

BENTHAM NEWS

August 2024 Issue 454 Recommended price **£1**

Photo by Jon Brook of Bentham Imaging



Come to Crown Green Bowling. See page 10.

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Person of Bentham – Jenny Durrant

Jenny Durrant is a well known and loved figure in Bentham. She ran the Craft Club that happens on a Tuesday morning in the Wenningdale Room until 2020 and she still attends. She volunteers with the dementia group at Pioneer Projects and ran a line dancing group in Bentham for years, up until 2020. This group raised £7,500 for various charities. She does exquisite cross stitch, knits, crochets, sews, paints, embroiders and was awarded the Angus cup at the Bentham Agricultural Show in 2022 for the most points in the handicraft section. She also writes the most wonderful witty and acutely observant poems, laugh out loud funny, which she published in a couple of books a few years ago, thereby raising £200 for charity. Pam Ayres eat your heart out. She arranges coffee mornings in Bentham, with her friend Julia Collins and the craft group, in aid of various organisations e.g. the dementia group, prostate cancer and brain tumour charities.

She was married to her beloved husband Ken for 47 years. Unfortunately, he began to show symptoms of dementia around 2009 and Jenny supported and cared for him devotedly until his death in 2018.

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

I've actually lived here full-time for 24 years but Ken and I came up to Yorkshire for holidays from the 1970s onwards and sometime around then Ken announced that this is where he wanted to retire. I am from East Sussex originally. I was brought up on a farm where we lived as an extended family with my parents, sister and grandparents. It was an idyllic childhood and it's where I got my love of animals and birds. Ken was a postman when we married in 1972 but then we went into running newsagents' shops and did that for the rest of our working lives. We moved up to Yorkshire in 1989 and ran a large newsagent's in Baildon - we had 61 paper rounds a day going out! We bought a caravan at that time, at Parkfoot, and spent as much time there as possible, moving here permanently in 1999 after we retired. In 2006 we moved to King Street, where we lived happily for 10 years and became involved with the Looking Well and their doings. Ken used to mow the grass for them in the lovely garden. When his dementia got worse, we came to where I live now, in Grasmere Close.

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

I was a biker chick for a few years in my 20s and have a photo to prove it. Also, having grown up on a farm I can draw and pluck poultry and skin rabbits. My family used to set mole traps and my mum would clean and sell the soft skins to glove makers, all old-fashioned stuff now. We had no mains water or electricity until I was 16 and I did my homework by the light of a Tilley lamp. As well, I used to work for a millionaire when we were first married, as a housekeeper. We lived in an apartment on site, on a country estate with its own lake. How the other half live!

If you could travel anywhere, where would it be?

Ken and I travelled a great deal. We visited every county in England and went all over Europe, including Greece, Malta, Madeira and the Canaries. We went to Canada (several times), to Alaska and to the US. I've been to Yellowstone Park and seen Old Faithful. In 2020 I had booked to go to the Yukon but then Covid struck. Where I would really like to go now is Costa Rica for the wildlife. It sounds idyllic. New Zealand is also a place I'd like to have visited.

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Photo by Jon Brook of Bentham Imaging

What does a perfect day look like to you?

A warm sunny day out. I have a lot of lovely friends whom I truly appreciate. We would do a little shopping, have lunch and end up having a glass of wine together somewhere.

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

The VE Day celebrations, which occurred when I was about a month old: the shared relief and joy, everyone letting go. Must have been amazing.

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

I remember watching the late Queen's Coronation on my sister's tiny, rented TV set in her house. She was 14 years older and already married. I was 8. We went on a coach trip up to London before the event to see all the street decorations, insignia on lampposts, flags, bunting etc.

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

Ken. He taught me patience, laughter and to look on the bright side. We always had fun together and in 47 years, although we obviously had disagreements, we never had an actual row. I used to have a quick temper, but Ken could never take me seriously and would just laugh at me, which took the wind out of my sails and made me laugh too. We enjoyed dressing up for our line dancing and fooling around and we both had a keen sense of the ridiculous. Being silly together was an important part of our relationship.

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

I'd like to put the pride back in Bentham. We have lots of tourist coming here or passing through and we could make a better impression. The Main Street is not looking its best now. I would redo the pavements, have lots more beautiful planters of flowers and give incentives to all the shops and houses to spruce up, see to their shop windows and paint their premises. Looking up the street should raise our spirits and make people passing through want to stop and explore our town and see all that we have to offer. I'd also work to bring back a thriving market in Cleveland Square.

What's the worst job you have ever done?

I left school on a Friday and started work on the Monday and have never been out of work. I've been a cleaner, a post office counter assistant, a comptometer operator, a barmaid, an assistant in a pharmacy, a housekeeper and a newsagent. The worst was being a waitress at a restaurant next to Battle Abbey. I dropped a plate of rabbit stew down a man's suit! I was demoted to dish washing.

What's your most treasured possession?

I have loads of mementoes and bits and pieces including a collection of 200 novelty spoons. There is no word for a spoon collector that I know of. The most precious items are Ken's watch and ring and all our photographs and books of memories.

How do you relax?

I read a lot and have quite eclectic tastes. I read autobiographies, travel books, love stories, crime novels. I swap books with my neighbour. Also, I do my crafting; crocheting, knitting, quilting etc. and play Scrabble online to keep my brain working.

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

I wanted to be a vet. I loved school and I loved learning. I still do and am currently learning Spanish. My school didn't have a sixth form though, and in my last year of school we had no proper science teacher. So, as I say, I left school and went straight to work doing any jobs that came my way. It worked out fine.

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

My favourite film is 'The Bridges of Madison County'. I've watched it so many times. I have recently enjoyed the Dales detective novels of local author Julia Chapman, which are set in Settle, and am looking forward to reading her 'Fogas Chronicles', which have France as their location.

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Monday 9th September 2024.

Speeding Traffic in Bentham

By Debbie Howard

Speeding and the enforcement of speed limits is a divisive subject which is regularly discussed at council meetings, on social media, in many social gatherings and our schools. Speed concerns are expected to be on the agenda at Bentham Town Council meeting on 5th August 2024.

Is speeding a problem?

Bentham Primary school pupils recently said, '*speeding cars in Bentham is in their opinion the biggest local issue*'. It is known that speed is a main factor in road traffic collisions and the higher the speed, the more severe the injury caused.

In the last 5 years **174 people died** on North Yorkshire's roads and a total 6,821 people were injured and last year saw a staggering **+35% increase in deaths and serious injuries** in North Yorkshire. As the national situation is a **-4% reduction** in these casualties, this is shocking and unacceptable.

What can be done?

Average speed cameras and other speed reduction devices have been installed in many counties in recent years, including our neighbour Lancashire. They have proved to be successful in reducing speeds and casualties which then, saves lives. They are also generally supported by the public unlike other cameras. Yet, North Yorkshire does not have any average or fixed speed cameras anywhere. This must be changed.

Any decision to change this policy is the responsibility of the Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner, who is now the North Yorkshire Mayor. The Police, North Yorkshire Council and local MPs also have significant influence on this decision. So, if you would like to see this change, let them know!

Anything Else?

Enforcement is not the only way to reduce speed. Community Road Watch and Vehicle Activated Speed Signs (VASS) can be very effective and are a simple and cheap way of slowing down drivers particularly in village locations and near schools. Introducing 20 mph limits is another way, however it is very costly, and this debate is probably best left for another day.

Community Road Watch - The local policing team recently attempted to recruit volunteers to run a scheme in Bentham, but there were insufficient volunteers, so it didn't go anywhere.

Vehicle Activated Speed Signs – These illuminate when drivers are speeding and tell them to slow down. They ideally should be positioned at entrances of villages and on approaches to schools. Some can collect data which can be analysed and if high speeds are recorded, can lead to further police action. One sign costs around £3,500. Surely our safety is worth this. If you agree, let Bentham Town Council know! We need change and we need our councils and police to invest in road safety for all road users, which is each and every one of us! If you share my concerns and want some action to be taken, contact Bentham Town Council before the meeting on 5th August 2024. The Town Clerk's email address is:

townclerk@benthamtowncouncil.co.uk

To view a fuller version of this article please go to the BN website, www.thebenthamnews.co.uk



Cleaner Bentham Group

By Mat (temporary media liaison – Cleaner Bentham Group)

In May 2024 many in our small town were shocked to learn the extent of the level of pollution our town had been exposed to by 'legacy' toxic chemical foam production at Angus Fire's Bentham site. Around 50 people attended June's Town Council meeting, and by the end of June our group had been formed, supported by a local business and 30 residents who currently reside here and some who had left. Since then much research has been done, and our first (and second) information gathering meetings have occurred.

On 22nd June, Pippa Neill (the journalist who alerted us to this problem) and Dr Patrick Byrne, an expert from John Moore University in Liverpool, gave a public meeting talk on the story and the damage that "carbon string chemicals" (or as we know them PFAS, PFOAs, C8 (carbon 8) string or what is more commonly known as 'Forever Chemicals') have caused across the world, and more specifically here in Bentham.

As there are fears that this pollution will have a negative effect on house sales in our community, we have moved from an informal chat and information gathering group and are organising more meetings to form properly. The second meeting was far more interesting, we found out that the research that had been done informally by the group was only the tip of the iceberg of how serious this situation could be for our local economy and health.

Lancaster City Council has been doing water testing in Tatham (drinking water), and until recently (in the last couple of weeks) there has been no regulations on testing for PFAS and PFOAs in our water, it has been voluntary for the water companies to do so.

For all concerned we have a Facebook group (Cleaner Bentham) and a website where all the articles are available, and will be having regular meetings with a 'steering committee' to work on how best to deal with the situation. Pippa Neill is a big part of the group, helping us network with other groups such as 'Fighting Dirty' a group that holds Government Departments accountable for 'loopholes' by using the justice system. As this pollution almost certainly affects the Rivers Wenning and Lune, possibly all the way down to the river mouth on the coast, we need volunteers to help with liaising with other groups, media contacts, fundraising and much more.

In the interests of fairness, we are including here some of the points made by Paul Williams, Managing Director of Angus Fire in his letter to Bentham Town Council on 27th June 2024. The full text of the letter is available on the Bentham News website.

Angus Fire Update

Angus Fire has never manufactured PFAS (also known as 'forever chemicals'). PFAS were, however, contained within one of the raw materials formerly used in our class B foams. Since 2022, all fire testing at Bentham has only used foam that does not contain PFAS and in 2023 we publicly announced that we had ceased manufacturing all foam products at the Bentham site. The Angus Fire Borehole, where PFAS samples were taken by the UK Environment Agency, has been capped off and has never been used for drinking water.

At present we are not aware of any impact on the local area because of PFAS at the Bentham site. To clarify the matter, we have commissioned independent environmental consultancy, 'Ramboll', to undertake PFAS sampling. It is currently engaged in this to

provide a comprehensive view of any PFAS levels present. 'Ramboll' have now taken their phase one groundwater and soil samples on and off site, including the field to the west of the Bentham site, the playing fields and gardens on Duke Street. The results of this phase one testing will be presented to Angus Fire and the Environment Agency in July, and this will determine what will be required for phase two of the sampling programme. We will provide an update ahead of the August Town Council meeting.

As a precautionary measure, and until we have the results from the 'Ramboll' PFAS testing, we are not releasing any surface water rainfall directly from concrete surfaces at the redundant foam plant and the fire test site and are instead pumping it into storage vessels. We are also investigating new filtration technologies which will filter out PFAS from surface water and we hope to have something in place in the coming months. Furthermore, the lagoons, which are no longer used and only served to collect rainwater, will have covers fitted over them to stop rainwater entering and in turn stop rainwater from having to be pumped into storage vessels.

We are treating this matter extremely seriously. We are not a company to avoid our responsibilities and have always operated in accordance with Environment Agency regulations. Angus remains committed to protecting the health and safety of employees, neighbours and the environment. We will keep the community updated on any matters that impact on them as promised. Angus Fire is a responsible company with over 100 years of community engagement. We employ many people in Bentham, many of whom have spent their working lives with us. It is extremely important for us to maintain our positive relationship with the local community, and we will continue to provide regular updates to the Town Council as we work through these challenges and encourage anyone with concerns to contact us directly.



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Bentham Town Council Meeting: 1st July 2024

Report by Pam Woof

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

Present: Councillors Adams, Hill, Marshall, Taylor, Stannard, Naylor and Paige plus County Councillor David Ireton and PCSO Jayne Grace.

Apologies: Resignations from Councillors Gerrie and Howard.

Cllr Marshall declared an interest in planning application ZA24/26027/FUL

Report from County Cllr David Ireton:

The Town Council weren't sure if it was highways who looked after Cleveland Square lights or BTC through the Craven district lease for the old market. The Town Council need to find out if they are working.

Housing - There has been an increase nationally and locally in the demand for temporary accommodation for homeless people. There was a 400% increase in gross spending in North Yorkshire from 2019/20 to 2022/23 because it had relied on hotels and B&Bs to meet its legal duties. Levels of demand are likely to remain high going forward and a budget of £11.6m has been associated with this challenge.

The **local bus service** is also being looked at to improve the current poor service available.

Free transport for local children to Settle College: Cllr Ireton will oppose the withdrawal of funding for pupils choosing to attend Settle College in North Yorkshire rather than QES Kirkby Lonsdale in Cumbria.

Report from PCSO Jayne Grace: (*see page 41*)

Planning Applications:

New Application: ZA24/26027/FUL: Demolition of existing building and erection of replacement dwelling with alterations to access from Low Bentham Road, Westering, Low Bentham Road, LA2 7BS.

ZA24/25897/HH: Single storey wood store and personal workshop extension to the existing detached garage at Burrow Barn, Low Bentham Road. GRANTED

ZA23/15515/FUL: Change of use of land for the siting of lodge style caravans, including one warden's lodge, Bentham Golf Course, Robin Lane. GRANTED

ZA24/25978/FUL: First floor rear extension at Independent Financial Services, 43 Main Street, High Bentham. GRANTED

Financial Matters:

The bank balance at 25/6/24 was £93,375.41. Wages and previously agreed contractual payments were approved.

School Hill Area:

A small piece of land where the public toilets were on School Hill has finally been handed over to Bentham Town Council for £1. Overall legal costs were £986 but the

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Town Council now owns that whole public area.

Highway Matters:

A complaint has come from a resident who uses a mobility scooter. Apparently, the dropped curb opposite the entrance to the Market Square is frequently blocked by a parked car. The Council will ask NYC to employ some form of deterrent at all the dropped curb areas on Main Street to help address the problem.

Whole Town Boost Programme:

£20,000 has been allocated to Bentham from the Shared Prosperity Fund. A meeting was held, and it was decided that £10,000 would be used for physical aesthetics mostly on Main Street. The rest of the money will be used for campaigning and marketing to attract more trade for Bentham, not only for Main Street. The timing is tight as the proposal for how money will be spent needs to be submitted by 14th July. The work will need to be completed by the end of March 2025. The project group will get together quickly to get things moving. Councillors Liz Ryan, Mark Paige and Rachel Naylor agreed to get the project underway.

Town Hall Matters:

Council agreed to service the emergency lights and the servicing of the electric front door. They will ask estate agents for a valuation of the Town Hall. The Buildings Committee had met and walked round the Town Hall assessing any work that needed to be done. They will prioritise the jobs and then proceed with the work.

Town Council Website:

The Council will consider a budget for re-designing the website. They need to work towards accessibility compliance. The cost is likely to be around £500-£600 for a new website.

Correspondence:

No Mow May and September request from the public. The Council are not in favour due to the extra cost incurred for clearing away the cut grass afterwards.

Update on Angus Fire Legacy Chemicals Issues:

The results of the testing undertaken will be known by the end of the month, so Council are hoping for an update for the next Town Council meeting in August. It was hoped that Bentham News will also receive a copy of this report (*see our website www.thebenthamnews.co.uk*). They have agreed not to do any Fire testing at school play times in the future, but testing can now take place on some Mondays. The lagoons will be capped to prevent rainwater getting in.

Next full Town Council meeting is on 5th August at 7.30pm. All are welcome to attend.



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Home Guard Trophy

By Julian Blake (Captain)

On Saturday 15th June, teams from Austwick, Bentham, Burton-in-Lonsdale and Ingleton Crown Green Bowling Clubs competed once again for the Home Guard Trophy. This competition has been held every year since 1982 and gets its name

from the trophy which was originally presented by Mrs T. R. Buckworth in 1941 for shooting competitions held between the Home Guard units of Ingleton and Bentham. This year it was the turn of Austwick Bowling Club to host the event. Situated on the outskirts of Austwick Village, adjacent to the tennis club, the bowling green is set in one of the most idyllic locations in this area.

The Home Guard Trophy is a strongly contested competition comprising of 18 games played over three rounds against teams drawn from the best players in each club. Despite experiencing low temperatures for June and almost continual rain, the standard of bowling was excellent, resulting in Austwick, Bentham (Springfield) and Ingleton (Ingleborough) maintaining very close positioning through the first two rounds. In the third and last round of games, Springfield had created an opportunity to take a commanding lead, to which our players responded by winning all their final games and once again taking first place in the competition. Springfield dropped points in only two of their games in the competition but with strong results in all matches, our team finished with a total score of 177 from a possible maximum 189 points. Ingleborough were second with 148 points with Austwick and Burton-in-Lonsdale ending up third and fourth with 146 and 140 points respectively.

As Springfield Bowling Club Captain, I received the trophy with cheers from players and supporters. Thanks were given to Austwick Bowling Club for hosting the event, to their club members who provided a delicious buffet lunch as well as refreshments throughout the day and to the markers and measurers from the participating clubs who scored and refereed the games. If you are interested in bowling or would like to know more about our bowling club and bowling events in the area you are very welcome to attend our club day which is held at Springfield Bowling Club Bentham every Wednesday from April to September at 1.30pm, or to join us at our coffee mornings held at Bentham Town Hall.



The Hub – Exciting Progress Report

By Lesley Barker

Exciting news: The Bentham Hub is expecting the builder, **Pat Daley**, to start the necessary work soon to make the new building watertight. He has identified the problem, and it isn't as bad as we thought, so all we need is some fine weather to get the work done.



We have had **Colin Moore** on the roof mending the BIG holes but there is still work to do, a new boiler courtesy of **Lee Dearden**, and a new consumer unit fitted courtesy of **Rob Pryce**. So, although you may not see much happening from the outside, apart from a fantastic amount of amazing furniture being delivered, but you can be sure that things are moving forward, slowly. Our planning permission was submitted in mid-July, so we are limited to what we can do until that has been granted, or not.

The Hub is now also the proud owner of a **blue VW Caddy** (*see photo above*). You may have seen it parked on the New Hub's driveway. This will enable us to transport goods, collect, deliver and dispose of unwanted goods, all for a small donation towards the running costs, so that is a huge step forward.

We are doing all this whilst continuing to donate money to local groups. Causes being helped this month are Springfield Bowling Club and Bentham Churches Together. This year we have been able to award grants to Christmas Lights, Bentham Pet Rescue, The River Wenning Group, The Bay Prostate Cancer Support Group and Age Concern Friday Lunch Club.

This amazing generosity spread around our community is only possible because of the volunteers who work in all our shops and behind the scenes. They are truly fantastic, and we appreciate their efforts every day. We would always welcome more help and more volunteers, so if you're tempted to join us, please just call in at The Hub and talk to someone.

Popular Youth Club Needs More Help from Volunteers

By Katie Hall

Hello Bentham News readers: I am back again this month to share what we have been doing and what we will be getting up to during our summer holidays! Since I last wrote we have had lots of things going on at our club nights including visits from PCSO Jayne. We got absolutely drenched one evening at the Goodenber Play Area, and we've had fun with the cricket kit and lots of summer activities. We are working with other local organisations to bring an amazing programme of summer activities which will involve all the young people. We do still have places for these, so let us know if you're interested. Contact 07534 697572/benthamyouthclub@gmail.com or Facebook Bentham Youth Club.

Word has been getting around about our Youth Club so much so that we now need more volunteers to help with our ever-growing juniors. We had 36 juniors on our last session, which is great but it means we need more supervision. Look at next month's Bentham News for more updates.

See advert on page 28.

Bentham Pantry Club - 50 weeks and counting

By David Bayes - Lead Volunteer

After 50 consecutive weeks, The Pantry will be closed for the last two weeks of August to allow for the room at the Methodist Church to be cleaned. This is therefore a good moment to give thanks to all those individuals and groups who have supported the venture to date. We are so grateful for all the donations whether of food items or of cash. Some of the cash gifts have been anonymous, so if this is you, then again, a very big thank you. We are grateful too for the more than 20 volunteers who work hard to ensure that we have food available and displayed for Club members to come along week by week. Our volunteers help with serving shoppers and refreshments as well as the behind the scenes work of buying, publicity and admin.

In another development during the year, we have been pleased to have regular visits from a health worker (arranged through Bentham Medical Practice) offering support in health and related matters, including blood pressure checks.

A reminder that the Club is open to all for a small joining fee which includes your first shop. We know that many people are motivated to use the facility because of the issues associated with food waste. It is often quoted that as much as a third of all food produced globally goes to waste. The Pantry is pleased therefore to partner with charity 'FareShare', aiming to combat waste by redistributing goods to over 10,500 outlets in the UK. For around £45 a week "The Bentham Pantry" currently receives more than 100kg of fruit, vegetables and ambient goods that otherwise would end up in landfill.

Whatever brings you in, we give a warm welcome to members old and new and will be pleased to see you when we open again on Wednesday 4th September, at the usual times of 11am to 12.30pm and 3.30pm to 4.30pm.

Bentham Pantry Club is an initiative of the Churches Together in Bentham (CTiB) and is open to all those living within the catchment area of the Bentham Medical Practice

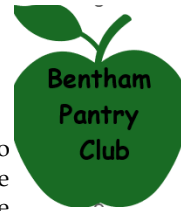
Repairing Ole Laney (Duke St): a Community Effort

By Liz Ryan

In the depths of a cold wet February evening, Duke Street residents got together with one very similar concern...we can't carry on with how the lane is. The potholes are so bad that carers couldn't get down the lane, residents' cars were struggling and walking down or up the lane was an assault course.

Affectionally known as 'Ole Laney', Duke Street is one of the many unadopted lanes across the country that rely on residents for maintenance. So, in true Bentham style, residents who live on the lane formed the 'Friends of Ole Laney' with the following aims:

- a) to provide a forum for people living on Ole Laney (Duke Street)
- b) to enable the maintenance and improvement of the lane's surfacing, drainage, fauna and foliage
- c) to consider the wellbeing of people who live on Ole Laney
- d) to consider the right of way as a public footpath and as vehicle access only to people who live on the lane



We held monthly meetings and in June started on phase one of the maintenance of Ole Lane with local contractor Robert Taylor. There were many issues to deal with, but Rob took it on and delivered our first phase of the lane maintenance. We realise the lane will need ongoing maintenance and there are other phases of the work to complete, however with a constitution in place, an active committee and support from Bentham people, we hope to continue the work so all can enjoy the footpath and residents and carers can access their homes.

Thanks go to the residents of Duke Street who have contributed, to Myers for their donation of supplies, The Hub for collecting donations, to Angus Fire who contributed £500 and other people who have kindly donated. We will continue to receive donations for future work with thanks.

Photos of before, during and after



Mark Watson

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Could You Help Green-Fingered Youngsters Grow Their Gardening Skills at Bentham's Allotments?

By Lauren Hopkins

Children from the SELFA Children's Charity primary group have been planting food and flowers and learning to work as a team. They are on the lookout for local gardening or allotment enthusiasts who might be able to help them.

Children and Young People's Worker, Nicole Morgan said: "They've planted strawberries, raspberries, tomatoes and sunflowers. They work together as a team, the older ones helping the younger ones. They're learning practical skills, and important knowledge about where our food comes from and the work that goes into producing it. They're also just really enjoying being outside!"

The group, which meets at the Methodist Church Hall on Monday afternoons/evenings, is looking for someone who could come along and teach some growing skills, as well as keep an eye on their allotment between sessions. If you think you could help, please email Nicole at Nicole.morgan@selfa.org.uk



Celebrating David Williams' Achievement

By Victoria Tallon, Housing and Care Manager, Bowland View

David Williams, our 'handy person' at Bowland View, was nominated for 'Handy Person of the Year' at the 2024 'Housing with Care' awards. He qualified as a finalist and was highly commended for all his efforts in his role at Bowland View.

David's initiative of launching a gardening club at the supported housing for older people has been a resounding success. With 15 members already, the club has significantly enhanced the lives of residents. From crafting holly wreaths to tending hanging baskets, David's efforts go well beyond his role as a handyman, exemplifying his integral role in brightening residents' days. He says: *I love working at Bowland View. I enjoy making a difference to the residents' lives, no matter how small the impact! Encouraging residents to develop new skills and make new friendships is so rewarding, it's a privilege!*

Although David did not win the award, he is a winner in our eyes. Thank you, David, for all you do to look after us.





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*** PLEASE NOTE ***

Due to renovations at the Victoria Institute, our
Sunday Services during August will be in the
Burton in Lonsdale Sports Pavilion.

Town Council Calendar – Supporting Bentham's Youth

By Claire Burrow (town clerk)

Bentham Town Council are asking the young people of Bentham to create the calendar for 2025. We need your artwork and your viewpoint to create a Bentham calendar that is special to you. So, if you are **16 or under**, you can enter a photograph, a drawing, painting or multimedia artwork to contribute to the calendar.



The Council are looking for at least 13 pieces of artwork, one for each month and a front cover, the Council will choose these. This is your chance to showcase Bentham and what is distinct and unique about our town. If you are taking photographs, try to avoid people and get the best quality you can. All artworks must be **landscape**.

Proceeds from the sales of the 2025 calendar will go directly to **Bentham Youth Club** (*see page 11 for update*) with local business sponsors covering the cost of printing.

Thank you to the Tourist Information Point Volunteers



On 2nd June Bentham Town Council organised a thank you meal for the Volunteers of the Bentham Tourist Information Point (TIP). They do a variety of tasks supporting tourists and locals visiting Bentham, including welcoming people to Bentham, providing information and leaflets, advice regarding events, and answering phone messages. There are currently four volunteers on our team who are: Pat Murfin, Carole Hall, Gill and Chris Birkbeck. They volunteer in the TIP for 2 hours on particular days from Monday to Saturday, either 10am-12 noon or 12 noon till 2pm.



Gareth Adams Bentham Town Council's Mayor joined them along with other Councillors. Gareth said, *"We appreciate the commitment and support our volunteers make to the town of Bentham, they are often the first person of Bentham for our visitors, they do a brilliant job, thank you!"*.

Pat Murfin says that she really enjoys her time in the TIP office, she used to be a shop keeper and now loves the contact with members of the public, *"everyone is so friendly"* she says. We're on the look out for a couple more volunteers. Could you help on a Wednesday afternoon or otherwise? Get in touch with the town clerk at townclerk@benthamtowncouncil.co.uk or call in at the town clerk's office Monday to Wednesday.

Pat Murfin top and Chris and Gill Birkbeck below



A New Home Arrives on Bentham Main Street

By Bentham Refugee Support Group

For Refugee Week this year, (see right) we reminded ourselves what thousands of refugees the world over call home. We were also remembering the fearful conditions those who resort to living in tents have fled. We call on our parliamentary candidates in Skipton and Ripon, if elected, to work to repeal the laws that make criminals of those refugees who make it to the UK. Also to overturn the rules that stop asylum seekers from working and allow them only about £49 a week to live on. We were really encouraged by how much support we had from passersby on an ordinary Tuesday in Bentham and warmed to know that we are part of a community that cares for the vulnerable world-wide, as well as locally. We look forward to welcoming a response from the new government, of whatever stripe.



Bentham supporters of a ceasefire in Gaza gathered on Main Street 10th July, above.

Bentham Agricultural 150th Show

By Janet Greenwood - Show Secretary

Plans and preparations are being made for our special 150th show this year. The 2024 show will be held on Saturday 7th September at Bentham Auction Mart, by kind permission of the Mart directors. The local community and beyond can showcase their talents with classes ranging in handicrafts, horticulture and animals. Schedules are now available and can be picked up in local shops including the Spar, Flowerfields and Temptations.

On show day, there will be lots to see and do. There will be vintage vehicles and machinery, Young Farmers' competition and a variety of trade stands and craft stalls. Small Paul will be entertaining the children with lots of balloon creations and for the first time this year, Mirar Display team are bringing American miniature horses.

We welcome John Whitfield as our president this year. John has been involved and supported the show for many years and has been chairman of the committee in the past. Please see our Facebook page, 'Bentham Agricultural Show' for updates and information. If you have any questions or queries, please email:

benthamshow@hotmail.com

Bentham 10k Race Report

Photos and words by Nick Armstrong

The annual Bentham 10k Road Race, which is organised by Bentham Beagles Running Club, was held on Sunday 14th July. Runners were greeted with a slightly damp morning, but it made perfect conditions for running and a field of 60 completed the 2024 race.

This year's winner, and for the second year in a row, was James Brassington from Lancaster & Morecambe AC in a time of 34:55. Second was Arthur Graves in 37:16, also from Lancaster & Morecambe AC and third was Michael McLaughlin in 39:13. The lady's winner was Joanne Mcleod from Glaxo Hoad Hill Harriers in a time of 45:50. She was closely followed by Glaxo teammates Heather Travis in 46:04 and Joanne Taylor-Friell in 46:29 who were second and third respectively. For the Beagles, the first man home was Ollie Burton-Roe in 43:06 (7th place overall) and the first lady was Kimberley Towler in 52:05 (30th place overall). The team prizes were picked up by Walney Wind Cheetahs for the men and Glaxo Hoad Hill Harriers for the ladies.

Thank you to everyone who came out to support the runners on the route, all the volunteers that gave their time to help organise and marshal on the day as well as the team at Bentham Golf Club who help and support both the running club and this event.

If the race inspired you to get into running then why not come along to Beagles club nights? For more information on the Beagles, please check our website www.benthambeagles.co.uk and email any questions to benthambeagles@live.co.uk



General Election Result – 4th July 2024

Our Constituency - Skipton and Ripon

Julian Smith – Conservative – 18,833 votes (35.2% of all votes counted)

Malcolm Birks – Labour – 17,183 votes (32.1% of all votes counted)

Simon Garvey – Reform UK – 8,516 votes (15.9% of all votes counted)

Andrew Murday – Liberal Democrat – 4,194 votes (7.8% of all votes counted)

Andy Brown – Green – 3,446 votes (6.4% of all votes counted)

Ryan Kett - The Yorkshire Party – 627 votes (1.2% of all votes counted)

Keith Tordoff – Independent – 493 votes (0.9% of all votes counted)

Guy Phoenix – Heritage Party – 158 votes (0.3% of all votes counted)

Number of registered voters: 79,251 Turnout: 67%

People/Letter Page

Thanks

Quaker Coffee Morning

Thank you so much to everyone who came to our coffee morning on Saturday 6th July. With your help and generous donations, we raised a fantastic **£400**. It will go to the two charities we are supporting where Palestinians and Israelis are working together for mutual understanding, peace and justice. One is "Standing Together", and the other is "Bereaved Families/Parents Circle Family Forum".

Michael Marshall - Bernie, Jill, Lee and family would like to send thanks to everyone for their cards and kind words after the sad passing of Michael. A special thank you to Jimmy and Tara at B&W Funerals and for all the generous donations to St John's Hospice in Michael's memory.

From Ruth Green

Stepping Stones Baby and Toddler Group will be running **two Summer Holiday Sessions** on the **14th and 28th August** at **Bentham Town Hall** from 10am until 1pm. £2 per family, including refreshments and snacks. Older siblings are very welcome. Come along and join the fun with crafts and activities for everyone.

*Meet the newly elected
North Yorkshire Mayor,
David Skaith,
on 17th August in
Bentham Town Hall
at the Low Bentham
WI coffee morning.
Starts at 10am.*



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Betty's Birthday Surprise

By Keith Hartley

Since Bowland View opened two years ago it has developed a social life many similar communities would envy. Crafts, games, quizzes, gardening club - and of course Bingo! - have all become established and are being enjoyed by residents. But one of the more surprising developments is the reputation Bowland View is beginning to acquire for throwing a decent party!

Many have already elected to share their birthdays, special anniversaries etc., with other residents, and 84-year-old **David Myatt** was no exception to this when he agreed to the suggestion of his partner, **Betty Philpott** (79) that they "put on a bit of a do" for his birthday. But Betty's suggestion carried an ulterior motive. At a contrived moment in the birthday celebrations David was blind-folded

in preparation to receive a "special birthday present" which, when the blindfold was removed, revealed not a gift, but Betty kneeling before him and holding a ring.

"David Myatt," she said, "would you do me the honour of becoming my husband?"

David's face was a picture. Those of us who were in on Betty's secret held our breaths for what seemed an age before David, to our great relief, finally said "Yes!"

As evidenced by the number of ladies suddenly producing handkerchiefs, this really was one of those moments whose emotions could only have been captured adequately by Barbara Cartland or a Bronte sister. It was an unconventional milestone in a romance that had been anything but conventional from the beginning.

Since the passing of his partner some four years previously, David had been living alone in a caravan on the outskirts of Bentham. Around 2 years ago, whilst experiencing a period of loneliness, he decided to try his luck with a dating site on the internet. He was soon trawling through the hopeful responses (and others!) when he found himself looking at a photograph of Betty from Milton Keynes who, he thought, "looked like a nice kind person."

Their exchange of messages led to a WhatsApp meeting, then an exchange of visits, and the rest, as they say, is history.

David and Betty chose to make Bentham their home and moved into their Bowland View apartment a year ago. They continue to prove that very often the only limitations on our ability to find happiness are those which we choose to impose on ourselves. And in times when we hear such horror stories about internet dating, it's refreshing to hear that, when it works well, it can have such a tremendous effect on loneliness.



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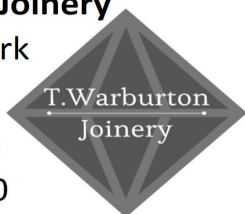
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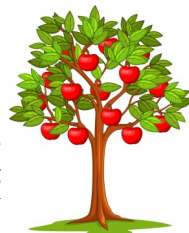
By Joyce Knapp

As we move into August, we will be hoping for some favourable weather to help ripen any autumn fruits we may be growing, including plums, pears and apples. We can help the apple trees by removing any water shoots (i.e. those long, upright stems) and this is helpful in several ways. Firstly, it reduces the overall size and spread of the tree, secondly it means the goodness taken from the soil can be directed towards fruit development rather than new leafy growth and lastly it will allow the sun to get in to ripen the fruit more readily.

Another fruiting plant that may benefit from a little attention this month is the blackcurrant bush and we can check for any branches carrying withered/damaged leaves, removing them by cutting back to a low bud. It may also be advantageous to remove one or two of the oldest (dark wood) branches again cutting back to a low bud which will then go on to produce a new, vigorous shoot.

Moving over to the vegetable garden, we may find that onions have grown to sufficient size to harvest. I believe the advice is usually to bend over their leaves, allowing them to lay on the ground to dry out and ripen for a week or two before taking them inside for winter storage. This is how it works in an ideal world, but if the weather is wet, we can always resort to lifting the roots and perhaps drying them on racks in a greenhouse or shed. We may find that peas are coming to the end of their cropping season and as they do, we can cut off the stems just above ground level, leaving the roots in the ground. This is beneficial because the remaining roots have nitrogen-containing nodules on them and will help feed next year's crop, maybe brassicas e.g. cabbage, cauliflower or broccoli.

By this month, as we begin to clear vegetable beds of this year's crops, we can start to sow green manures in the empty ground. One of the simplest to grow is agricultural mustard and by sprinkling the large, easy to handle seed over the bed, we can then sit back and let nature do the rest. This crop is known to put on rapid growth before the onset of winter but will usually die back during any very hard frosts. As it dies back it forms a fine web over the soil surface which can just be raked back the following spring to reveal a fine tilth ready for sowing the next crop. The mustard plants help retain goodness in the soil that may otherwise be washed away in winter whilst also improving soil texture. The only word of warning is not to follow this with cabbages etc. as it is also a member of the brassica family and may encourage the incidence of diseases such as clubroot.





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Events in August



Town Hall

Every Tues., Craft Club 10am - 12noon, WR
Wednesday :- Stepping Stones 10 - 11:30am, BR. 14th & 28th
 Pilates with Sally Horn 9.30am - 10.30am, LH

Town Hall - Meeting

Monday 5th 7.30pm, LH
 Full Town Council Meeting (*pages 8-9*)
Monday 19th 7.30pm, LH
 Marketing & Development Committee

Town Hall - Coffee Mornings

Dates correct at the time of printing but please clarify with the Town Clerk



Saturday 10am - 12noon
3rd - NSPCC
10th - LASRUG
17th - Low Bentham WI & District COME AND MEET OUR NEW REGIONAL MAYOR!
31st - St Boniface Church

WI (*see pages 36 & 37*)

High Bentham - Thurs 1st, 7.30pm, BR THall



Tatham Fells - Thurs 1st. Coach trip to Hebden Bridge and the Piece Hall at Halifax.
Low Bentham and District - Thurs 15th, 7pm, Victoria Institute.

Bentham Golf Club

Every Friday 11am - 2pm, Age Concern
 Bentham Friday Lunch Club
 2nd, 9th, 16th, 23rd and 30th

Footpath (*see page 43*)

For August walks meet first at Lairgill for 9.30 am except on the 21st where we meet for 9.00 am.

Thursday 8th, Bryn and Sandra Craggs, 62416, Horton to Settle (train), 8.5 miles.
 Friday 16th, George Sheridan, 07905-069990, Cunswick Scar, 7 miles.
 Wednesday 21st, Susan Badley, 62502, Spark Bridge, 10 miles.
 Saturday 31st, Valerie Eccles and Mary Pickstone, 07979-607191, Sedbergh, 7 miles.

Bentham Fire Station

Thursday, 1st & 15th at 10am
 Bentham & District Dementia Friendly Community Breakfast Club

Bentham Pantry Club (*see page 12*)

Wednesday 7th & 14th

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.

Jazz at Hornby Friday 23rd August, doors/bar open 7.30pm, music from 8pm.

Annual reunion of the Chris Coull Sextet.
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9.00 - 12.30 Office open Enquiries/Bookings

10.00 - 12.00 Post Office Services

12.00 - 2.00 Community Link Cafe Lunch and activities

Every Friday

10.00 - 12.00 Post Office Services

We look forward to welcoming back our regular users in September after the refurbishment.

Any new bookings will be taken for September onwards.

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31st July 9.30 - 2.00. Thank you.

Bentham Youth Club

We are closed for regular club nights, although we are running activities, throughout the summer holidays.

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Making Connections Dementia Group

Tuesday 6th & 13th 10.30am to 12.30pm,

Creative Community Hub

Tuesday 6th & 13th 11.45am to 1pm, Creative

Writing Group, Bentham Library and Zoom

No Book Group in August

Wednesday 7th & 14th 10.30am to 12noon, Sing

Along to Every Song – face to face and Zoom

Wednesday 7th & 14th 2pm to 4pm, Art for All

Wednesday 21st & 28th 11am to 12.30 pm,

Bentham Crafts for Bentham Show

Every Wednesday 9.30am to 4pm, Barclays Bank

Thursday 8th & 15th 12.30pm to 3.30pm,

Community Art Shed

Thursday 8th & 22nd 1.30pm to 3pm,

Summer Lego Club

Friday 9th & 16th 10am to 12.30pm,

Mental Health & Wellbeing Hub

Every Friday 9.30am to 3.30pm, Barclays Bank

Check our Facebook page and on posters for details re the Summer Craft and Lego sessions

For more info and to join any of the above groups please contact 015242 62672

[or office@pioneerprojects.org.uk](mailto:oroffice@pioneerprojects.org.uk)

Facebook: Pioneer Projects – Celebratory Arts Ltd

Bentham Community Library

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Library Email: library@pioneerprojects.org.uk

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Wednesday 10:00am - 2:00pm

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Saturday 10:00am - 12:noon

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"If in doubt give Mr Whits a shout"

Churches Together – Bringing Hope into our Community

By Alan Parkinson - Cornerstone Church



You could say this has been a summer of hope - hope for the England football team in the Euros, for Team GB in the Olympics, and leading up to the general election, would be MPs were encouraging us to believe that hope for our country's future was in their hands. But like all of us, politicians, footballers and athletes have human limitations and failings; our hopes are so often dashed, leaving us feeling disappointed and frustrated. So, where can we place our hope?

The Bible talks about hope in God as something that is sure and certain not just wishful thinking, and it reminds us where our hope should ultimately be. **"Do not put your trust in princes, in human beings, who cannot save..... Blessed are those whose hope is in the Lord their God"** (Psalm 146:3 &5). There is great relief and assurance having hope in one who is unchanging, has no limitations, and who never fails us. As churches together in Benthams, we seek to bring hope into our community.

St John's Parish Church – Flower Arrangements and a Cream Tea

By Libby Wheildon

Thank you to all those who came along to join in our special Patronal Festival Celebrations over the weekend of 22nd and 23rd June. We were delighted with the number of visitors who came into church to see the beautiful flower arrangements and to enjoy afternoon tea. The flower arrangements were created by various groups and organisations in Benthams, and many were designed to represent the words of a favourite hymn. Thank you to you all! There were also two arrangements created **in loving memory of Michael Marshall** (*see one above*), who would have enjoyed and been inspired by all the arrangements on display. Thank you also to all the children who made a miniature garden (*below*) for the celebration weekend, and congratulations especially to Arthur Mouncey, Nathan Haig and Ruth Ward who won 1st, 2nd and 3rd prizes respectively.

Cream Teas will be served once again on Bank Holiday Monday, 26th August from 2-4pm. Make a note in your diaries. Everyone is welcome and they are very delicious!





VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

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Bentham Youth Club relies on volunteers from our community to help our youth worker run the club.

We are desperately seeking volunteers for our club nights and committee.

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Our club is open to children and young people year 3 upwards! Please contact us for more information!

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Get creative with the Summer Reading Challenge 2024!

By John Frankland

Children can once again sign up for the Summer Reading Challenge at Bentham Community Library during the holidays. This year the theme is Marvellous Makers and is all about firing up imagination through the power of reading and creative expression.

The challenge for children is to read 6 library books of their choice and collect special stickers and other prizes along the way – everyone who finishes will receive a limited-edition Marvellous Makers medal and a certificate. Any child aged 4 to 11 can join in and the challenge runs from Saturday 13th July until Saturday 7th September. Find out more about the challenge here: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0wPtu_bpxcl

We're also teaming up with Bentham Show and running **FREE Junk Modelling Workshops and Craft Workshops** in July and August led by our fantastic team of volunteers to give the opportunity for young people to make marvellous creations to enter into the Show!

We're also running a couple of **Lego Clubs** too. Details below:

Thursday 8 th August	1.30pm-3pm	Lego Club
Wednesday 21 st August	11am-12.30pm	Craft Workshop
Thursday 22 nd August	1.30pm-3pm	Lego Club
Wednesday 28 th August	11am-12.30pm	Craft Workshop

Information about all the events happening across Craven can be found be on the North Yorkshire Library website www.northyorks.gov.uk/src

Find us on Facebook @pioneerprojects and @benthamcommunitylibrary



Bentham's Footballing Past – High Bentham

By Andrew Chappell

Over the years the High Bentham football club has had a few different names, High Bentham, High Bentham Rovers, Bentham Rovers, Bentham United and finally Bentham. Their last game was played away at Grange, losing 2-1, on April 22nd 2017; over a hundred years of football played by Bentham teams had ended.

Arguably, when Bentham United won the North Lancashire League Division 1 title for the first time in their history, Senior Challenge Cup and the Lancashire Junior Shield in an unprecedented treble in the 1953-54 season that would prove to be their finest hour or 270 minutes!

They played 28 games in Division 1, W-22, D-3, L-3, scored 129 goals, conceded 38 and amassed 47 points. Ironically in the 2008/09 season, this would also be the last title that a Bentham team would go on to win.

They beat Morecambe Grammar School Old Boys 2-1 in the Challenge Cup final at Lancaster City's Giant Axe ground.

In the Lancashire Junior Shield final, they beat Little Lever from Bolton 2-1 at Accrington Stanley's Peel Park ground. I still have my mum's complimentary ticket that she needed to get into the ground to watch the game and watch my dad Tommy, who was an integral part of this great team.

Twenty-five years later, in the 1978/79 season, I would be fortunate enough, along with my youngest brother Danny, to be part of a Bentham team that would also win a trophy, following in our dad's footsteps. After defeating Ingleton 4-1 at Bentham in the semi-final, we would go on to win the Whiteside Cup on the Giant Axe ground beating Lancaster Spartans 2-0 in the final. Unfortunately, we would miss out on 'doing the double', finishing runners up in Division 2 to Lancaster Spartans on goal difference after Ingleton gained a modicum of revenge by beating us 5-3 in our first league game after the cup final, followed by a 3-1 defeat by St. Martins, who we had earlier beaten in the cup quarter final 5-4, two games which probably cost us the title.

Bentham Became Semi-Professional

Legend has it that a balance sheet from an AGM in the 1950s, (unfortunately there is no real proof of this), showed that £500 was spent on boot laces as it was common for clubs to pay their players at that time, with the money being put in the players boots as payment for their efforts on the pitch. Ironically the North Lancashire and District Football League took the decision in July 1952, and again a year later, not to allow professionalism and the North West Combination (NWC) was founded in 1953 to accommodate the teams who wanted to pay their players legally. Bentham joined this league in 1955, which would make them to all intents and purposes semi-professional, winning another treble following on from the one mentioned above, the NWC title and Challenge Cup in their first season and the Lancashire Junior Shield for the second time, before returning to the North Lancs League in 1961 amalgamating with Bentham Wanderers to form Bentham Football Club, who never quite achieved the success of the Bentham United era.

Top photo (opposite): Bentham United 1953 - 54

Photo below: Bentham 1978 - 79



Top row (L-R): Ernie Maunders (trainer), Frank Wheildon, Ted Bolton, Alan Fox, Jack Bowery, George Downham, Bill Noble, Storey Batty (committee member).

Bottom row (L-R): Des Churchman, Tommy Chappell (my dad), Frank Ashworth, John Glaister (captain), Bill Mashiter, Bobby Holt, Johnny Worden.



Top row (L-R): Tony Dawber (secretary), John Bainbridge, Terry Newhouse, Colin Moore, Steve Hinde, Willie Joel (Bentham's Mayor), Neil Taylor (Captain), Nigel Corrigan, Referee?

Bottom row (L-R): Mick Brown, Joe Winn, Danny Chappell, Andrew Chappell, Norman Macfarlane. Squad players missing from the photo are; Chris Quinn, Ian Guy and Dave MacLennan

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Annual Photographic Exhibition – Free - Clapham

By Jill Franklin

Settle Photographic Group is holding its very popular Annual Exhibition, which is free to visitors, in Clapham Village Hall from Saturday 24th to Monday 26th August, August Bank Holiday weekend, open from 10am to 5pm daily. It is free thanks to the support of Yorkshire Dales Millennium Trust, for which we are very grateful.

Yvonne Fairclough, Joint Co-ordinator of the Exhibition, says: *"The Group has welcomed a host of new members this year and we hope to encourage them to show their images in this year's Exhibition alongside those of our more established members. Our members come from right across Craven - from Settle and Airton to Benthams and Skipton - and we are proud of our reputation of being a friendly and supportive Group of amateur photographers. It's going to be fascinating to see everyone's work shown together in this, SPG's yearly showcase event."*

The exhibition shines a spotlight on many aspects of Craven's stunning flora, fauna and landscapes, but also members' personal interests too. A wide range of techniques and styles combine with varied subject matters to create the show. Many of the exhibited photographs will be available for sale alongside a range of greetings cards. We'd love as many people as possible to come and celebrate the photographic talent on display - as well as have a cake and a cuppa!

The Annual Exhibition will be preceded by a **Town Trail**, running from **31st July to 19th August**, which sees over 70 images on display in shop windows around Settle.

From its formation in 2008, the Group has grown to a membership of nearly 50 and is proud to offer a warm welcome to anyone interested in photography, irrespective of their experience, age, skill level or specific interest. The aim is to help every member develop their photographic skills through a varied programme of talks, demonstrations, discussions, challenges, online galleries, as well as outings, exhibitions and coffee mornings. Members share their knowledge about a range of cameras, photographic accessories and software. Details of forthcoming meetings and further information about the Settle Photographic Group can be found at www.settlephotos.org. Visitors are welcome to come along to any meeting.



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Annual Summer Art Exhibition Kirkby Lonsdale 6th-10th August

By William Jones (KLAS President)

The Kirkby Lonsdale Art Society's Annual Summer Exhibition takes place in St Mary's Church in the centre of town, from 10am-5pm each day, 6th-10th August. The exhibition offers a chance for local artists and creative people to display their work to residents of the town and visitors, many of whom look forward to returning visits where they can pick up a bargain or two. The exhibition features lots of original paintings and drawings by the many talented local artists who make up the society's membership, quite a lot of whom come from surrounding areas, including modern mixed media work by Bentham's Rosie Jackson.

This year we have improved lighting and a payment card machine which should make sales easier. One of my oil paintings will be raffled at the exhibition, so one lucky visitor could also be walking away with a brilliant framed original painting. During the exhibition some of our members will be painting outside in the town, and they would be happy to meet anyone who cares to join them. The society meets to paint each week in the winter months and in the summer some members go out sketching and painting locally. The winter meetings are held on Thursdays from 7.30pm until 9.30pm in the Methodist School Room, and members can work on a variety of suggested subjects, or they can do their own thing, with guidance if required. Sometimes there are demonstrations or workshops by art tutors and professional artists, and often people will sit for the group to draw and paint. The Art Society always welcomes new members, and you certainly don't have to be an expert in art as any member will tell you. So if you fancy joining this very friendly group, please contact the secretary, Rosie Jackson on 015242-62711 or email her at rosemaryjackson@yahoo.co.uk

Photos of two Art Society members on plein air painting days



Good (N)Ewes – Bentham Needs Ewe – and Moo

By The Moos and Ewes herd

Last year's event was so popular we have decided to repeat 'Moos and Ewes' again this year, culminating in all entries being shown at the Bentham Show. The theme for your Moo or Ewe is 'Bentham through the Ages'. This is in celebration of Bentham Show's 150th year.

Don't be one of the herd - dip into your creative soul and start designing and creating your Moos and/or Ewes based on this year's theme and made from whatever materials take your fancy. You might use old breeds as the model or dress them in period costume. All entries will be judged at the end of the Show, where we will have a stand.

We want you to display your Moo or Ewe throughout August, either in your window, or in your garden. On show day we ask you either to bring your creation to our pen at the show or enter a photograph of it.

So, get a moo-ve on and please let us know that you are joining in the fun by contacting us at: studio42arts@gmail.com. All photo entries of your creations need to be emailed by Saturday September 6th to be considered for judging.

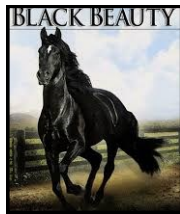


Tatham Fells

By Mary Taylor

Twenty-one members of Tatham Fells Women's Institute met in the marketplace at Settle for a Treasure Hunt on Tuesday evening, 9th July. Mary Kidd gave out question papers to teams of two, three or four eager hunters. The first question was 'how many arches in the shambles?' the route started up the hill to the left and then right along the narrow roads past the old school to the green, back down past the Police Station to the Post Office. Then down to the Railway Station, back through the car park, round the square and then thankfully finished at The Talbot for a very welcome supper. Some of the obscure questions concerned Black Beauty, chimney pots and snowdrops, and answers were difficult to write down on the wet question papers in steady drizzle. Mary marked the bedraggled papers; winners with 55 points were Joan Metcalf, Liz Whitfield, Dianne Denby and Lucy Lee, followed closely with 54.5 points were the team of Kath Dickinson, Carole Thurnham, Andrea Ball and Gill Gilbertson. President Ruth Garstang thanked Mary, and everyone agreed they had enjoyed exploring obscure parts of the town despite the rain and had really appreciated supper and comradeship at The Talbot.

For the August meeting, members have already booked to go on a coach trip to Hebden Bridge and the Piece Hall at Halifax on 1st August.



Low Bentham and District

By Kathryn Brownsord

Our June meeting was held at the Victoria Institute when Dr Rob David gave us an interesting talk entitled "A welcome in the hills" which was about refugees in Cumbria in the 1930s and 1940s. It also coincided with "World Refugee Day". Brampton took in 100 children, Wigton 14 and Carlisle 21.

What a harrowing experience for these children.

He spoke about 3 major refugee influxes into Cumbria:

- Basque children in 1937: 4,000 came to England from the area of Bilbao during the Spanish Civil War of which approximately 150 came to Cumbria. They were only expecting to be here for 3 months but in fact were here for over 2 years.
- Sudetenland and Czech 1938.
- Austrian and German 1930: who were mostly Jewish.

The competition was "A Poem about Refugees" and Sue Fitzsimmons and Louise Vigor were joint winners.

We had 8 visitors attend the meeting and one of the lucky ladies won the raffle.

Our luncheon club met at The Royal Oak in Hornby for a lovely meal.

Our President, Christine Jennings, attended the Annual General Meeting of the WI held in The Royal Albert Hall in London and gave an interesting report on all proceedings.

Our annual coffee morning is on 17th August in Bentham Town Hall, and we have been lucky enough to have the newly elected **North Yorkshire Mayor, David Skaith**, accept our invitation to attend. It will give us the opportunity to get to know him and possibly raise any issues we may have.

Our meetings are held on the third Thursday of each month (15th August) and visitors are very welcome and we are always open to new members. Why not come and join us?



High Bentham

By Jan Stuiver

One evening at the end of June, 8 members of High Bentham WI had a delicious meal at The Highwayman, near Kirkby Lonsdale. Then on 4th July we met in the Town Hall Ballroom, as our usual venue was a polling station. We had an entertaining and informative evening as Mr Brian Topping told us his 'Tales of a Customs Officer'. Some of the

stories were funny, some shocking and some intriguing. Brian explained that a good customs officer needs to be observant, imaginative and tenacious, as well as organised and efficient. At the end of his presentation Brian told us the sad story of his grandson, Frankie, who died suddenly a few years ago. He was a victim of Sudden Unexplained Death in Childhood (SUDC). To help them cope with their grief, his parents set up a small charity called 'Friends of Frankie', which supports a wider organisation SUDC UK. One of the main purposes of the charity is to fund research into the risk factors and underlying causes of SUDC. Mr Topping donates a portion of the fees from his talks to Friends of Frankie. Many members made individual donations and received a Friends of Frankie badge. The following day Mr Topping contacted me to thank us because our group of 19 people had together donated nearly £75.

On the following day 4 members of the group filled and planted the raised bed behind the WI bench near the Medical Centre. Over the course of the summer and autumn we will prepare and plant up an area on either side of the paving with medicinal and culinary herbs. At our next meeting on Thursday 1st August representatives from The Bentham Hub will tell us how The Hub has developed over the last few years, and their plans. The wider community are very welcome to join us for the evening.



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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.



44 incidents were reported between 14th June and 11th July 2024.

These included: a hoax call, a crime involving violence, anti-social behaviour involving an off road bike on the Industrial Estate, suspect circumstances in connection with building work, a domestic incident, a suspect vehicle, a neighbour dispute, a missing parcel, and highway disruption caused by parking in Low Bentham, sheep in Robin Lane and cattle on Thicrash Brow.

Crime Prevention: Thinking of buying an E-Scooter?

If you buy an e-scooter it will not be legal to use it on public pavements or roads. They are legally classed as motor vehicles which means you are required to have a licence, insurance and tax to ride them on a public highway.

It's not currently possible to get insurance for privately owned e-scooters, which means it's illegal to use them on the road or in public spaces. The penalties include a fixed penalty notice, a fine of up to £300, up to six penalty points and seizure of the e-scooter.

In Craven, the only place you can legally use an e-scooter is on private land, with the permission of the landowner. If you cause serious harm to another person whilst riding an e-scooter, the incident will be investigated in the same way it would if you were riding a motorcycle or driving a car.

As part of a trial, rental e-scooters are allowed on public roads and cycle lanes in approved areas in some cities (York is the only location in North Yorkshire) provided you are old enough and have the correct licence and follow road traffic regulations. If you're using an e-scooter in public in an antisocial manner, you can also risk the e-scooter being seized under section 59 of the Police Reform Act.

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 could also reply directly to your neighbourhood team and provide feedback via surveys.

www.northyorkshirecommunitymessaging.co.uk

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Bentham Primary School End of Year Report

By Mrs Claire Pearson - Executive Headteacher

At the time of writing, we have only one more week left before school closes for the summer holidays. This year seems to have flown by! Over the course of the year, children of all ages have been given the opportunity and encouragement to take part in visits, activities and sporting events. Our wonderful fundraising FOBS have worked tirelessly to help raise all important funds for the school and, who can forget, the amazing donations made earlier in the year from members of the community supporting families of children at the school with the cost of residential visits. Thank you to everyone for their continued support.

Our 'Secret Garden' project is now well on the way, with Mr Hawkins, one of our governors, working tirelessly to co-ordinate efforts to make the garden an even more magical place for our children to enjoy and learn in. Thank you to everyone who has volunteered and helped with this project. Over the past few weeks children have been as busy as ever both in and out of classrooms. On Monday 1st July, children in years 1-6 performed their end of year production to a captive audience in our school hall. All our children were amazing and showcased an array of talent.

Earlier this month, families of children who will be joining our nursery provision and families of children who will be moving up to their reception year next academic year were invited into school to join in with a very special Teddy Bears' Picnic. This was a lovely occasion and thankfully the weather managed to stay dry throughout!

Children in Hedgehog and Rabbit Class have both taken part in visits to Winkill Farm in Langcliffe. Thank you to the Yorkshire Wildlife Trust together with the Wild Ingleborough Project for providing full financial support and organising this educational visit for our children. Thank you also to everyone at Winkill Farm for welcoming our children and letting them enjoy their beautiful working farm.

This year, our Sports Day went ahead as planned – without being interrupted by the weather. Well done to everyone who took part, including those mums and dads who joined in with their very own fun race, and younger siblings who took part in our Toddler Event. This year 'Congratulations' went to team 'Sapphire' who accumulated the most points overall.

Children in Year 6 have taken part in a residential visit to Keswick, and, despite the awful weather, all thoroughly enjoyed their time away together before going their separate ways and transitioning to the next phase of their education in September. Whilst on the residential, children engaged in climbing, canoeing, ghyll walking, crazy golf, a trip to the cinema and lots more! Lots of lovely memories and experiences. As a school we would like to wish all our Year 6 children the very best for their future – you will be missed.

Finally, as will have been the case with most primary schools, on Tuesday 9th July 2024, SATS results were being eagerly awaited. This year, once again, our children have achieved AMAZING results.

Well done to children in year 6 for all their hard work, dedication and resilience.

Have a lovely summer.

See you next year!



News from the Fells of Scaffolding, Wild Life and George McIntosh

By Helen Wilkinson

On Saturday 22nd June, Tatham History Society had their summer meeting when John Wilson led a walk around Green Hall, Ringstones, Lanshaw and Moorcock, looking at the architecture of 17C and 18C vernacular farmhouses and the historic landscapes. The hedged, ditched and curvilinear boundary of Green Hall suggested its origin in the 13C, and the walled enclosures of adjacent fields probably derived from the extensive 1611 'new improvement' within Tatham parish.

At the end of June, we briefly thought that the road between Mill Bridge and the village was getting some improvements when it was suddenly closed. Unfortunately, the closure was due to more of the road surface collapsing and all that we got were three more patches adding to the lumpy tapestry of tarmac. Scaffolding has been put up alongside the bridge on Ringstones Lane (*see photo above*) in preparation for repairs to the parapet. Signs warning of a fifteen-minute delay are in place, though as yet, mid-July, no work is being done so the hold-up will probably just be waiting for a few sheep to cross.



This year one tawny owl fledged from the box at Ivah Old Barn and five barn owl chicks have been raised near Botton Head. We also had spotted fly catchers nesting at High Ivah, making use of one of the nest boxes supplied by Bowland Moorland Group and built by the WI. The deer have scattered around the valley and can be spotted grazing alone in the late hay meadows.

It is with great sadness and sympathy that we think of the family of George McIntosh. George and Margaret had many happy years in Lowgill before moving to Bentham. During his time as a school governor, George shared his love of a good story by reading to the children at Tatham Fells Primary School, a treasured memory they have never forgotten.



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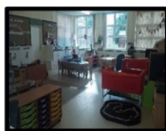
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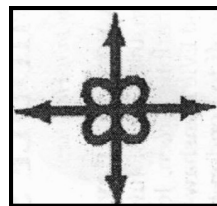


Bentham Footpath Group -

(benthamfootpathgroup.co.uk)

"Four Late Summer Walks to Enjoy"

By Don Cartledge



As autumn approaches, we have four varied August walks. For each we meet as usual at Lairgill for 9.30am, except for that on the 21st where we meet at 9am.

The first walk on **Thursday 8th** is led by Bryn and Sandra Craggs (015242-62416) and covers 8.5 miles. Parking is at Settle Station where we travel by train to Horton in Ribblesdale. From the station we follow the road and village paths to reach Brackenbottom and continue to Dub Cote and the Pennine Journey path at the base of Pen-y-ghent. Climbing to join Long Lane we head towards Helwith Bridge but turn off onto Moor Head Lane and the Ribble Way down to Stainforth. Then it's on to Stainforth Scar, Lower Winskill and Langcliffe and back down to Settle. This walk has some significant ascents along the way. *(This walk involves an initial train journey from Settle Station to Horton so please have railcards and funds with you to purchase the single ticket (Settle to Horton). Sandra requests that we all meet first at Lairgill because, should there be any disruption to rail services, then an alternative walk will be substituted.)*

Friday 16th sees a 7-mile ramble around Cunswick and Scout Scar. George Sheridan (07905-069990) is the leader and, for parking, take the Underbarrow road from Kendal centre to the top of the hill on the right and park by the radio station access track. Initially we walk along Cunswick Scar then it's downhill to Cunswick Hall and along Gamblemire Lane to Tully Thwaite House. We return to the start via Scout Scar and the mushroom indicator shelter.

Susan Badley (015242-62502) takes us on a 10-mile walk around Spark Bridge and the Leven estuary on **Wednesday 21st**. The walk starts at Lane Ends (beside the crossroad where the A590 bypasses Haverthwaite, about 3 miles beyond Newby Bridge) and staying north of the road we cross Rusland Pool making our way to Spark Bridge via Tottlebank. Then it's across the Greenodd-Coniston road to arrive at Penny Bridge and down to the footbridge over the River Leven. The return is mostly level on a former railway line and raised riverbank.

Finally, on **Saturday 31st**, there is a 7-mile walk in the Howgills led by Valerie Eccles and Mary Pickstone (07979-607191). Starting out from Sedbergh, there is a stiff climb up Winder Fell but the ascent eases to a stroll on the summit with super views of the Lakes, Dales and Morecambe Bay. After an equally steep descent we reach the River Rawthey and return to Sedbergh via the school grounds, playing fields and an unusual summer house known as 'the pepperpot'.

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Tatham Fells Primary School – End of Year Report

By Fiona Ip – Headteacher

What a busy but exciting final half term of the academic year it has been at Tatham Fells School.

Our KS2 children put together an amazing performance of Shakespeare's *Midsummer Night's Dream*, having learned a lot of lines and understanding a complex story line. They brought an enjoyment of Shakespeare to us all. Thanks to BBC Teach for the excellent playscript, musical arrangement and free resources.

Our Y6 pupils' SATs results were fantastic - the best we have ever had. We know there is so much more to our children than success in exams, but we are very happy that they leave more than ready for their next stage of education, and we look forward to hearing how they are getting on.

We had more sporting success with our Y3/4 hockey team who won the Lune Valley schools hockey tournament at Carnforth competing against 11 other teams. Team Tatham won all their matches and were delighted to bring home the trophy.

The final sporting event of the academic year was our annual district cross country competition which takes place at Lowgill with thanks to Mr Knowles who kindly allows us to borrow his field for the event. Congratulations to Over Kellet who won the cross country team cup and to the following Tatham Fells pupils who won individual medals: Y6 boys Jacob Briggs Dixon, Y6 girls Alyssa Parkinson, Y5 girls Alexia Gardner, Y4 boys Stanley Hewitt and Y3 boys Bernie Hughes.

Well done everyone who took part in gruelling but exciting races – third place in the overall team challenge!

Y3 and 4 pupils went to Borwick Hall for a 2 day 1 night outdoor adventures course. For many of these children it was their first night away from home and they handled it so well. They took part in water sports, climbing, scrambling and orienteering. We also managed to fit in watching the Euros England football match in the evening, which was very important.

From September we are able to offer the full 30-hour childcare entitlement and free wraparound care to all children in the local area for the term after they turn 3. The school day is 8.30am-3pm with wraparound care available for free from 8am-5pm. Our Little Explorers sessions will continue in the autumn term from Friday 6th September, 1.15pm-2.30pm. Have a lovely summer!





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

Copy deadline is 12th August for the September edition.

Please note we cannot guarantee the inclusion of any articles after this date.
Printed by John Mason Printers, Skipton

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Local Buses – Update

By Paul Chattwood (Dales and Bowland Community Interest Company)

I'm sorry to advise that the only journey on bus service 80 from Kirkby Lonsdale to Ingleton, Bentham and Lancaster, departing Kirkby Lonsdale at 1650, has been withdrawn. If you have any concerns about this you may want to contact the previous operator, Lonsdale Buses, at office@klch.co.uk and North Yorkshire Council at: passenger.transport@northyorks.gov.uk The other bus services to/from Bentham continue unchanged – details are included below for your reference.

BUS 582	High Bentham - Hornby <i>with connections to/from Lancaster</i>
Wednesdays only (not Bank Holidays)	

High Bentham Robin Lane	0914	Lancaster Bus Station	1335
High Bentham Bentham Club	0915	Hornby War Memorial	1410
Low Bentham Sundial	0919	connects with bus 82	
Wennington Nether View	0927	Hornby War Memorial	1415
Melling Gillison Close	0933	Melling Gillison Close	1420
Hornby War Memorial	0938	Wennington Nether View	1426
connects with bus 82		Low Bentham Sundial	1434
Hornby War Memorial	0948	High Bentham Bentham Club	1438
Lancaster Bus Station	1022	High Bentham Robin Lane	1439

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BUS 583	Kirkby Lonsdale - Ingleton - Bentham circular
Monday to Saturday (not Bank Holidays)	

Code:	NS	S	S
Kirkby Lonsdale Booth's	..	..	0945 1145 1345 1545
Kirkby Lonsdale Market Place	..	..	0946 1146 1346 1546
Cowan Bridge Shop	..	..	0949 1149 1349 1549
Ingleton Community Centre	..	..	1000 1200 1400 1600
Burton-in-Lonsdale High Street	..	..	1009 1209 1409 1609
High Bentham Bentham Club	0640	0750	.. 1216 .. 1616
Low Bentham Sundial	0644	0754	1015 1221 1415 1621
High Bentham High Street	..	..	1019 .. 1419 ..
Burton-in-Lonsdale Post Office	0649	0759	1026 1226 1426 1626
Ingleton Community Centre	0658	0808	1035 1235 1435 1635
Cowan Bridge Shop	0708	0818	1045 1245 1445 1645
Kirkby Lonsdale Booth's	0713	0823	1050 1250 1450 1650

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