

BENTHAM NEWS

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Photo by Jon Brook of Bentham Imaging

BENTHAM CRAFT CLUB



What are these ladies doing for the men?!! Find out on page 10.....

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“Forever Chemicals” (PFAS) and Bentham

The article that appeared in The Guardian on 24th May 2024:-

https://www.theguardian.com/environment/article/2024/may/24/yorkshire-town-angus-fire-bentham-forever-chemicals-pfas?CMP=share_btn_url

has raised many questions to which we do not yet have answers. What the community of Bentham needs to know are:

***Has the management of these chemicals by Angus been appropriate? and
To what extent have these chemicals spread beyond the Angus site?***

Bentham News will be following this situation closely, and keeping readers informed of developments.

Meanwhile, in this edition of BN we have contributions from interested parties on these pages (2 and 3) and in the report from the June Town Council meeting (pages 4-7).

Update from Angus Fire

By Paul Williams, CEO Angus Fire

I want to address some concerns raised by the local community about contamination by PFAS - sometimes called “forever chemicals” - on parts of our site in Bentham, following recent media coverage.

I completely understand the concern and want to clarify some of the facts and put some minds at rest. We have been based in this community for over 100 years, and are one of the largest employers in Craven, with over 120 local employees. We consider ourselves a proud corporate citizen of Bentham, and maintaining positive relationships with our neighbours is very important to us.

First, a reminder of what Angus Fire in Bentham does. We are a global leader in firefighting technology, producing fire hoses and hardware equipment that saves lives in more than 100 countries.

We have never manufactured PFAS chemicals. However, we used to produce firefighting foam at our facility, which sometimes contained PFAS in the raw materials we used. When we did, it was strictly in compliance with UK law, and with directions and guidance from the government’s Environment Agency. I should add that PFAS chemicals have been widely used since the 1950s, in many industries besides firefighting foams – they’re commonly present in make-up, shampoo, waterproof clothing, carpets, paint, cookware, farming pesticides and many other things.

That said, I don’t want to minimise the effect that our previous use of PFAS has caused at Angus’ Bentham site. It is historic in nature, but it’s there. We have instructed environmental consultants Ramboll UK to come to our facility this month, to carry out a site survey to identify and assess any legacy contamination. We have also instructed Ramboll to test other areas of land outside of the factory boundaries.

When that work is done, we will report to the Environment Agency, and discuss next steps. In the meantime, though, I’m glad to say we can address our neighbours’ most urgent concerns about drinking water.

Bentham’s drinking water, as confirmed by Yorkshire Water is safe to drink and is not impacted by our operations. Our on-site borehole is capped off and has never been used for drinking water. Our wastewater lagoons are managed to ensure no off-site release of PFAS.

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As you know, we ignite a limited number of small fires at our site, producing black smoke for a few minutes. It's the only way we can test certain products to ensure their firefighting performance. However, we always do it with regulatory approval, and the fires do not contain PFAS. We keep them to a minimum to reduce the impact on the local community. This includes monitoring the wind direction and not igniting the fires when we know the town is downwind.

We are a responsible company and intend to keep the local community updated on our progress via the local council and Bentham News. We welcome contact and questions from any local residents with concerns, who can reach us on general.enquiries@angusuk.co.uk.

Coming Clean

By The River Wenning Group

Recently Bentham and the River Wenning featured in the national press.

What was our claim to fame? The wildest sheep in Yorkshire? The most dazzling displays of the Northern Lights?

Sadly not. Bentham was named as the place with the highest concentrations of water borne PFAS 'forever chemicals' recorded in the UK. Although no longer used to produce fire fighting foams on the Angus site, residues of PFAS from foam testing have drained into 'lagoons' close to houses, playing fields and the river. Fortunately, Bentham's mains drinking water is from a different source. However, concerns about possible contamination of groundwater and rivers near the site has prompted investigations around the Angus factory by the Environment Agency. Shocking news of these events was reported in The Guardian on May 24th, 2024.

For decades, Angus has been a major and valued employer for Bentham people, whose skills and talents have been used to manufacture firefighting products. Now we face a dilemma. Bentham's biggest employer, with branches worldwide, could be seen as a threat to public health. The number of anxious residents at Bentham Town Council meeting on June 3rd (*reported on page 4*) demonstrates the level of local concern.

We have been assured by Bentham Town Council that meetings with Angus representatives and site inspections are scheduled to take place. It will take time for test results to be available. Meanwhile local people who feel affected can share knowledge and information. For the sake of community health and a clean environment the investigation process and its outcomes must be open and fair to the people of Bentham.

The River Wenning Group can be contacted by email at:

riverwenning-group@gmail.com



Two Bentham children and their dog messing about on the River Wenning

June Town Council Meeting

By Jane Proctor and Pete Hardy

These are not official Bentham Town Council minutes, but a factual report of matters discussed at the Town Council meeting. The official minutes will be posted on the BTC website in due course

There was a full house for the meeting held on 3rd June with all Town Councillors present, NY Councillor Ireton and about 50 members of the public.

The concern which accounted for the unusually high number of public present was the result of an article by Pippa Neil published in The Guardian newspaper on 25th May entitled "North Yorkshire town has the UK's highest concentration of 'forever chemicals'". The article concerned Angus Fire and the historical use of PFAS (forever chemicals) in the manufacture of fire suppressant foam prior to 2022. *See pages 2 and 3.*

Comments and Concerns

Forever Chemicals:

Eleven members of the public spoke of their shock at reading The Guardian article: their concern for public health and the water quality of the Rivers Wenning and Lune. A general view was that more information is urgently needed about the level of pollution to both water and soil and the steps proposed by Angus Fire to decontaminate the land.

Several people spoke of the need for the situation to be monitored by statutory agencies and there was a view that a public meeting should be convened at which experts, scientists and Angus should attend. One person indicated that the author of The Guardian article was also prepared to come and talk to us.

PFAS and PFOS are categorised as a class 1 carcinogen and two people spoke of the unusually high incidence of cancers amongst Benthammers for a rural area. There was concern about the 'dense black clouds' appearing over Bentham especially as these seemed to occur at school playtimes and the possible health risks to children.

The universal view was that more information was needed.

Forever Chemicals were an agenda item for the council meeting and Cllr Adams, who was chairing the meeting, took that item out of turn to enable the public to hear what the council's position was. He said that councillors were equally as shocked as the members of the public that had spoken, and all councillors had had access to the ENDS Report on which The Guardian article was based.

Members of the council had held a meeting the previous week with three members of Angus management including the CEO and Health and Safety Officer. Angus stated they had engaged a specialist environmental consultancy firm to undertake testing of ground and water samples on site, and that work was expected to start mid-June following which they would have a meeting with the Environment Agency towards the end of July. The council had asked that the sample testing be extended to Duke Street and the Playing Fields, and Angus had agreed.

Angus stated they no longer use PFAS in their current range of products and none was present in the plumes of black smoke which were emitted periodically. They recognise there is a problem which they want to solve but they have no solution currently and will wait for expert advice before taking remedial action.

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The council did not feel it necessary to call a public meeting at this point but felt it appropriate to wait, possibly until the early autumn, after the testing results were available. Cllr Adams assured the meeting that the council would get answers but that it would not happen overnight. Cllr Naylor is to take up with Angus the point about testing during school playtimes.

Cllrs Adams and Marshall indicated the CEO at Angus had said he was happy to respond to members of the public with any questions they had either by phone or email.

North Yorkshire Council:

Cllr Ireton said that NY were preparing a local plan that would rationalise the local plans previously prepared by the now defunct seven district councils, but NY were calling for sites for land to be put forward for both housing and industrial development which will include Bentham.

He indicated that he was strongly against the current proposal by NY regarding school transport. He felt it would work against the interests of Settle College and deny parents a choice of which school their child should go to. The decision was being delayed until after the General Election as it was considered a politically sensitive matter.

Cllr Ireton was asked how the position of the newly elected Mayor of York and North Yorkshire would impact on NY Council. The answer is not at all. The Mayor has quite distinct responsibilities in relation to further education and economic development as well as taking over the responsibilities of the Police and Fire Commissioner.

Planning Matters:

New Planning Applications:

ZA24/25688/ADV New entrance sign. Riverside Caravan Park, Slaidburn Road, High Bentham, LA2 7FJ extended deadline to 4/06/24. Cllr Marshall had declared an interest in the matter at the outset of the meeting and left the room whilst the application was discussed. There was no objection from the remaining councillors.

ZA24/25956/REM Application for approval of reserved matters following approval of outline application referenced 2021/22897/OUT for a single, detached dwelling within the garden curtilage at 1 Pye Busk Close, High Bentham, LA2 7BG. The council noted objections by a local resident and proposed that NY review the proximity, overbearingness and positioning of the windows overlooking the adjacent property.

ZA24/25978/FUL First floor rear extension Independent Financial Services, 43 Main Street, High Bentham, LA2 7HJ. There was no objection to this application.

The following planning decision/information was received and noted: ZA24/25817/FUL Erection of replacement sectional timber stables land at Fold Bank Barn, Mewith Lane, Bentham, LA2 7AX. This application had been granted.

Street Lighting:

The streetlight in the underpass to Cleveland Square does not work but the question is who should be responsible for repairs. Prior to the abolition of Craven District Council, it belonged to them. When Craven ceased all its assets passed to North Yorkshire Council, but for some reason that no one can fathom, it does not seem to appear on their data base, so they are denying responsibility. Cllr Ireton is to make enquiries, and hopefully the situation will be rectified before the dark nights come.

...../continued on page 6

Parking:

A new pinch point is outside the former Community Youth Building with donors to 'The Hub' parking outside the building and sometimes on the pavement before offloading their gifts. With legal parking on the opposite side of Main Street, parking outside 'The Hub' is causing a traffic hazard when large vehicles travel through town. It was agreed to approach 'The Hub' and ask them to display suitable signage to discourage drivers from parking outside the building.

Speeding:

Another perennial thorny issue is the speed of some drivers through the town from Low Bentham to the top of Springfield. There was a discussion on the effectiveness of average speed cameras such as Lancashire County Council have invested in, but it would apparently require a policy change for North Yorkshire to do the same. Whether to invest in portable speed indicators showing sad faces – slow down; or happy faces – thank you; will be on the agenda of the next BTC meeting after making enquiries of NY Council.

Bus Service:

Cllr Gerrie gave a potted version of how we have reached this point. We had lost our bus service to Lancaster during Covid – on the basis no one was using it which given lockdown restrictions was not altogether surprising! After some pressing, we got a service through NY Council to Lancaster via Kirkby Lonsdale, but it was taking up to 7.5 hours to do a journey of 15 miles. All requests by BTC to NYC to improve the service or change the route met with a negative response. After further pressure from the council and Cllr Ireton route 582 (the Wednesday morning bus) was introduced. This has now been taken over by Kirkby Lonsdale Coaches and recently arrived 20 minutes late, however the driver then took the passengers all the way into Lancaster. So, said Cllr Gerrie, if that could happen once why not every week?

Following the demise of HS2 North Yorkshire has received government funding to improve passenger transport in the county and given that the Bentham Masterplan identified an improved bus service as one of its main recommendations the town council is to email the NY Transport Manager and the CEO to seek funding for an improved service direct to Lancaster.

Flooding:

As the front cover of June's BN showed Main Street was under water after the deluge on 12th May. NY Council is to be asked to supply new sandbags and to clear the grids on Main Street, Goodenber Road and Station Road.

Masterplan Update:

It was decided to wait a little longer until we hear from NY Council about an official launch of the Masterplan, but in the meantime the town council is to apply to NY for funding under 'the shared prosperity fund' to smarten up the Main Street in Low Bentham and the Main Street and Station Road in High Bentham. The council envisages that individual householders and shop owners be responsible for the work but the council to provide the materials. The benefits would be that the town would be more attractive to visitors and locals alike. Cllrs Ryan and Howard accepted responsibility for filling in the application form which must be submitted by a 30th September deadline. Watch this space for progress on the scheme.

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Other matters:

The Town Hall Clock – has been repaired and is working.

The Calendar – it has been agreed to allow the youth community to enter photos of their choice of areas in Benthams and the recipient of the proceeds is to be the Youth Club.

The Playing Fields – a non-destructible bench has been vandalised, but it took some time; the removal of asbestos from the clubhouse is now complete; the football teams and different groups go from strength to strength and the Duck Race was hugely successful and raised over £2,000.

Longstaffe's Educational Charity – applications for grants can be made between 1st July and 9th September. *See article on page 27*

LASRUG – funding has been received to provide a refreshment trolley on the train at weekends.

Aid in Sickness – surplus funds have been gifted to Sue Ryder in Keighley.

Deferred until the next meeting:

Time had run out so consideration of 'No mow May and September' and the budget for a website redesign were deferred until the next meeting.

Date of Next Meeting: Monday 1st July at 7.30pm.

Please read the amazing article that Peter Leonard has sent Benthams News on Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems (SuDS) following the Benthams town centre flood, with many photos, which is on our website. www.thebenthamsnews.co.uk



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Afternoon Teas
& Raffle

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6

2024

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LOW BENTHAM

2 PM

to

4 PM

Jumble Sale

In aid of
Low Bentham Victoria Institute

AUGUST

3

2024

AT

INGLETON COMMUNITY

CENTRE

2

PM

Drop off your donations of Jumble at the Institute
Wednesday 31st July 9.30am to 2pm

Person of Bentham – Ian Procter

Ian Procter, affectionately known as Ocker, is well known in Bentham as the excellent lead singer of the band 'Back of Beyond', who play in the pubs, at weddings, birthday parties and at fund raising events on the playing fields and elsewhere. They have played for free to support the Playing Fields here and for mental health charities, whose cause Ian feels particularly strongly about. He makes a living as a skilled plasterer, is married to Claire, also a talented musician, and they have 2 children, Finn and Tilly (both recent stars in Bentham panto) and he also has a daughter, Bryony, from a previous relationship, and a grandson, Theo.

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

I was born at the RLI in Lancaster, but I have always lived in Bentham and my parents are local too. My dad's father, Geoff, was a farm labourer who came from Lancaster way. He got into land drainage and came to live here in the Co-op Cottage. I think my dad's mum was one of 11. My mum's dad was an artisan decorator, very skilled. They lived at Brook House in Low Bentham and had a little hardware shop. I grew up on Goodenber Road. I had a great childhood with loads of freedom to roam. My parents split up when I was two but, though I lived with my lovely mum, Julia, I spent a lot of time with my dad, Ken, and grandad. They both worked on land drainage using diggers and tractors - boy heaven! I adored my grandad Geoff, whom I always just called Geoff. He was great. I often went to work with them as a small child. It wouldn't be allowed now, but it was wonderful.

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

I do a fair amount of wild camping. I love it; the smell of the woods, bluebells in spring, honey suckle later, the manure in frosty weather when there's muck spreading. And the sounds too. A barking deer once had me running scared and packing up at 3am. It made an unearthly racket. I love being outdoors at night though, the quiet and the sound of the wind.

I like river walking as well (we do it sometimes as a family) with poles and the right footwear. I think I like to be where other people are not!

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

I have travelled quite a lot to France, Spain, Portugal, Belgium and the Netherlands, but I would like to go back to Italy. We went there in 2009, to San Gimignano in Tuscany. It was utterly beautiful, but I was unwell and did not get the most from it. I'd like another chance to enjoy it properly.

What does a perfect day look like to you?

Recently we set out as a family to Buttermere to paddle board. There was an event on there and it was madly busy. We ended up at isolated Wathendlath Tarn on this glorious sunny day. The kids and Claire swam and paddle boarded. I went a walk. We had a picnic. It was a pretty perfect day. I thought my walking days were over, as I have suffered over the last few years with pain which had become almost immobile. I have had a double hip replacement in the last twelve months, and it has changed my life. I can enjoy an active life again with my family. I owe an eternal debt of gratitude to Dr. Sudakhar, the surgeon, and his lovely wife, Joan.

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

I'd like my grandad, Geoff, back. He died in 1991. I will always miss him. Other than that, I would go back in time and go and see some of those great bands that played at Lancaster University in the 70s and early 80s when I was too young to go, The Who, Free etc.

...../Continued opposite



Photo by Jon Brook of Benthams Imaging

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

I remember at school us watching on a big TV screen the lifting of the wrecked Tudor ship, the Mary Rose, from the Solent. More locally I remember the big grocery shop, Raffles, which was where Miller's Court is now, burning down. As kids we often used to climb over the wall and play in the derelict remains. There were barrels full of rotting matter and lots of scope for exploration for inquisitive children!

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

Geoff, of course.

Mick West (or Father Mick West as he is known locally!). He was the first person I worked for. We've never had a cross word and he influenced my career a lot. He has a lot to do with the way I am in my business today.

Also, Adrian Leigh for recognising I could sing and inviting me to music sessions with his mates. It was only through that invitation that 'Back of Beyond' came to be, or that I came to sing with bands at all. Making music has become such an important part of my life that I will always be grateful to him for providing that opportunity.

John Frankland for his kindness.

And Claire who has tolerated me going wild camping, to band rehearsals, on fell walks etc. and never complained. She does her own things too, she's in another band and in the panto etc., plus playing sport. But I do appreciate her. She is very calm and my rock.

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

I kind of feel it isn't altogether about money. Adults don't seem to play cricket and football here anymore. Why is there no gala with floats and street stalls anymore? There used to be one in High Benthams and another in Low Benthams. Why is the Benthams Show

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so much less of an event? Why don't we have the fair coming any more in the autumn? Why is there no Wednesday market apart from the fish man? All those things had people mingling and working and organising together and having a laugh and cementing friendships. It was community. Those things happened when people were working all hours and were probably much poorer than they are now. I fear the internet and scrolling on mobile phones and the whole virtual world is what's taking up people's time and energy. Seems a poor substitute for reality and a colourful social life.

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

I've always been a plasterer and I love my job. I work in lots of different places so there's variety. I'd hate to go to the same place to work everyday week in, week out. I only get bored if it's a really big job and I'm in one place too long.

What's your most treasured possession?

My family are the most important thing in my life, but they are not possessions. Nothing really, stuff is actually not that important.

How do you relax?

Music, making it and listening to it, wild camping, fell walking. I don't read much at all, but I have found audio books relaxing.

What did you want to be growing up?

I wanted to work with my dad and grandad on tractors and diggers from being very young.

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

Not recently. I love the audio version of 'Lord of the Rings' made in 1981 with John Le Mesurier, Bill Nighy, John Horden etc. I measured the film against it when it was released. I have listened to it so many times. I can visualise it all. I listen to a lot on 6 Radio, Funk and Soul and love the band 'Beautiful South'.

These Ladies are Doing It for the Men *(see front page)*

By the ladies of the Bentham Craft Club

Bay Prostate Cancer Group are a group of men who have had experience of prostate cancer. The group are there to offer support, whatever stage you are at. A friendly face and a listening ear await you at Bentham Town Hall from 7.30-8.30pm on the second Thursday of each month.

The ladies of Bentham Craft Club have joined forces with this Prostate Cancer Group to put together an amazing coffee morning in the Town Hall on Saturday 20th July 10am-12 noon.

This is such a worthy cause, and we really look forward to seeing you at our coffee morning, all working together to raise funds to help this local group.

Bentham Landscape Designer wins Gold Medal at 2024 RHS Chelsea Flower Show

By Alex Kalkschmidt

Sonja Kalkschmidt, who lives in Low Bentham, was naturally highly delighted with winning such an accolade at her first appearance at Chelsea. *"I'm over the moon with this medal, it wouldn't have been possible without my team of over 70 people, especially many amazing local volunteers, local businesses and Abi & Tom's Garden Plants nursery!"*



'Sanctum' is conceived as a versatile, pod-like haven that can easily be assembled in various locations, offering a unique blend of modern aesthetics and natural and calming elements. At its heart are striking charred dark Abodo wood pods, which serve both as a visual focal point and a tactile link to nature. The charred wood, known for its durability and eco-friendly properties, contrasts beautifully with the surround lush foliage and greenery and a small water feature enhances the garden's overall sensory appeal.

Sonja's design philosophy centres on creating spaces that harmonise with nature while offering functional benefits.

'Sanctum' embodies this ethos, showcasing how even the smallest of spaces can be transformed into a haven of tranquillity and well-being. Additional information about the 'Sanctum' garden can be found on the **official RHS website:** <https://www.rhs.org.uk/shows-events/rhs-chelsea-flower-show/Gardens/2024/sanctum>



Courtyard Dairy Organises Northern Cheese Festival – Sunday 7th July 11am-3pm – Free Event

By Andy and Kathy Swinscoe – Courtyard Dairy Owners

Sunday 7th July will see some of the finest farmhouse cheesemakers in the north come together at The Courtyard Dairy's shop near Settle, to showcase farm cheese.

It's great to bring together the few remaining small farm cheesemakers in the North, and showcase these little family farms and their rare, hard to find cheeses in one place. A lot of these farmers and cheesemakers rarely leave the farm so to have them all in one place at the same time is a rare treat. Eleven farm cheesemakers are attending, including Mary Davenport who just won Supreme Champion cheese at the British Cheese Awards for her Snowdrop Cheese. They will be joined by Kirkstall Brewery, Bouncing Cows' Ice Cream (with a blue cheese ice cream flavour!) and The Cheese Truck doing hot grilled cheese toasts.

Throughout the day there will be demonstrations and talks on cheesemaking, cookery, beer and cheese matching, as well as kid goats to pet! Giggleswick and Settle Brass Band will be there to open the event with a rousing performance of Wallace and Gromit's theme tune.

It's one of our favourite days of the year. This year we'll even have a cheese to taste that's made right here with milk from Settle - Settle and North Yorkshire's own cheese. You can be one of the first ever to try it!

What's Happening to Football Teams in Bentham Now?

By Shirley Brown

Andrew Chappell has been delighting readers over recent months (*and now on page 18/19*) with stories and photos of Bentham's cricket and football teams in the past, but what of the present? Is there any organised football being played in Bentham now?

The good news on that is a resounding yes!

The teams playing Junior football in this area are part of the Craven Wanderers club. For some while it has not been viable to have teams representing individual villages separately, so Craven Wanderers welcomes youngsters, girls and boys, from throughout the area: Bentham, Burton, Ingleton, Kirkby Lonsdale, wherever. I recently had the pleasure of discussing what is happening for our footballing youngsters with Derek Whittet, development officer at Craven Wanderers and John Paul Davy, club chairman.

I was surprised and delighted to hear that there are 11 Craven Wanderers teams. I repeat...11! They range from under 7s to under 15s as mixed teams (girls are welcome) plus 2 exclusively girls' teams, under 12s under 14s. At present there are 176 players registered with the club and 30+ of these are girls. Each team has a sponsor, and the sponsor usually pays for the kit, about £300 a year.

Win, lose or draw: everyone is welcome. There is a healthy ethos of inclusivity at the club, as the organisers totally understand the positive advantages of youngsters being involved in healthy outdoor activity, being part of a team, taking part in training sessions and making friendships which cross boundaries between attendance at different schools or living in different villages. Lifelong friendships can start right here.

Games and training sessions take place at various times in Bentham, Ingleton and Burton. Volunteer coaches for the sessions are drawn from the Craven Wanderers committee, which always welcomes more members or helpers to organise events or assist with pitch marking and maintenance.

Apart from training and playing in various local leagues, last season also saw trips to watch The Lionesses, and occasionally games at larger venues, such as Highbury Park, the main pitch at Fleetwood, and Lancaster City's pitch. There was also an end of season presentation party, with disco.

Training Camp: An exciting event is happening from 22nd-25th July at Ingleton Community Centre. The ever-popular week of training with Morecambe FC, which one youngster said was his "favourite week of the school holidays"! So don't miss it – please contact the organisers via the Craven Wanderers FC Facebook page. In fact, this is the way to find out more, register your interest, ask your questions, offer to help, whatever.

The new season starts in September, but training starts before that, so please get in touch and get involved.

Craven Wanderers Under 10s Win Challenge Cup, Top photo shows the triumphant team:

Players L-R: Albert Whaites, Logan Smith, Arthur Akrigg, George Wallwork, Ben Heald, Jacob Knapp, Max Roberts, Billy Keeler, Finley Mason, Wilf Foley and Ronnie Burrow. **Coaches:** Martin Foley and Paul Wallwork

Second Photo shows: Craven Wanderers Under 12s win the Carnforth end of season tournament: 6 games played; no goals conceded. Well done!

Third Photo shows Craven Wanderers under 11s who came top in their league





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Introducing Bentham Youth Club

By Katie Hall (mobile: 07534-697572)

Hello Bentham News Readers,

I wanted to take time to introduce you to Bentham Youth Club. Our club was reformed back in 2022 from the old 'Youth Café'.

In the last two years we have been able to support around 60 young people, with over 40 coming to the club on a weekly basis. We provide fun and safe activities in a warm place where the children and young people's best interests are at the heart of everything we do and where young people can recognise new skills, hobbies and potential life opportunities.

The youth club runs with the support of a group of dedicated volunteers - we are a bit short of volunteers, although we are picking up. We also have a fabulous committee who are always on hand to support us at our fundraising events. Then there is me, the youth worker and secretary for the club.

That is a little bit of background about us, but you might ask, what do we do that makes the young people keep coming back week after week?

The answer is WE DO WHAT THEY WOULD LIKE TO DO. We believe that youth participation and being youth-led is the key to providing a space where children and young people will be happy. We continuously work with the children and young people on plans and ideas for projects. Some of the things that they have suggested for trips in the past that we have carried out are a trip to a farm, Soft Play, Laser Tag, Bowling, and much more. For our club nights we have lots of things happening from games, baking, arts, crafts and some nights we don't feel like doing much at all, so we just chill and catch up with one another.

We provide each child, young person and their families with support whenever it is needed.

Our youth club takes place on Tuesday evenings termtime for children aged 7 and above. Seven to eleven year olds 3.45 to 5.45pm. Eleven plus 6.15 to 8.15pm. To find out more about our club, please contact benthamyouthclub@gmail.com or on social media for weekly updates. Look out for the next Bentham News for exciting news about how your photos will be in the Town Council's Bentham Calendar 2025 to raise funds for our club. (See Town Council report on page 7.)





COME TO OUR YOUTH CLUB

TUESDAYS AT
BENTHAM
METHODIST
CHURCH

JUNIORS (7-11(YR6)
3.45PM - 5.45PM

SENIORS (11+ (YR7)
6.15PM - 8.15PM

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

IF YOU ARE
INTERESTED GET
IN TOUCH OR POP
IN!

CONTACT KATIE HALL ON 07534697572/
BENTHAMYOUTHCLUB@GMAIL.COM/ OR FACEBOOK/INSTAGRAM
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**Sundays @ 11am
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**Why not join us one Sunday?
We would love to see you.**

**For more info please call
07942 672105 or email
fmcornestonechurch@gmail.com**

Women's Wellbeing Walks - Calling All Women!

By members of the walking group

What a good start to the week! Come and join us in exploring our exceptionally beautiful local area and feeling the mental and physical benefits of a good walk. Not to mention a good

talk. For many of us, the new friendships we have made are what keeps us coming. The more regularly you come along, the better you will feel.

Our Women's Walking Group meets at Lairgill car park on Monday mornings at 9.20am. This gives us time to leave for the week's destination at 9.30am. We go for a walk of about 3 miles and are led by trained volunteer leaders, and are back by midday. Along the way, we share our knowledge about local wildlife and history. Sometimes we walk from Lairgill, sometimes we share cars, giving a voluntary contribution to the driver.

Women of all ages are welcome to join us, especially if you want to regain or improve your health. We are out in all weathers, tailoring the route to the week's weather and the capacity of the group. You'll find new paths, stunning views and good company. You will need to wear walking shoes and whatever jacket the weather calls for. This is a Looking Well Studios community group, and we pay £5 per year membership to cover insurance and admin costs.

If there is anything else you'd like to know, please phone Pioneer Projects at Looking Well Studios on 015242-62672. Or just come along and join us on a Monday morning and give it a try.



Photo of a typical walk taken by one of the group

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Bentham's Footballing Past – Low Bentham

By Andrew Chappell

Low Bentham Football Club was formed in 1897 with their first match being against Ingleton at Ingleton, the match report in the Lancaster Standard and County Advertiser on 3rd December 1897, shows that they lost the game by 14 goals to nil, but they were evidently a new team and, with experience, should give a good account of themselves in the future.

In 1905 they became known as Low Bentham Wanderers and would later become Bentham Wanderers. They opened the season on Saturday 29th September 1905 on the Punch Bowl Hotel field with a match, Probables 'v' Possibles. They continued to play here until the 1960-61 season when they formed Bentham FC with High Bentham, as they had done with the cricket club 20 years or so earlier.

In the 1923-24 season Bentham Wanderers won the North Lancashire League division 2 Championship, a feat which they would emulate in the 1954-55 season, but they were unable to win the Division 1 title, finishing runners up in the 1956-57 season. They gained consolation by winning the Craven Cup, beating Earby 3-1 in the final.

As well as league titles and the Craven Cup they also had success in other cup competitions winning the North Lancs League Lancaster Infirmary Junior Cup in the 1947-48 season beating GPO Telephones 2-1 at Morecambe's Christie Park ground. In the 1949-50 season they won the North Lancs League Junior Charity Cup beating Wray 4-2 in the final at Lancaster's Giant Axe ground.

Low Bentham also had a junior football team, Low Bentham Swifts, and a match report in the Lancaster Standard and County Advertiser on 10th March 1905 is as follows: *"Much juvenile interest was centred on the match Low Bentham 'v' Low Bentham Swifts. The 'Swifts', contrary to expectations, proved too 'swift' and ran out easy winners by 13 goals to 3."*

As well as the junior team there was also the "Old Brigade" team who only played friendly matches, as this report below from The Westmorland Gazette on 21st October 1905 tells us; (a moiety is an old word for half, i.e. second half, don't forget every day's a school day!)

LOW BENTHAM WANDERERS v. THE "OLD BRIGADE." — This match between old and new players took place on Saturday. The "old-uns" were by far the heavier team, but over-anxiety in the first half lost them many favourable chances of scoring. One goal, however, fell to their credit. The Wanderers found the net on two occasions, Mitten and W. Wilcock doing the needful. The second moiety of the game was keenly contested. Mitten again scored twice and Bruce once, the Wanderers thus winning a good game by five goals to one.

Photos opposite:- top, Bentham Wanderers in 1923-24 photographed at Ford Ayrton (Rose Gardens)

Back Row: Tom Slater, Rubin Wilcock, Tom Adamthwaite, Billy Oldfield, Bill Harrison, Charles (Charlie) Clarke, John Bush. Middle Row: Lionel Shackleton, Billy O'Neil, Ernie Redfearn, George Lister, Edgar Lister. Front: George Burrow, E Downham.

Bottom photo: Low Bentham Wanderers FC Craven Cup Winners 1956-57

Back Row L-R, M Smith, K Houldsworth, B Herman, C Wilcock, E Guy, C Bell. Front Row L-R, B Noble, C Tomlinson, P Magoolagan, M Noble, L Titterington, B Cross.



People/Letter Page

BN received an anonymous letter this month. As indicated in the editorial information on page 47, BN has a clear policy that it does not print anonymous letters.



Bentham Ingleton Burton Mencap:

Thank you to everyone who supported the coffee morning on 1st June at Bentham Town Hall.

We raised £463.50 from people paying for coffee, buying raffle tickets and cakes and guessing the lucky square to win a hydrangea in a pot, and being served by Sam and Sean.

Many thanks, Liz Whitfield



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Fortnight of Focus on Dementia on The Bentham Line

By Rod Tickner, Press Officer
of Leeds-Morecambe CRP:
rod.tickner@icloud.com

The Bentham Line is the first line to be designated a dementia-friendly route in 2019. This year's 'Dementia Action Week' in May used the theme, 'Much more than a Railway', which emphasised the work of organisations, such as the Leeds-Morecambe Community Rail Partnership (CRP), to support those who find challenges in making journeys.



During the week, The Bentham Line organised a trip to the Brief Encounter Bistro and Heritage Centre at Carnforth station for lunch and a tour of the centre. Thirty people from the Low Bentham Institute's Wednesday Lunch Club joined the train at Bentham for the trip. Andrea Tuohy, the organiser of the Lunch Club said, *"We had lovely day out and thank you so much for arranging the event and for your support on the journey. We would also like to thank Northern for providing tickets for the group."*

The following week it was the turn of a group from the Bentham and District Dementia-Friendly Community to sample the delights of Carnforth. Jonathan Scott, chairman of the group, thanked the CRP and Northern for their kind support and reflected on the positivity of the participants and the swiftness with which the syrup sponge and custard disappeared off the plates.

We are pleased that we were able once again to assist so many people to have a good day out and evoke memories of past times. Carnforth Heritage Centre has many artefacts and displays that help those living with dementia to reminisce about their youth and it was obvious that they all enjoyed the trip.

The CRP would be pleased to help organisations from communities along the 75 miles of our route to enjoy an activity day. We have capacity to organise trips for groups of 8 to 30 people with a variety of activities and destinations along the whole of the line from Morecambe and Lancaster through to the Aire Valley. Please get in touch if you know of a group that could benefit from such a trip. Our contact details are email; the.bentham.line@gmail.com or call Catherine Huddleston, Community Rail Partnership Officer, on 015242-98940.

Photo by Andrea Tuohy of the group in the Heritage Centre waiting to view the famous wartime romantic film, 'Brief Encounter'

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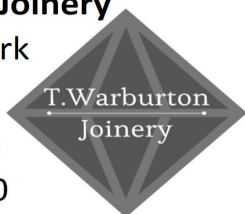
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Your Garden or Allotment in July: Hoping for Sunshine

By Joyce Knapp

As we move into July, we will just have had the longest day but, hopefully, we will still have lots of sunshine to come so we can get outside and enjoy our gardens and allotments.



If we are fortunate enough to have either an allotment or perhaps a corner of our garden in which to grow a few vegetables and fruit trees/bushes, we should be starting to reap the rewards of all our hard work as we begin to gather in some crops. The first of these is usually strawberries and, as we pick the juicy fruits, we can remove any runners growing prolifically. If we wish to keep a few runners to provide new plants (strawberry plants tend to be past their best at three years old) they are best selected from the oldest, established plants, saving no more than three from each plant. This month we could also see raspberries ripening and, as they do, it may be necessary to protect them from the birds by use of netting. In the past I have occasionally found grubs in my raspberries, so this year I am testing a theory by sowing seeds of Tansy nearby, as the flowers are reputed to repel the raspberry fly responsible for the grubs. We may find gooseberries ripening in July, but they can be attacked by the Gooseberry Sawfly. This insect can strip all the leaves from a plant almost overnight and, on some occasions will even eat through the stems of each fruit, causing them to drop off before ripening. With this in mind, I have planted my gooseberry bush near a fence covered by Cotoneaster, so the sawfly barely ever finds it beneath such a prolific climber. Of course there are other reasons for growing Cotoneaster, not least their ability to attract bees thereby helping with pollination of a range of fruit trees and bushes.

By July we may find that some of our vegetable crops need thinning out, to leave sufficient room for the maincrop to grow to full size. The ideal spacing for plants will obviously vary considerably, ranging from carrots and beetroot at 2" up to cabbages at 15" apart. As we thin, it is often possible to save some of the small plants we remove to be used as 'baby vegetables' e.g. carrots, beetroot and lettuce.

We generally find there is little to do in the main garden in July, apart from watering in dry spells and regular deadheading of flowering plants to prolong the flowering season. It is, however, beneficial to prune Box bushes and topiary this month, so they have time to put on new growth and let it harden long before the first frosts.

Report Sightings of Asian Hornets

By Claire Burrow (Bentham Town Clerk)

The government is urging UK beekeepers and the public to be increasingly vigilant to the presence of Asian Hornets and to report any sightings. Asian Hornets are distinctive and can be identified by their dark body, wide orange stripe on the fourth abdomen section and yellow leg ends. Please report sightings of Asian Hornets, using the app 'Asian Hornet Watch' or by email alertnonnative@ceh.ac.uk and include a photograph if safe to do so.



Events in July



Town Hall

Every Tuesday

Blue Moose Dance 9.30am-12noon. LH (except 30th)

Craft Club 10.00am - 12noon, WR

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

Every Wednesday

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

Pilates with Sally Horn 9.30am - 10.30am, LH

Town Hall - Meeting

Monday 1st July, 7.30pm, LH (*see page 7*)

Full Town Council Meeting

Monday 22nd July, 7.30 - 9.30pm, LH,

Finance meeting

Election - Thursday 4th, 6.00—22.30, LH

Town Hall - Coffee Mornings

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

Saturday 10am - 12noon

6th - Bentham Quakers

20th - Craft Club

27th - Age Concern



Town Hall

Prostate Cancer Support Group Meeting

Thursday 11th 7.30pm - 8.30pm, LH

E-mail - bayprostategroup@pm.me

Wednesday 17th, 7pm - 9pm, WR

Bentham Theatre Group AGM all welcome

Open Spaces committee

Monday 15th, 7.30—9.30, LH

Friends of the Dales Summer Programme & Festival Bowland 2024 - see our website

WI (*see pages 36 & 37*)



High Bentham - Thurs 4th, 7.30pm, BR THall
Tatham Fells - Settle. Treasure Hunt/Supper.

Meet in market square at 6.30pm

Low Bentham and District - Thurs 19th, 7pm,
Victoria Institute.

Footpath (*see page 43*)

For all July walks meet first at Lairgill for 9.30 am, except for that on the 11th where we meet at 6.00 pm.

Saturday 6th, Terri Kwiecinska, 07972-653791, Kirkby Stephen, 8 miles.

Thursday 11th, Valerie Eccles and Mary Pickstone, 07979-607191, Hutton Roof, 4 miles.

Wednesday 17th, David Longton, 61838, Whelp Stone Crag, 9 miles.

Tuesday 23rd, Don Cartledge, 64979, Kentmere, 5 miles.

Wednesday 31st, Alison Kinder and Colin Stroud, 07854-789311, Ravenstonedale, 6.5 miles.

Bentham Fire Station

Thursday, 4th & 18th July 10am

Bentham & District Dementia Friendly
Community Breakfast Club

Bentham Pantry Club

Wednesday 3rd, 10th, 17th, 24th & 31st July

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 1st, 8th & 15th July

10am-11.30am

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

Bentham Youth Club (*See page 15*)

Tuesdays

Juniors age 7 - 11 (Yr6) - 3.45pm to 5.45pm and

Seniors 11+ (Yr7) - 6 15pm to 8.15pm.

For more information, please contact us on
benthamyouthclub@gmail.com

Victoria Institute

Every Monday

9.00 - 12.30 Office open, Enquiries/Bookings

11.30 - 2.00 Community Link Cafe

Light lunches and activities

6.15 - 7.45 Tai Chi Qigong

Every Tuesday

4.00 - 9.30 Helen Howard School of

Dance - Term time

Every Wednesday

9.00 - 12.30 Office open, Enquiries/Bookings

10.00 - 12.00 Post Office Services

12.00 - 2.00 Community Link Cafe Lunch

4.00 - 6.15 Helen Howard School of

Dance - Term Time

Every Friday

10.00 - 12.00 Post Office Services

Every Sunday

11.00 - 12.30 Cornerstone Church Service

Thursday July 18th

Low Bentham W.I

SPECIAL EVENTS

AGM 2ND JULY 6.30pm

AFTERNOON TEA IN THE GARDEN

6th JULY 2pm - 4pm

DONATIONS WELCOME

JUMBLE SALE AT

INGLETON COMMUNITY CENTRE

3rd AUGUST 2.15pm

Pioneer Projects Looking Well Studios (unless otherwise stated)

Every Monday Meet Lairgill carpark 9.20am
Health Walks for Women

Every Monday 10.30am to 12.30pm, Making
Connections Dementia Group

Every Tuesday 10.30am to 12.30pm, Creative
Community Hub

Every Tuesday 11.45am to 1pm, Creative
Writing Group, Bentham Library and Zoom

Tuesday 9th July 2pm to 4pm, Book Group in
the library

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

Every Wednesday 2pm to 4pm, Art for All

Every Wednesday 9.30am to 4pm, Barclays
Bank

Wednesday 3rd, 10th & 17th 3.45pm to 4.45pm
Lego Club, Bentham Library

(Lego Club will recommence in September)

WEDNESDAY 31st JULY SUMMER
CELEBRATION DAY – check our Facebook
page for details

Every Thursday 12.30pm to 3.30pm,
Community Art Shed

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

Every Friday 9.30am to 3.30pm, Barclays Bank

Saturday 6th and 20th 10am to 4pm Creative
Sound Workshops (page 29) for age 10-18
please see our Facebook page for details

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

Facebook: Pioneer Projects – Celebratory Arts Ltd

Bentham Golf Club

Every Friday 11am - 2pm, Age Concern

Bentham Friday Lunch Club

5th, 12th, 19th, & 26th July

Bentham Theatre Group AGM

Wednesday 17th July 7pm Wenningdale Rm

**Volunteers needed for Bentham's tourist
information office. Get in touch by email**

**townclerk@benthamtowncouncil.co.uk or call
at the town clerk office Monday - Wednesday**

Bentham Community Library

Library Telephone: 01609 534533

Library Email: library@pioneerprojects.org.uk

Monday 2:30pm - 5:00pm

Wednesday 10:00am - 2:00pm

Friday 2:30pm - 4:20pm

Saturday 10:00am - 12:noon

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Longstaffe's Educational Foundation – Applications for Funds Welcome!

By the Trustees

Longstaffe's Educational Foundation provides funds for the young people of High and Low Bentham to assist them in their educational endeavours. For those of you who may not have come across our Foundation before here is a little overview of what we do, our history and how you can apply for funding.

Dating back to 1713, Mrs Longstaffe of York left £200 in her will to provide for poor relief in the Parish of Bentham. These funds became known as 'Longstaffe's Charity'. In 1725 Thomas Baynes left property in his will, and in 1738 his widow, Isabel added to this; the income generated was to be used to provide education for poor children in the parish. In 1933 Longstaffe's Charity became Longstaffe's Educational Foundation.

From time to time, we also receive donations from other local charitable organisations, committees and local people. We are forever grateful for these donations and therefore would also like to take this opportunity to thank the Bentham Grammar School Staff Association for their generous gift of £700 which we will be able to use for future awards. It is also rather fitting as there is relationship between Bentham Grammar School and the Longstaffe Family. The Longstaffe Educational Foundation has evolved out of a charity that was one of the founding charities of the former Bentham Grammar School (1726-2002). The Chairman of the Bentham Grammar School Staff Association, the school's historian and archivist, Jack Warbrick, said that it was fitting that the residue of money from various sources connected with Old Scholars and parents of the school should return to one of the original founding charities that was still funding educational projects for young people in the Bentham area.

Funding can be provided for a wide range of educational activities all with the aim of supporting enthusiastic and determined young people with aspirations to develop their skills and knowledge in their chosen field. Examples for funding can include travel costs, cost of equipment, class/lesson fees, university fees, cost of books, sports/music club fees, the list goes on.

We would welcome applications from people who currently attend or have previously attended a maintained primary school in the parishes of High and Low Bentham and are under 25 years of age on 1st September 2024. The closing date for applications is **Monday 9th September 2024**. For more information or to download the application form please visit our website, - www.longstaffeseducationalfoundation.co.uk

**Don't forget the BN deadline date is
12th July for the August edition**

Longstaffe's Educational Foundation

**APPLICATIONS NOW
OPEN FOR FUNDING**



*Did you attend or are currently attending
High or Low Bentham Primary Schools?
Will you be under 25 on the 1st September
this year?*

The Foundation will consider **ALL** eligible applications, whether it be for books, IT equipment, classes, music, sports, dance, transport...

***If it makes a difference to your education,
we will try to help.***

We would welcome applications from people who currently attend or have previously attended a maintained primary school in the parishes of High and Low Bentham and students in higher/further education.



Please download an application form from our website:

www.longstaffeseducationalfoundation.co.uk

Closing date for applications is
Monday 9th September 2024.

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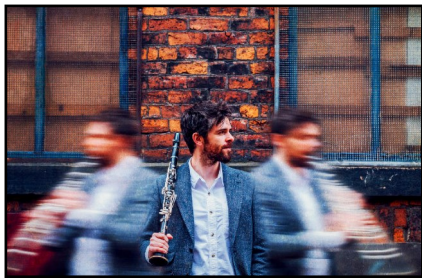
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'Keeping Craven warm for over 40 years'

If You're 10-18 years old and Love Making Sounds...read on

By Grace Knill - Creative & Wellbeing Projects Manager - Mobile: 07512-892727

We are excited at Pioneer Projects to be putting on some new Creative Sound Workshops in July. **For those aged 10-18 years** we are hosting exciting **Sound Workshops** where you can have a hands-on experience. Learn how to capture, manipulate and record sounds, turning them into an interactive piece of music with expert instructors



Sophie Cooper and Jack McNeill. Explore various sound techniques to craft unique and personalised sound pieces.

This project will be created, designed and made by the young people in the project, and culminate in a digital app which follows an installed art trail celebrating Benthams, where you can listen to the pieces as you explore our lovely landscape. We will be launching this trail as part of our **Summer**

Celebration at Pioneer Projects on Wednesday 31st July!

If you are 10-18 years old and interested in the creative world of sound, mixing, music and composing, then come and unleash your creativity and immerse yourself in the world of sound as we explore together.

Workshops will take place at the

Looking Well in Benthams

11am - 4pm on: Saturday 6th July

and Saturday 20th July

For more information and to reserve a space on one or all of the sessions email

grace@pioneerprojects.org.uk



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Cold but still Gold

By Gayle Denny

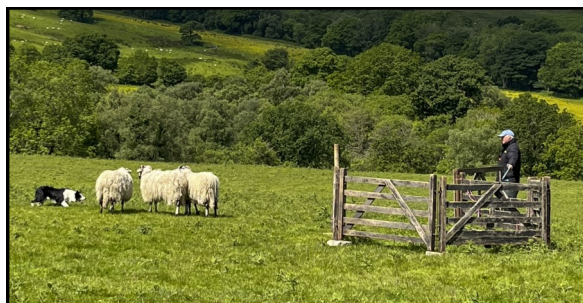
Lowgill Sports and Sheepdog Trials was held on Saturday 8th June - that's right, June (I know everyone in the pictures have thick coats and woolly hats on, but trust me, it is summer!).

The cold didn't stop us and we had a fabulous turn out of people taking part in various events.

We had competitors doing their very first fell race, with one lady claiming she didn't even know what a fell was! Babies in slings, being wiggled about while their mums raced (guess that's one way to get them to sleep!). Even the President, Dawn Corlett, couldn't keep off the track and got changed halfway through the day into her running gear so she could take part!

There were 5 trophies to be won on the day. The fancy dress was won by Matthew and Ben Lawson, "Young Farmers, Tractor Run" (*pictured*). Ashton Thomas Gardener won the school handwriting competition and Edward Huddleston won the Quoits Cup. Will Huddleston won the John Whitfield Memorial Trophy for the men's Pillow Fight and Rosie Hodgson won the Diamond Jubilee Cup for the women's Pillow Fight.

Children from pre-school age upwards had a great time in all the races. They showed true determination, and the odd fall didn't put them off (*see picture*) they still crossed the line smiling! It's questionable, however, as to whether there was such good sportsmanship in the mums' and





dads' race...! (Pictured is the dads' egg and spoon race).

There was tough competition in the senior 3-legged race. We needed 3 heats but no one else could match the winners, Annabelle and Thomas Corlett. Annabelle went on to win the "Tatham Fells Award" for the most outstanding athlete. (Pictured)



The Cumberland and Westmorland Wrestling had a good turnout, as did the Sheepdog Trials. Both enjoyable, skilled events well worth watching. (Pictured)

Huge thank you to all the local businesses that kindly sponsor the sports. We are also very grateful for all the farmers who let us use their land each year. Also, a massive thank you to everyone who helps before, during and after the event and, of course, to all the participants who keep this little traditional sports day alive! See you all again next year!



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The Stainton Charity Tractor Run 2024

By Tara Wilson and family

There was another wonderful turn out for this year's Stainton Charity Tractor Run on 12th May. We raised just over £1,500 which is going to Derian House Children's Hospice and Make A Wish Charities.

40 classic tractors took part in the 40-mile tractor run which was led by our lovely daughter Anya on her late grandad's yellow Massey through country lanes and back roads leading us to Barbon Village Hall for lunch.

Thanks to Bentham Auction Mart for allowing us to set off from there, Aunty Jeanie and Debs at the Auction Café, everyone who baked, all companies and people that gave us raffle prizes, the tractor drivers and passengers, B&W Funerals for sponsorship and a big thank you to all the locals that came to see us off! The support is very much appreciated. Thank you so much.



St John's: Messy Church Saturday 13th July, and Sunday Services

By Libby Wheildon

Calling all children and their families! We invite you all to our first Messy Church on Saturday 13th July at Bentham St John the Baptist Parish Church starting at 4pm and finishing at 5.30pm. Messy Church is church but not as you know it. It is for all ages and is based on creativity, hospitality and celebration. We will play games, enjoy craft activities, sing songs and have drinks and snacks together. Find out more about Messy Church by searching <https://www.messychurch.brf.org.uk/> and join us if you can, for fun and fellowship.



And then there are Sunday mornings. Sunday mornings at St John's are a chance for rest, renewal and refreshment. Time when the phone isn't going to ring, and you don't have to respond to a WhatsApp, text or email. Time for you to sit and recalibrate in a place of welcome and acceptance, that honours you as you are, happy or sad or whatever. The 9 o'clock service is always Holy Communion, without hymns, a quieter and shorter service, about 40 minutes. The 10.30am service has hymns and refreshments afterwards and alternates between Holy Communion and Morning Worship. All are welcome.

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Low Bentham Public Hall and Victoria Institute Successes

By Julie Bridgeman (Chair LBPHVI)

Low Bentham Public Hall and Victoria Institute, more commonly known as the Victoria Institute, is about to be given a makeover of 'Grand Designs' proportions. The management committee has been working hard, mainly behind the scenes, to bid for grant funding to improve the energy efficiency and comfort of the building. The effort has paid off and the building is going to be refurbished to the tune of some £100,000 obtained from the UK Shared Prosperity Fund and the National Lottery. Improvements will include photovoltaic panels, insulation, new windows, addressing damp issues and associated redecoration, new toilets and a public toilet that will be accessible from the alleyway on the left of the building as you look at it. This work will be complemented with a wired in fire alarm that has been partly funded by the precept grant from Bentham Town Council.

Another recent success is obtaining grant funding to resurface the car park at the rear of the building. This has only received positive comments and now makes the building much more accessible. A handrail from the car park along the length of the path to the conservatory entrance (funded by The Yorkshire Dales Millennium Trust) will be fitted soon. The YDMT has given £4,000 to Bentham Older People Together.

Further grant funding has enabled us to increase the number of employed staff. Our cook is now an employee and not a volunteer and we also have a Community Link Worker with Specific Responsibility for Those Living with Dementia. A variety of funding sources (including McCarthy Stone and the National Lottery) have enabled this. A big thank you to Gerald Townson, Chairman of the Leeds-Morecambe Community Rail Partnership, who was instrumental in making the Bentham line Britain's first dementia-friendly railway, Rod Tickner (Vice Chairman) and Catherine Huddleston (Partnership Officer) who facilitated our trip to Brief Encounter in May. This was in aid of and support for Dementia Action Week.

Recent and future trips out have been funded by grant aid from Harvesting the Power of our Community and support from Northern Rail. This funding pays for train and coach travel, overtime for the staff and dinner for the volunteers. Bentham's very own Hub has also been generous in donating money which has funded trips out for Community Link Café users and to ensure that volunteers do not have to pay for their own lunches on trips out.

None of the above means that the management committee will sit on its laurels. We are now in the process of preparing the rest of the contracts for the refurbishment work and coordinating this to ensure that everything runs smoothly. We have enlisted the help of a well-respected and experienced member of our community to help us with this. He has experience 'in the trade'. We already have ideas to further develop the building when this refurbishment is concluded.

The Victoria Institute is the venue for dance classes, Tai Chi classes, snooker, Low Bentham Women's Institute, Hip Joint, post office, Cornerstone Church, an art group and the Community Link Café. It can also be hired for events (it has hosted parties and a wedding) and offers a large hall, kitchen, conservatory, meeting room and snooker room all of which can be rented as a whole or as individual units.

The organisation could not function without volunteers. Our volunteers are a vital part of the management committee and the Community Link Café. It is no exaggeration to say that without them the Victoria Institute and the Community Link Café would not contribute much to the communities of Low and High Bentham. The above sounds as though the Victoria Institute only takes. On the contrary, in their current form, the VI and the CLC offer a welcoming venue and lifeline to many people. Staff, volunteers, institute users, local businesses and organisations benefit enormously from this unique facility in Low Bentham. The management committee only sees this going from strength to strength.

If anyone is interested in volunteering with or hiring the Victoria Institute please contact Jillian Ashton (Manager LBPHVI) on 015242-63162 or V.I.manager@hotmail.com or Julie Bridgeman (Chair LBPHVI) on 07939-059812 or julie@lowbentham.plus.com.



Tatham Fells

By Mary Taylor

Peter Osborne introduced 'The Holy Wells of Cumbria' (right) to Tatham Fells

Women's Institute members at the meeting held in the Old School on 11th June. He showed photos of the wells and a map of their locations. He said that springs where water rises from the ground were sacred places 'a gift from the gods' in prehistoric times, with the Celts and Romans worshiping there; using dousing rods Peter had discovered water in the centre of a stone circle. He had visited more than 30 sites, mostly where a church has been built at the well, starting with St. Patrick's Chapel at Heysham. At Preston Patrick in Cumbria the spring can be heard inside the wall of the churchyard; many have the spring or water running underneath the church. At Clifton, on the side of the A6 there is a paved area where the last battle in England was fought in 1745. The surrounding stonework of some of the wells was rebuilt in Victorian times, but some are almost lost in vegetation or boggy ground.



Peter was welcomed by President Ruth Garstang and thanked by Joan Metcalf. He judged the competition for 'wildflowers in a jam jar'; winners were first Kath Coates, second Ruth Garstang and third Andrea Ball. During business the President said that the visit to Wray Garden Centre and Tea Rooms had been a great success and five members had braved the rain for the walk at Austwick. The evening concluded with refreshments provided by Joan Metcalf and Mary Myers. In July members will meet in Settle for a treasure hunt and supper.

Low Bentham and District

By Kathryn Brownsord

Our May meeting was held at the Victoria Institute, when our Vice-President, Jacquie Van Ryssel, presided, and after concluding our usual business and informing us of any Federation courses she introduced our speaker, Fiona Smithson, talking on Curiosity Corner.

Fiona brought 50 items of old tools and curiosities and after splitting us into teams of four, had us all guessing what each item was and its use. What a brilliant and informative evening with everyone participating and having a good laugh.

The Craft Day was held at Jennifer Watkinson's home – a lovely day as usual.

Austwick WI hosted our group rally where we enjoyed a lovely 'late' afternoon tea supplied by Mandy from 'Simply Delicious'. This was prior to our guest literally singing for her supper. Nicola Mills sang popular songs from the stage and arias from the Opera, she also did a selection of 'her tribute to Julie Andrews'. Nicola, a trained opera singer, has travelled all over the world performing and during 'lockdown' sang outside care homes etc, whilst people lucky enough to live close by to these impromptu concerts brought out their chairs to sit by the pavement – in their own space - and listen to the lovely voice of Nicola. We all had such an enjoyable evening listening to her life story and beautiful singing. WHAT A SUPERB NIGHT.

Just to remind you that our next meeting is on 19th July, the third Thursday of the month. Visitors are very welcome, and we are always open to new members. Why not come and join us?



High Bentham

By Jan Stuiver

On June 6th High Bentham WI members were entertained by a storyteller, David Dale. We had an evening of traditional stories, interspersed with songs and poems on the theme of summer – which was a little ironic as an unseasonal shower of hail was battering against the windows as David and his musical partner were setting up their equipment! However, blue skies were peeking through the clouds by the end of the session, perhaps encouraged by the laughter of the audience. After a break for refreshments, we held the business part of our meeting, with discussions of our plans for the community garden we are going to create around the bench outside the Medical Centre.

We also listened to an interesting report from one of our members who had attended the Annual Meeting of the National Federation of Women's Institutes in the Royal Albert Hall, London, the day before. She was impressed by the quality of the speakers at the event and the powerful stories they had to tell about the work being done by a whole range of organisations, allied to the NFWI, to support women who have suffered both physical and psychological violence. The NFWI will be campaigning next year on improving access to dental care for all, alongside its ongoing campaign aimed at ending violence against women and girls.

On a happier note, we hope to organise a trip out for dinner one evening during the last week of June. Our next meeting on the evening of 4th July will be held in the Upper Hall as the Lower Hall will be in use as a polling station. Our speaker will be Mr Brian Topping, with a talk entitled 'Tales of a Customs Officer'. Members who wish to take part in the monthly competition are reminded to bring along a holiday souvenir. Non-members are very welcome to join us for the evening at a cost of £4.



LVCS Hornby Swimming Pool Closes for Roof Repairs

By the LVCS Trustees, www.lunevalleypool.com 01524-805666

The Swimming Pool in Hornby is to close from the middle of July to the middle of August to replace the roof and to undertake other vital energy saving improvements.

This was scheduled for full discussion and approval at the AGM on 23rd May, but regrettably there were insufficient members to form a quorum and a second on-line AGM was held on 18th June to share details and appoint additional Trustees.

The main construction is scheduled to start on 22nd July 2024, but the pool will need to be drained and prepared for construction a few days prior and it will be closed for not less than 4/5 weeks. This a necessary and fully costed improvement plan with long-term benefits which will ensure the building is sustainable into the future. Although we have sourced several major grants, we will need to raise additional funding to meet expenditure and loss of revenues caused by this disruption.

We sincerely apologise for any inconvenience this temporary closure may cause for our swimmers and supporters. Further details will be made available on our website and Facebook pages along with any changes to the schedule and reopening information. Your support and ideas would be very welcome.



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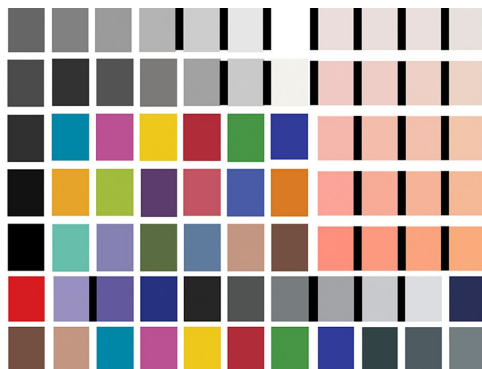
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News from the Fells of Curlews, Skylarks, Lapwings, and even Cuckoos

By Helen Wilkinson

On Burn Moor the delicate white heads of the cotton grass nod gently in the breeze whilst providing protection for the young birds; adult curlews, skylarks and lapwings hover above calling a panic alarm. Black grouse, snipe and red shank have also been spotted in the area.



As part of the Bowland Wader Project the RSPB have been monitoring and recording curlew nests at Botton head.

The deer have moved onto new pastures, and I haven't seen them on Ivah hill for a week or two, although the young trees are still getting nibbled! They have however been spotted near Summersgill with two fawns. The blackbirds have a nest in the garden and the male bird is always busy gathering worms, I don't know how he manages to be so noisy with so many worms in his beak for the hungry chicks. In the last week of May house martins and two pairs of swallows appeared and rebuilt their old nests. Around the same time the one cuckoo who had been calling higher up the valley became more vocal, as two or three more arrived and started calling loudly to mark their territory.

At the end of May Wild Church had a theme of the Trinity, with related crafts, and the rain cleared long enough for everyone to enjoy making 's'mores' on the fire pit. Lowgill Sports had a successful day on 8th June (see page 30). This year's President was Dawn Corlett. Dawn has competed at the sports since her time at school here; she and her family continue to support and compete each year.

The village society had their annual meeting on 16th May, planning events for the coming year; the next event will be the treasure hunt on 18th August. Also, in August we will have a walk led by John Wilson in aid of church funds; this will be to the stone man on Burn Moor.

**Don't forget the BN deadline date is
12th July for the August edition**



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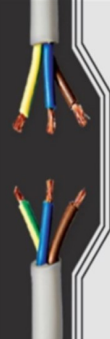
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Police News

Members of your Safer Neighbourhood Team covering the Bentham, Ingleton and Settle area are PS1006 Paul Evans, PS231 Ikhlal Mohammed, PC871 Ian Hunt, PC188 Jane Carpenter, PCSO5561 Jayne Grace and PCSO5881 Julia Runciman. They will be keeping you updated on recent crimes and incidents in Bentham and the surrounding area.



There were 58 incidents reported between 11th May and 13th June 2024

These included: Violent crime involving dog on dog, anti-social behaviour, a neighbourhood dispute, dispute involving domestic violence, a civil dispute, harassment, a false alarm sounding, sudden death, theft involving criminal damage – cable – Over Raygill, road related offence: suspected drink driver, suspect vehicle in Greenfoot Lane, Low Bentham, men in suspect vehicle in Low Bentham, road traffic collision involving 2 vehicles on Bentham Road, nuisance involving anti-social behaviour by a drunken man on Main Street.

How to Report Speeding Concerns

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

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- 2 - Ring 101 to report incidents or provide information
- 3 - Ring Crime Stoppers on 0800-555-111 to remain anonymous
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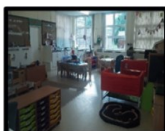
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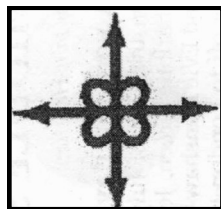
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Bentham Footpath Group - (benthamfootpathgroup.co.uk) 5 Walks in July



"An Easy Walk Along South Lakelands Most Picturesque Valley"

By Don Cartledge (benthamfootpathgroup.co.uk)

A special walk this month along the upper reaches of the River Kent to Kentmere Reservoir. This tranquil, isolated but beautiful reservoir is set against a dramatic backdrop of the high fells. Well worth the journey from Bentham.

All July walks start from Lairgill at 9.30am except for the evening walk on the 11th, where we meet at Lairgill for 6pm.

Saturday 6th sees our first 8-mile Kirkby Stephen ramble led by Terri Kwiecinska (07972-653791). Starting from Christian Head free car park (Kirkby Stephen) we pick up the Pennine Journey path along the River Eden to Winton and across fields towards Cote Garth. It's then along a disused railway line above Hartley and across the viaducts to reach Stenkrith Bridge via the poetry stones. We return to the start crossing Frank's Bridge and by the church.

The July evening walk, led by Valerie Eccles and Mary Pickstone (07979-607191), is on **Thursday 11th**. This 3.5-mile stroll starts from Hutton Roof village, from where we climb quickly to Hutton Roof Crag (a site of special scientific interest known for its limestone pavement). At the walks highest point there are extensive views of the Lakeland Fells and Bowland Moors and as we descend back, the views continue with the Howgills and Ingleborough dominating the skyline. If it's a nice evening, bring a snack and we can pause at the top to take in the panorama.

David Longton (015242-61838) has a 9-mile walk for us on **Wednesday 17th**. Parking is at Rathmell village car park from where we set off across fields to Green Farm and Swainstead and up to Swainstead Rake. Then it's on to Rathmell Common via Lower and Upper Sheepwash, eventually reaching Owlshaw. Heading for Whelp Stone Crag, we should have extensive views over the Ribble and Hodder Rivers, then it's the return by Higher Brayshaw, Middle Brayshaw, Long Gill to Layhead Farm. We reach the cars by Back Lane and the road through the village.

The 5-mile Kentmere walk is on **Tuesday 23rd** and led by Don Cartledge (015242-64979). Parking is on Maggs Howe camping site at Kentmere from where we walk past the village church along a good track which leads past the old slate quarries to eventually reach the reservoir. We return alongside the eastern side of the River Kent. Please note that despite the mountainous backdrop, this walk includes no inclines of any significance.

Finally, on **Wednesday 31st**, Alison Kinder and Colin Stroud (07854-789311) take us on a 6.5-mile ramble round Ravenstonedale. The start is from outside St. Oswalds church, Ravenstonedale, from where we head to Town Head Farm, High Greenside and on to Beckstones Farm. Eventually we reach Newbiggin, where we soon head for Smardale by Browner and join the route of the former Stainmore Railway as far as the Smardalegill viaduct. We walk down to reach the river which we follow back to the start.



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Tatham Fells Primary Pupils Get Really Active

By Fiona Ip - Headteacher

We are back for the second half of the summer term and have already enjoyed sports day, maypole dancing, a rounders tournament, Lowgill Sports and for our Y5 and 6 pupils a week's residential in the Isle of Man.



At the end of last half term, we took 2 teams to represent Tatham Fells in the Lune Valley netball tournament. Both teams played excellent games and Tatham orange won the tournament and are district champions. The sporting success continued with the Lune Valley Cluster rounders tournament which was held at Hornby school with 10 schools competing. Last year our team played brilliantly and came second but this year they went a step further showing their excellent teamwork and exceptional fielding skills to win all their matches and become Lune Valley District Champions.

All our children got the chance to practise their athletics skills in our annual sports day. They competed in shot putt, long jump, long distance and hurdles in the morning and in the afternoon we were joined by parents to watch the traditional races with a fiercely competitive mums' race. The children all had face paints in their team colours and enjoyed a full day of competing with an ice cream van visit at the end, kindly funded by the Friends of Tatham Fells School. Special congratulations go to Ava Mason and Oscar Wynn who won the KS1 overall sports star and Lily Rose and Ashton Gardner who won for KS2. A special mention goes to Richard Mason for excellent sporting effort.



Our maypole dance was well attended on Friday afternoon and all the children got a chance to show their traditional maypole dances. We were also pleased to have the grand opening of the playground slide with a guest appearance from Mr Doug Taylor who unveiled the plaque in memory of Mrs Kate Taylor. On Saturday we enjoyed a great afternoon for Lowgill sports, lots of children ran in a variety of races and the handwriting competition, winning pocket money. Congratulations to Ashton Gardner who won the school sports cup and handwriting cup- a great year for Ashton.

On Monday our Y5/6 set sail for for the Isle of Man to take part in our residential outdoor adventures course. We went with children from Melling, Wray, Dolphinholme and Quernmore. A fantastic week of beach craft, abseiling, high ropes, sailing, kayaking, gorge walking, archery, axe throwing and an assault course. The children were busy every minute of the day and evening. Staff at the venture centre were amazing and the children learned so much.

From September we have been able to allocate funding to our before and after school clubs. The good news is that we can offer free childcare to all our children before and after school. Monday – Wednesday 8am-5pm, Thursday 8am-4pm and Friday 8am-3pm.





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Moos and Ewes

By Michelle Hodgson

Well, it is getting towards the summer holidays, and I am sure you will all be thinking, what can I do to pass the long hours during these long summer days? Well, you could consider making a Moo or a Ewe. 'Ewe' may remember last year we asked for the people of Bentham to get creative and make their own Moo or Ewe. If you don't mind, we would like you to do it again if you'd like to.

To give you some inspiration here are a few photos from last year.

All being well the creations will be judged at this year's Bentham Show. The hope is that you good folk of Bentham will want to display your creations the week before the show. Then on the day of the show bring them to a special holding pen (if they can be moo..ved) or bring a photo of your creation, for judging.

If you signed up last year to get involved, you should have received an email by now inviting you to a meeting on Monday July 1st at 7pm at Studio 42 on Bentham Industrial Estate. The meeting will be to see what we can do to build this into an annual event. If 'Ewe' want to know more or get involved, then you can email me

Michelle Hodgson at studio42arts@gmail.com. Happy creating!



The UK Parliamentary General Election is on Thursday 4th July 2024

Our constituency is Skipton and Ripon

You can only vote for one candidate

There are 8 candidates to choose from:

Malcolm Birks – Labour Party

Andy Brown – Green Party

Simon Garvey – Reform UK

Ryan Kett – Yorkshire Party

Andrew Murday – Liberal Democrats

Guy Phoenix – Heritage Party

Julian Smith – Conservative and Unionist Party

Keith Graham Tordoff - Independent

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