildflower meadows have gone in less than a century, but with an estimated 23 million gardens in the UK, the potential to replace some of the lost meadows is immense. Many people who have participated in the past have seen the huge benefits of not cutting the lawn in May and now leave it till late summer. In fact, cutting a path through the lawn provides even more diversity. I only cut mine at the end of summer now, removing the clippings and after a few years, common spotted orchids (*see photo*) appeared, along with many other beautiful flowering species.

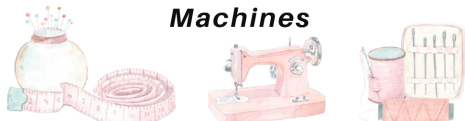
For more information, go to www.plantlife.org.uk/campaigns/nomowmay and you can also register to take part if you wish. Step away from that mower!



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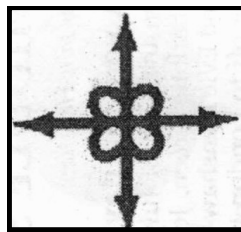


Bentham Footpath Group -

(benthamfootpathgroup.co.uk)

5 Walks in May Including One to the Summit of Ingleborough

By Don Cartledge



Some say the climb of Ingleborough from Clapham is one of the finest walks in the Yorkshire Dales - well, you can make up your own mind by joining us on our walk to the summit this month.

We have five walks in May and all start from Lairgill at 9.30am. Details of the first walk (Bardsea on **Saturday 4th**) were included in last month's Bentham News.

The Ingleborough walk is on **Thursday 9th**, it covers 9 miles and is led by Bernie and Sheila Garrett (07805-296711). Parking is on Church Avenue in Clapham from where we walk up Clapdale Lane to Clapdale then drop down to Clapham Beck. Passing the thudding sound of the hydraulic pump which feeds water to uphill farming areas, it's then past the Ingleborough Cave entrance to Trow Gill, a peaceful wooded limestone ravine (a diversion to this rocky section will be employed should weather conditions deem it unsuitable) and on to Gaping Gill. We reach Ingleborough summit via Little Ingleborough, enjoying the distant vistas as we go, then retrace our route descending back to Clapham.

On **Wednesday 15th** Bryn and Sandra Craggs (015242-62416) lead an 8-mile circular walk from Buckden to Yockenthwaite. Parking is at the YDNP Buckden car park (£5.50 all day-free for permit holders). We start with a long rocky ascent along Buckden Rake to reach the waterfalls, followed by a short road section down to the pub at Cray. Picking up a path that contours the edge of the Moor, we continue through a small wood emerging at Yockenthwaite and take the Dales Way alongside the River Wharfe as far as Hubberholme. The church there bears internal inspection before we cross the river and pick up the Dales Way back to Buckden.

Rick Clapham (07792-935564) takes us on a 7.5-mile ramble around Dentdale on **Tuesday 21st**. Details of the walk are not known at the time of writing but may be on the website nearer the date.

Finally, on **Thursday 30th** there is a 7.5-mile linear walk, with bus return, from School Knott to Orrest Head. The leader is Susan Badley (015242-62502), and the walk starts from Ings on the A591 approaching Windermere. We visit a couple of Mr. Wainwright's outlying fells, and the views offer ample reward for modest effort. Paths via Whasdike lead to School Knott then it's downhill to the outskirts of Windermere where a concessionary path leads through Common Wood towards Orrest Head. On northwards, passing Far Orrest, we cross the Kirkstone Pass Road to Trout Beck and eventually reach the A591 alongside Brockhole Visitor Centre. The return to Ings is by bus, £2 fare cap or bus pass. There are a few steep gradients on this walk, but all are short-lived.





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Bentham Masterplan Gets the Thumbs Up from North Yorkshire Council

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

The completed Bentham Masterplan was on the agenda at the recent meeting of the new North Yorkshire Council's Skipton and Ripon Area Constituency Committee, which covers the Craven area. Council officers explained to the County Councillors at the meeting that the purpose of the Masterplan was to state what the community of Bentham sees as its priorities and then to structure them in such a way that the Masterplan can then be used by organisations in the town when they want to develop a project or make a bid for funding.



The Masterplan's overall vision for the town is to ensure that Bentham retains its distinctive identity and strengthens its role as a sustainable and economically prosperous town with a vibrant and supportive community.

There are **four themes in the Masterplan**, each focusing on a key area that had been identified after consultation with the people of Bentham:

Connectivity – including physical and digital

Natural and Built Environment

Business and Employment

Community and Facilities

Having read the Masterplan prior to this meeting, the relevant North Yorkshire Council departments said: the Masterplan is *"well written, well received and realistic in its aims and aspirations. It will help NYC determine how to deliver against their own service priorities"*. There are immediate opportunities for the Council to take forward projects under the Shared Prosperity Fund especially through the Business Grants to be launched soon.

The committee chair, Cllr Richard Foster (formerly chair of Craven Council), moved the recommendations and opened the debate. He said of the Masterplan:

"It looks like Bentham. It sounds like Bentham. It feels like Bentham. So, you can tell that people from Bentham have written it, which I think is really, really useful."

Another Councillor, Cllr Heseltine, reported that unfortunately Cllr Ireton was unwell and therefore unable to attend this meeting, but that he was very supportive of this Bentham Initiative. Further, Cllr Andy Brown said: **"It is a really good read, a really good plan. It sounds and looks like Bentham. It is good work."** He went on to highlight that a recent presentation on areas benefitting from the Shared Prosperity Fund showed that there was **a big gap around Bentham and Ingleton which screamed out (as needing investment)**. He suggested asking NYC officers to go to Bentham and brief Bentham Town Council on how they might bring forward applications to progress the Masterplan.

Comments from other North Yorkshire Councillors showed that they appreciated that **Highways** are a big issue for Bentham, and that there is a very real problem of access to Bentham. It was suggested that some of the schemes proposed for highway improvements in the past should be dusted off and re-examined. The North Yorkshire committee thanked the authors of the Masterplan report and emphasised the need to continue to involve Bentham community groups as well as Bentham Town Council. **They stated that there is clearly good energy in the town, which this report helps to articulate. This gives them a pathway to delivering some of their aspirations.**

...../Continued on page 46

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Summing up, the Chair pointed out that **"If you don't have a Masterplan, you don't get funding, do you?"** He hoped and assumed that both North Yorkshire Councillors and Officers would now help Bentham Town Council move forward using the findings of the Masterplan and the Shared Prosperity Fund etc. **Bentham has done this Masterplan, and it must not sit on a shelf and gather dust.** A sentiment that was confirmed by Julian Rudd, Assistant Director of Economic Development for North Yorkshire Council.

(The Bentham Masterplan is being printed in booklet form: as soon as it's available we will let you know).



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Save the Free School Bus to Settle

By Gareth Whitaker, Headteacher at Settle College

Settle College has been the first choice for a growing number of families in Bentham and Ingleton when choosing a secondary school. North Yorkshire Council is now proposing that families who do choose Settle College in the future will have to pay for their own school bus, potentially costing a family with two children going to Settle College over £2,000 every school year.

Many families will not be able to afford that kind of extra spending. They will be forced to send their children to their second-choice school, which will be outside North Yorkshire, just because it is a couple of miles closer. For every child that does travel outside of North Yorkshire, the council will pay for a bus and so will save nothing, but Settle College will lose about £30,000 from the Government – money that is no longer going into education in North Yorkshire.

In short, families must **either pay or lose** their first choice of school. Families will lose out and Settle College will lose out: losing income and missing the brilliant contribution that pupils from Bentham and Ingleton can make. Existing pupils and those joining this autumn will not be affected regardless of the outcome.

If you object to what North Yorkshire are doing, let them know by answering their survey by April 26th: <https://bit.ly/NYSchoolTransport> In question five, answer **Strongly Disagree** to the question: Amendment to the main eligibility criterion to be 'nearest school (with places available)' to match the statutory requirement.

Unfortunately, because Bentham News is published on April 26th, which is the deadline day for answering North Yorkshire's survey, you may have missed the deadline for the survey. If you still wish to object, please copy the article above and send it to Councillor David Ireton, North Yorkshire or Julian Smith MP.

cllr.david.ireton@northyorks.gov.uk

julian.smith.mp@parliament.uk

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