

BENTHAM NEWS

September 2024 Issue 455 Recommended price £1

150th Bentham Agricultural Show

Saturday 7th September 2024



Front cover montage by Jon Brook of Bentham Imaging

Person of Bentham – Stephen Dennis

Stephen, our 78th 'Person of Bentham', is well-known to the farming community, but perhaps less well-known in the wider Bentham community. We aim to put that right! Read on to find out more about our hard-working, not easy to pin down for an interview, Senior Auctioneer, for whom family, farm, the auction and his faith are the 4 pillars of his life.

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

I was born in 1960 in a village called Westow near Malton and both my parents were from farming backgrounds. But I've lived here for 42 years. I came to Bentham in October 1982 as a trainee livestock auctioneer and land agent working for Richard Turner & Son. It's strange how that came about because when I was at Agricultural College in Cirencester a flat mate mentioned that he thought Richard Turners at Bentham would suit me, but as I couldn't find their details and hadn't a clue where Bentham was, did nothing more about it. When I left college without a job I worked voluntarily with Auctioneers in Harrogate and was given the menial task of burning old correspondence. Of course, being nosy I was reading some of it and came across a letter from Richard Turners, so wrote offering my services. It arrived at the time Michael Mashiter was leaving so there was an opportunity.

I've often reflected on that turn of fortune, realising that you should never despise the little things in life as they could lead to bigger things.

I feel a great affinity for Bentham Auction Mart. It punches above its weight, and that's largely down to the quality and dedication of the people who work here. It's a small county auction mart, a fifth-generation family-run firm of auctioneers and valuers, where there was an opportunity to make a mark, a real challenge. My heart is in Bentham. I'm now 'Senior Auctioneer and Manager', which I often call the 'Complaints Department' – it's up to me when things need sorting out.

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

Although not a blood relation, in my family history there was a Jack Sinkler of Nidderdale who was sent to Australia as a convict. Because of his part in quelling a prison rebellion he was allowed to return to England with a royal pardon. There's a copy of the pardon in the Pateley Bridge Folk Museum.

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

I have visited friends in Texas but would like to explore more of the USA, especially the wilder, open spaces, such as Yellowstone etc. I'd also like to tour parts of the old British Empire, Australia, New Zealand, South Africa, India etc. I know there are many things to regret about our imperial past, but we did leave some good things behind, and I'd be interested to see these countries now.

What does a perfect day look like to you?

A country walk with my wife, Andrea, when it's warm and dry. Then having a meal together using our home-grown produce: Andrea is a smashing cook and our family eat really well.

We had a holiday in the Canadian Rockies a while ago with all 4 of our grown-up children, and spending time with them in the stunning scenery was very special. Having your adult children around you is wonderful.

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Photo by Jon Brook of Bentham Imaging

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

In the past, I would love to have witnessed the life of Christ: been there to marvel at his miracles, his teachings, the compassion of the man, how he challenged the leaders of the day. Doing religion can be oppressive however following Christ is something else.

I would also like to have seen the American frontier lands before they were settled: the indigenous people, the herds of buffalo, the wildlife, the vastness of the wilderness.

For the future, I'm wondering whether I would like to be there at my 100th birthday! I would have to be in good health and still enjoying life.

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

I remember being at primary school in 1969 when man first landed on the moon. We had the TV in the classroom for the "That's one small step for man, one giant leap for mankind" speech, although to be honest I didn't really appreciate the importance of the occasion and just wanted to go out in the playground to play football.

In the 1980s and 1990s the BSE ('mad cow disease') outbreak, and later the outbreak of foot-and-mouth disease in 2001 both caused crises in British agriculture. During these I had to conduct farm valuations on my own with farmers who were traumatised and distressed as they knew their stock was going to be destroyed. I felt it was important to spend time with the farmers, appreciate their hard work and lifetime achievements. It was often about an appreciation not just the valuation. Some movement regulations brought in during these crises are still in place: and make no sense at all. The new government needs to sort these out for the good of farming.

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What are the most important things that need to happen to secure the future of farming in this area?

I have always been an advocate for the traditional family farming unit. Sadly, successive governments and corporate businesses, supermarkets etc. seem intent on driving them out of business and adopting large-scale factory farming practices. I feel the traditional unit offers much more by way of environmental care, livestock welfare together with being good for other local businesses and our community. Accordingly offering support to such farms would be a benefit to our area.

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

Two women have had the most influence on my life.

First my mother. I was the youngest of 4 children (an older brother and 2 older sisters). We lived on a smallholding, a 7-acre farm with pigs and poultry in the village of Burythorpe, and my father was an auctioneer in Malton, East Yorkshire. He died of a heart attack when I was 7, leaving my mother widowed with four children to rear and a living to make. Her life was guided by faith principles, and she not only preached her faith but lived it in everyday life. It'd be difficult to find anyone who worked harder and helped as many people as my mother. She was always there for us as we were growing up and did all she could to make things better for us all. Somehow, although the farm never made a profit, there was always money in the bank. She put it down to God's provision.

Then there's Andrea. We've been married for 37 years through which time she has been a wonderful soul mate. She encourages me and is very supportive of whatever I do. She picks me up if I fall and is always there to talk through whatever is on our minds. (P.S. with a little correction at times!).

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

I'd open a bank for a start! It's a great loss that they have all closed.

I'd build better roads to Bentham from all directions. We have a saying at the Auction that "all roads lead to Bentham but there isn't a good one." The road between Bentham and Ingleton needs improving, and the HGV access from Wennington via Goodenbergh Country Holiday Park on Ravens Close Brow isn't much better. They carry a lot of traffic and need upgrading. Sometimes it feels as if Bentham is forgotten about, but the poor road network definitely holds back business here.

Otherwise, I've always felt that Bentham needs a focal point: it misses a proper marketplace, like in Settle or Kirkby Lonsdale. Trouble is that creating this would require knocking down some buildings to make the space, and that would take some doing. This has been talked about for years, and never comes to anything. Too difficult.

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

Not really a job, but I didn't enjoy being a schoolboy. Probably I should have got more out of my schooldays, but at the time I didn't see that, although I did stay on to get 'A' levels which I needed to go to college. College was good, and I qualified as a chartered surveyor. In general, I'd rather be engaging with people and animals than paperwork, so desk jobs get left until they must be done. I am semi computer illiterate. It took me years to send an email! I've learnt now; however, I don't get involved with social media.

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When I was doing odd jobs for farmers after college and needed money, I was told to dig a trench by hand along the side of a building. When I finished the decision was made that it wasn't needed so it was filled in (by a digger this time).

Getting enough money to pass your driving test and buy a car is the real growing up point if you live in the countryside: you definitely need your own transport.

What's your most treasured possession?

I suppose I should say my mobile phone as there's always pandemonium when it's misplaced! Otherwise, I don't really have treasured possessions but out on the farm I wouldn't be without my sheep dog 'Missy'.

How do you relax?

I enjoy farming, being outdoors and working with livestock.

I enjoy watching good, inspirational films on TV, and also follow most sports.

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

When I was about 9, like all young boys, I dreamt of being a professional footballer for Leeds United or local club York City. I soon realised I wasn't good enough for that, so really wanted to emulate my dad and become a livestock auctioneer.

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

I'm a poor reader, I don't make enough time for reading, TV is easier. But I do enjoy good, inspirational films. One of my favourites is 'Dances with Wolves' with Kevin Costner about the American frontier. Others might include 'Marvellous' with Toby Jones, the true story of a man with learning difficulties who was kit man at Stoke City or 'The Blind Side' about a white couple who adopt a black child from a disadvantaged background who goes on to become a superstar of American football.

Save the Date!

Bentham Business Boost – Business Get Together

Tuesday, 17 September 2024, 17:00 - 18:30

Venue: Bentham Lower Town Hall

Come and find out more about the Bentham Whole Town Business Boost Programme, the opportunity to reinvigorate 'We Are Bentham', free training, shop front grants and more!

Bentham has been awarded funding to improve the quality of the town centre environment and encourage increased collaboration between businesses. A small project group has been established who are currently working with North Yorkshire Council to set out the programme for Bentham.

To register your interest to attend the event and to receive more information when available, please email:

townclerk@benthamtowncouncil.co.uk



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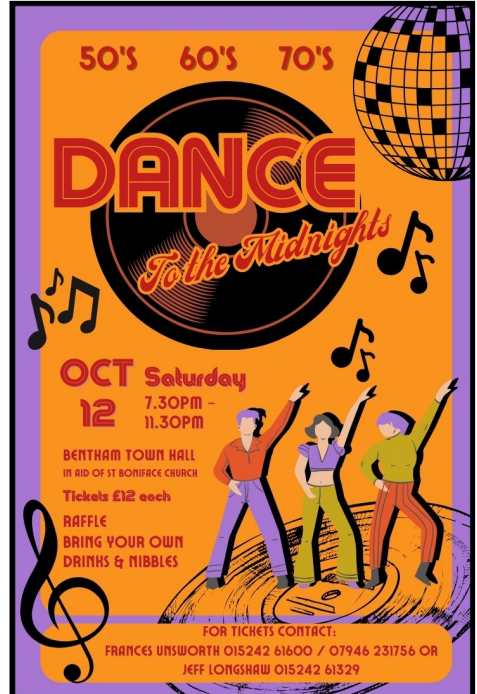
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Michael Marshall

9th December 1953 – 5th June 2024

Michael was born on the 9th December 1953 to Gladys and Edward Marshall; a year later on the 7th December his brother Bernard was born. The family were living in Dunkirk Cottages, Low Bentham. Michael and his brother went to Low Bentham Parochial School and to the Sunday School.

When the Church Sunday School closed Michael, like his mother Gladys, went to Low Bentham Methodist Chapel and became a Chapel Member. He became active in Chapel life, teaching in the Sunday School and playing the organ for Sunday services.

Michael's childhood memories of Low Bentham are happy ones: swimming in the River Wenning, picnics at Hindburn Bridge with his mother, playing in the woods, and catching minnows in Ellergill Beck which flowed through the playing field at the back of their house; the British Legion Christmas party, Low Bentham Gala, Jumble Sales, old-time dances, the badminton club, and whist drives.

Michael inherited his mother's love of gardening. He became a member of Hornby Flower Club and helped to care for the Institute Garden. In his teens Michael also helped at the School Hill Youth Club.

On leaving Ingleton Middle School, Michael worked in the kitchen at the Goat Gap Restaurant and then as a weaver at Wenning Silks. He then worked at George Angus, staying for 43 years.

The family moved from Dunkirk Cottages to 'Braeside' on Cross Lane, where his dad died suddenly; they then moved to Mount Pleasant. After his mother's death, Michael moved to Lane House Cottage in Mewith with his cat Ashley.

Michael was active in Bentham. He was a member and chairman of Bentham Liberal Party and Club. He was a committee member of Low Bentham Public Hall. He worked with Low Bentham Gala Committee, with Age Concern and Town Hall Coffee Mornings.

Michael enjoyed travel, visiting Malta, and agricultural shows. The Remembrance Service in London was important to Michael for its worship, ceremony, patriotism and music, especially the brass bands. He loved to travel on trips by train and with Bibby's Coaches.

Michael valued his family, friends, neighbours and fellow Church Members and made many lifelong friends including Marion and Michael Louth and one special friend of 60 years, Sarah Wilson, who had lived next door at Dunkirk Cottages.

Michael had helped his mother with the church flowers and later became a keen and accomplished church flower arranger himself. He read lessons at church services, having a deep understanding of the Bible. He was an active member of the cleaning and flower arranging teams at St. Johns and a member of the Lower Lights gospel group and the Shepherds' Choir.

Michael's faith was fundamental to him - this showed in his caring and pastoral work.

Elza Sayer, who supported Michael during his treatment over his last months, says "I came to know Michael well. His life, personality and behaviour can be summed up in five words: he was a good man."



Bentham Town Council Meeting: Wednesday 31st July

Report by Peter Hardy

**Councillors present Adams, Burton, Hill, Marshall, Ryan and Stannard,
Town Clerk, 11 members of the public and 2 Bentham News reporters**

These are not the official minutes but a general report of some of the matters discussed. The official minutes will be published on the BTC website in due course.

A minute silence was observed for the Southport tragedy.

Public Comments

Members of the River Wenning Group asked whether the Wenning was being tested for PFAS contamination and when the public would be updated about any test results as agreed in the June TC meeting. They also voiced concerns about possible contamination of homes by polluted flood water. There was a mention of recent video evidence of sewage pollution in the Wenning from Bentham's Wastewater Treatment Works. It was pointed out that the approach of fine weather may attract children into the river. It was also mentioned that further housing development in Bentham is undesirable as the waste water facility is not fit for purpose.

The 20mph's Plenty campaign has over 900 signatures in favour of a 20mph speed limit and spoke eloquently about school children at Key Stage 1 at Bentham Primary saying the worst thing about Bentham was their fear of speeding traffic when getting to school. The petition will run until September.

A member of the public spoke about problems with the bus service being unreliable.

A member of the public offered to gravel the footpath beside the Coach House if the council could provide the gravel.

Planning

Three planning decisions were noted and approved; two for the former squash court and one for The Rollershed.

Town Hall

The cleaning of carpets in Wenningdale Hall and the Clerk's office were approved.

Open Spaces

It was noted that the cemetery will need to be expanded and that cemetery costs had fallen out of line with other similar towns. Open Spaces will create and submit proposals in the future. A request will be made to NYC to trim the hedge on the Butts Lane footpath.

Bentham Boost

Councillor Ryan reported that a group has been formed to progress the Bentham Boost programme. It will meet for the first time on Thursday 1st August.

Town Hall matters

A formal complaint will be raised with the Automatic Door Company regarding a disputed charge.

...../Continued overleaf



...../Continued from page 8

Correspondence

20mph campaign: A detailed report from a member of the public has been received and this has been forwarded to members of Parliament. In light of this report and letters from the school, Bentham Town Council will try to establish the criteria for 20mph zones and see what areas might satisfy those criteria. The meeting were informed that the Council had tried extremely hard during the school planning phase to ensure a safe environment existed around the school re traffic, but that their recommendations were not followed.

School transport costs: The Clerk is to send a strongly worded letter to NYC expressing the Council's disappointment at the decision to change the provision of transport to Settle Community College/QES due to costs.

Angus Fire: Update received from Angus Fire. No test results as yet. BTC to request Angus Fire to see if off site testing can include the River Wenning and to ask for timescales for a public meeting.

NYC "Let's Talk Rubbish: (Does NYC have a sense of humour?) Proposed changes in waste collection. BTC to respond requesting no change in our present system.

Buses: A number of issues reported including no bus, incorrect bus stop, and failure to register bus passes. The Clerk is to continue to report all known issues to NYC.

News from other bodies

Event planned by Bentham Playing Fields Association "Music on the Field" to be held on the playing field on 1st September.

Collingwood Almshouses have a new trustee - Thomas Wills.

Longstaffe Education Foundation Quiz -

1st August - Council to have a team.

Goodenber play area ROSPA inspection September. The money from section 106 Felstead was spent in November. The main issue is waste bins not being emptied by NYC.

Next meetings

Finance Monday 19th August

Full Council 2nd September

Marketing and Development

16th September. All to start at 7.30pm.

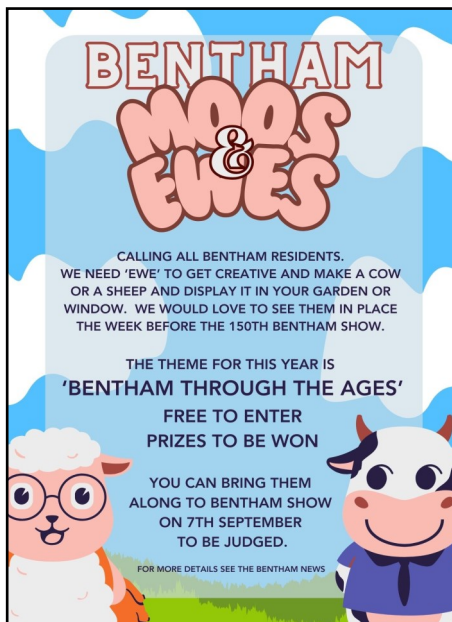


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FOR MORE DETAILS SEE THE BENTHAM NEWS

Bentham Youth Club

By Katie Hall – Youth Worker

As we approach the end of the summer holidays we have had such a great summer holiday programme hosting our very first 'residential' and a trip to Morecambe Jump Rush and the beach. We all had so much fun. All of our activities throughout summer were funded by North Yorkshire FEAST as well as Children in Need and the National Lottery Community Fund. We were also supported by our community's amazing Hub (The Bentham Hub). We continuously thank all our funders for contributing to our Youth Club. We also thank the volunteers for their continued support over the last year.

On to volunteers, as we became so popular in our last term we are now desperately needing volunteers to help with club nights and holiday activities. We provide all training and DBS checks. Unfortunately, until we get more volunteers we will be starting a waiting list for new members.

If you would like to help please get in touch with me by email:-

benthamyouthclub@gmail.com



VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

CAN YOU SPARE 2-6 HOURS A MONTH?

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.

IF YOU CAN HELP PLEASE GET IN TOUCH!

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

CONTACT KATIE HALL ON 07534697572/
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Photo by Jon Brook of Bentham Imaging

Regional Mayor David Skaith Visits Bentham

By Jacquie Van Ryssel, Vice President of Low Bentham WI

What a wonderful Coffee Morning today hosted by Low Bentham Women's Institute! It became a vibrant Community event when on Saturday 17th August the Town Hall bustled with Benthamers keen to meet and discuss their heart-felt local issues and concerns with our newly-elected Regional Mayor for York and North Yorkshire, David Skaith; he was accompanied by Treve, a member of his Communications Team.

Transport, Speed Limits, River Water quality, Infrastructure and Pollution were key concerns and attendees at the Coffee Morning arrived with well-considered letters and plans to more effectively illustrate a wide range of issues.

The Regional Mayor has certain powers and responsibilities devolved to them by Central Government. Among others, these include:

- * powers and funds to improve transport through a consolidated, devolved, multi-year transport settlement
- * powers to improve the supply and quality of house and secure the development of land or infrastructure
- * responsibility for community safety and the powers to appoint a deputy mayor to carry out many of the duties formerly held by the Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner.

David spent virtually two hours circulating from table to table primarily listening attentively then discussing ways forward. He has promised to return soon!

Thank you to one and all who came today including Gareth Adams, Mayor of Bentham who drew the raffle but especially to David Skaith who gave an ear to Benthamers who have long felt passionately about certain topics but have not been heard.

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Secret Garden Gravel Shift

By Chris Hawkins

Vice Chair Bentham Community Primary School Governor

I would like to give the Bentham community a big shout out for the fantastic turn out on Saturday (27th July) in support of the Bentham Community Primary School Secret Garden Great Gravel Shift.

As some of you will know the school acquired a beautiful garden to be used as a forest/outdoor school classroom for our youngsters. As a school governor I took on this garden as a 'project' as it needed some TLC before our children could go explore. Well, my plans grew and required the manual handling of various wheelbarrows I scraped together, some in not so good shape, but most with at least approximately round wheels! The plan, to move 10 x 1-ton sacks of gravel from the Main Street, into the garden to create some 'clean' space for the children.

The call went out and local businesses responded. Naylor Myers supplied the gravel, G & Mo's donated tray bakes and Nigel Metcalfe provided a motorised wheelbarrow. We were all set. I arranged for a team of volunteers to turn up from 9am in various shifts. Waiting at 8.30am I was somewhat nervous as our friendly neighbour's drive was now fully loaded with sacks of gravel instead of their cars. Was I the only one? I need not have feared because by just after 10am, the team of volunteers had not only turned up, but smashed the job completely and the said gravel was now fully in place and our friendly neighbour had their driveway back.

We were sustained by breakfast buns prepared by Greg, the tray bakes and tea and coffee supplied by yet another lovely neighbour, so that the proud team could lean on their shovels, happy smiles on their faces, job done. I cannot thank everyone individually, even those who volunteered, but didn't get to have a go, as the first team beat them to it by finishing in record time. Thanks, Team Bentham. You came up trumps.

P.S. We have been wondering whether we could raise a group of volunteers to do basic maintenance on the garden, perhaps on the 1st and 3rd Thursdays of the month. Is there anyone out there up for volunteering to organise such a club, or to be a part of it?



Some of the lovely volunteers, left. A before and two after photos above.



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The Punch Bowl Low Bentham Re-opens

By Jon Brook

On a glorious sunny Saturday on 3rd August, the Punch Bowl in Low Bentham re-opened just in time to be part of the Bentham Music festival. It was a rush for landlady Helen Campbell who has been renovating the building and garden for the last two months. Helen,



mother of five sons, whose ages range from 19 to 34, has roped in the family to help. One of her sons is the chef and a nephew and another son work behind the bar. Helen, from Lancaster, has always wanted to run a country pub and jumped at the chance to get stuck in to The Punch Bowl which had been empty for some time.

Helen says "I love chatting to people and want to make this a family friendly and dog friendly establishment. It's my aim is to make the pub the centre of village life, with darts and pool teams, and to provide a venue for family functions, buffets and parties. Eventually I want to have a 5 pitch touring caravan site on the field behind the pub. We are open from 11am until 11pm every day except Fridays and Saturdays when we will be open until 12:30am. Pub grub will be available from 12:30pm until 8pm."

And we here at Bentham News wish Helen all the best!



*Evening flight passing over
Goodenber Road caught by
Bob Clark on 3rd August, left*

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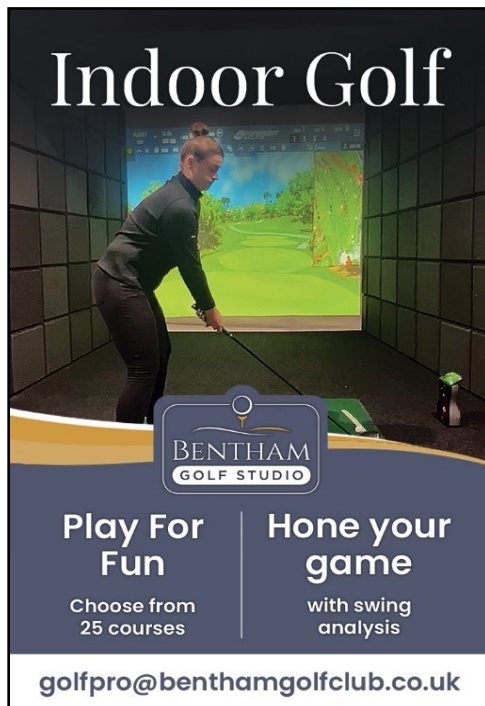
By Hayley Clarke (ICC Development Lead)

Integrated Care Communities (ICC) work to proactively support patients. We aim to encourage independence, improve quality of life, reduce the risk of people needing hospital services and empower people to access local services and resources to help make life easier. Bentham and the surrounding area are served by the East ICC team.

We have staff within the East ICC team who can visit you at home and undertake an overall assessment of your health and wellbeing. We can help you to take steps to improve aspects of your life that you have concerns about, referring and signposting to services that can support you. We also undertake proactive care planning activity to document your unique needs. ICC staff sit separately from the GP and other health and social care services but work closely with them. If you have concerns for yourself or a member of your family and that are not already receiving support from more traditional services, we may be able to help.

Referrals to the ICC can be made by any health or social care professionals. You can self-refer by contacting the team on 01539-777297 or via email at easticc.admin@mbht.nhs.uk. Alternatively, you can mention us to your GP surgery and request that they refer you to East ICC.

Within the team, we also have an ICC Development Lead who works with communities to identify local health challenges and coordinate projects to help respond to need within a specific area. If you would like more information or have any suggestions to share, please make contact on the phone number or email above.

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Stan Wilkinson's Memorial Tractor Run in aid of St John's Hospice

By Marilyn, Matthew & Oliver Wilkinson

Sunday 21st July saw the second annual memorial tractor run in memory of the late Stan Wilkinson.

We met at Bentham Auction Mart for tea, coffee

and a fine array of cakes and were waved off by a sizeable crowd of local supporters who turned out despite the unseasonable chill and risk of showers (which thankfully never came) to give us a good send off. The 25 strong convoy of vintage tractors, led by Oli Wilkinson on his dad's 'Old Grey Fergie', then headed off on their travels through Keasden, over Bowland-Knotts and through the Forest of Gisburn to Slaidburn, where there was chance to stop on the green and enjoy an ice cream. From there we looped through Newton-in-Bowland before testing the capabilities of our machines over the Cross-of-Greet for the return journey; all tractors and their drivers made it without incident. The 40-mile run concluded at the Old School House at Lowgill with a proper 'knife and fork' lunch. The run raised £944.50 for St John's Hospice.

We would like to thank everyone who participated, supported and donated to the run to make it a success and to raise such a fantastic sum for the hospice. Particular thanks are due to B&W Funerals (who sponsored the run), Jimmy Macdonald, Tara and Anya Wilson, Mandy Booth, Bentham Auction Mart, Gillian and Alice Middleton, Bentham Methodist Church, Tom Walker and Colin, Glynis and Lizzie Atkinson for supplying refreshments and cakes.

If anyone would still like to donate in support of the run you can drop off donations with Jimmy or Tara at B&W Funerals, Marilyn Wilkinson or send direct to St John's Hospice.

Jimmy Macdonald on a Grey Fergie, photo by Chris Wilcock, above

Tractors on The Green at Slaidburn, photo by Oliver Wilkinson, below



People/Letter Page

GEORGE MCINTOSH 28.5.30 - 6.7.24

Margaret would like to thank family and friends for all their support following the passing of George, her husband of 70 years. Special thanks go to Rev. Jane, John, Helen, Carole and Althea at The Church of the Good Shepherd, Lowgill; Jimmy and Tara of B & W funerals, Ingleton; everyone at Bentham surgery: Pamela for the beautiful flowers and Mandy for the delicious food.

The family would also like to thank everyone for the cards and charitable donations.

Margaret McIntosh

We would like to thank all those who attended the Craft Club Coffee Morning on the 20th July which raised a fantastic **£620 for The Bay Prostate Cancer Group**. Thank you doesn't seem to cover it when we include all those who donated a fantastic amount of prizes, the wonderful craft club ladies and friends who put the event together and made it work, and everyone who contributed in all sorts of ways.

Our group meets on the second Thursday of every month in the lower town hall 7:30 - 8:30pm. All welcome. <https://tbpcsg.org>

Various Items For Sale

Metal shelving units, tool cabinet with drawers, Dewalt drill with battery, table tennis table with net, bats and balls, football table. Collection from Bentham, call Pauline McLellan on 07521-706943 for details.

The North Craven Village Bus demand responsive bus service is now again being run by North Yorkshire Council in place of 21 Transport Ltd, and the phone number for bookings is **01609-533877**.

Lune Valley Swimming Pool—Hornby

Good news! After vital energy saving improvements over summer we are pleased to say Hornby pool is now fully open. The long term benefits will ensure the building is sustainable into the future. Thank you to hard working staff completing decoration/ tidy up necessary on schedule.

For all Hornby Pool general enquiries please contact Georgia or Scott on 01524-805666.

Editors' Note: This short message and fabulous photo were sent to info@thebenthamnews.co.uk and we have great pleasure in including them in this edition. Well done, Harry!



Dear Bentham News

My son Harry Mason (*Aged 8, above*) loves nothing more than picking litter around Bentham whilst he accompanies me when I walk our dog, Brin. He would love to be featured in the Bentham News if that would be at all possible.

Yours hopefully, Ryan Mason

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PIONEER Creative Writing Group

PROJECTS By Lynda Burns

The Creative Writing Group meets every Tuesday from 11.45am to 1pm.

After successfully running on-line during the pandemic the group now works as a hybrid style meeting. We welcome you in person, at Looking Well Studios, or via Zoom (invitations are emailed prior to each meeting).

From the Volunteer leader – “The Creative Writing Group meetings are designed to provide enjoyment and discussion with the whole range of writing types.... prose, poetry, serious, funny, using dialogue, and much more!! So whether you write regularly or when the mood takes you...do come and join the group in person or on line.”

Some words from a group member – “This is not a normal writing group. No set tasks, no teaching, no criticism. Just a group of people sharing what they have written. You can write a poem, a story, a novel, a memory, a diary entry, an essay - whatever you like to write. People simply read what they have written and if you haven't written anything that week then you can just listen. The other people in the group respond to your writing in the way any general reader would respond, but very much geared to the positive. They will tell you what they like. It sets off some kind of discussion about the topic: memory, life's ups and downs, writing about violence, love and family relationships. It's amazing how this approach improves people's writing.

It's a very supportive group and good fun. Come along and try it!”

We're meeting on September 3rd and every Tuesday (except half term 29th October).

The last session before Christmas is 17th December.

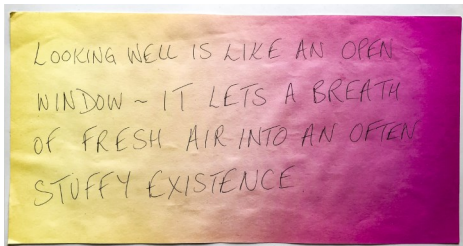
Whether writing for fun, well-being, to develop your skills or aiming to be published, please do come and join us.

Contact Lynda via email:

office@pioneerprojects.org.uk or

Telephone: (015242) 62672

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Quote shown above is from a member of the Creative Writing group.



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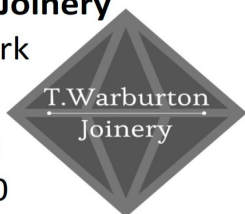
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September in the Garden

By Joyce Knapp

It is usually during the month of September that we experience the last of the summer warmth and as the days shorten we will need to be looking towards, and preparing for the coming winter. This can mean tackling a variety of tasks but always prioritising in order to get the best returns for our efforts, especially in the allotment/vegetable garden.

In the fruit garden, for instance, we may wish to pick the last of our plums and dessert apples by around the 12th of the month, before they succumb to birds pecking them. Also, once even a tiny hole has been made in the fruit, the wasps will pick up the scent of ripe fruit and will not hesitate to move in for a feast, often decimating the crop and causing a hazard to us when picking the remainder. Once we have picked the apples we can store them in cardboard boxes, in a cool, dry shed to be used as and when needed. At some point they are likely to start to wither and, by checking them regularly, we can step in to prevent further decay by peeling, chopping and part cooking them before putting them in containers in a freezer. It is advisable to sort plums as soon as possible after picking, reserving several good size fruit to be eaten raw. The next step is to divide the remainder into good, firm plums for jam making, and the rest can be trimmed of any blemishes, then stewed, with a little sugar, and frozen in batches. By saving these fruits in a freezer we can then bring them out as needed to make crumbles etc. in the depths of winter when the price of fresh fruit can be quite high. Another crop to begin harvesting this month is hazelnuts but it is always best to wait until near the end of the month, thereby allowing the kernels to develop their full potential. If we are fortunate enough to have quite a good crop of nuts, they can be successfully stored in baskets in a shed and just brought indoors to use, maybe around Christmas time.

Moving over into the ornamental part of the garden, we can make good use of any residual warmth in the ground as we transplant wallflowers to where we wish them to flower in the spring. It is worth noting that they make good companions to both daffodils and tulips so we can add some bulbs nearby, but perhaps not until next month. The wallflowers are noted for being both evergreen and extremely hardy as I believe they produce their own version of anti-freeze in their stems.



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Bentham's Footballing Past – Extra Time

By Andrew Chappell

High Bentham had three other football teams:- Bell Bank Juniors, St Margaret's Church Bible Class and Mayfield Rovers.

Bell Bank played in the North Lancs League Junior Division in seasons 1927/28 and 1928/29. As no League tables were published for the 1929/30 season it is unclear whether they still existed after that but there is no record of them in any of the future league tables.

In their first game of the newly formed League, the Morecambe Guardian dated 26th of November 1927 reported that they drew 4 goals each with Fairfield Juniors from Lancaster at High Bentham. They would go on to finish third from bottom, won 5, drew 4 and lost 9.

In the Morecambe Guardian dated 30th of October 1959 Lewis Gudgeon recalled being, in his words, a playing member of the famous Bell Bank Juniors football team and how they travelled to away games in Charles Metcalfe's cattle wagon. That must have been some sight for the home team when it pulled up and all the players trooped out of the back of it.

There is no record of St Margarets Bible Class football team playing in the Lancaster and District Church League however they did play club matches against local teams Caton, Wray, Settle, Burton-in-Lonsdale, Ingleton and Low Bentham to name a few, and one against Mayfield Rovers which they won by 7 – 4. This was amongst many recollections by Jack Magoolagan, in an article printed in the Lancaster Guardian dated 5th of February 1960.

He also recalled that the team was formed in 1922 and a public collection to buy equipment raised enough money to purchase a football for 12 shillings and 6 old pence (63 new pence today), a set of jerseys for 11s 6d (58 pence) and shorts costing 11½ d each (55 pence).

The most amusing of his recollections was about a match with a neighbouring village when the ref lost his whistle and being unable to locate another one used a toy trumpet instead, what a sight that must have been! Team Captain Reg Hainsworth's dog Pincher was the team's mascot and travelled everywhere with them.

It would be remiss of me not mention Tufty Park, named after a cartoon squirrel, Tufty Fluffytail, who was used to promote road safety for children. We would all have been members of the Tufty Club at the time. It was a disused tennis court behind Lakeber Drive - you can still make it out on the left of the footpath. As kids we played football for hours and decided to clear out all the rubbish from it and turn it into a football ground. We made goals out of wood and nets out of string and even put a sign up ... Happy Days!

Cattle wagon, toy trumpet and a tennis court, you couldn't make it up!

Footnote: thank you to some of the squad members and other people who were involved in local football for naming the ref in the previous article as Gary Clemmy.

St Margaret's Bible Class Football Team 1922/23 *(photo page 15)*

Back Row L-R: Alf Goodhill, Arthur Slinger, Ted Philipson, John Holmes, Bryan Coates, Bob Guy, Alan Greenep, Mr Harden.

Front Row L-R: Reg Hainsworth, 'Midge' Davidson, Jack Magoolagan, Charlie Bargh, John Allan Foster, Pincher, the mascot.



Bentham FC 1981 Samantha Jane Guy Memorial Trophy Runners-up

Back Row L-R: Carl Townley, Colin Moore, George Adam, Danny Chappell, Alan Tomlinson, Neil Taylor, Michael Hodgkinson, Nigel Corrigan, Fred Carter.

Front Row L-R: Stephen Chesters, Joe Winn, Ian Guy, Andy Chappell, Rod Lister, Norman Mafarlane. (see photo below)



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Bentham



Events in September



Town Hall

Every Tues., Craft Club 10am - 12noon, WR
Yoga with Suzie 5pm-6pm & 6pm-7pm, LH
07940 -185471

Every Wed, Stepping Stones 10 - 11:30am, BR.
Pilates with Sally Horn 9.30am - 10.30am, LH

Town Hall - Meeting

Monday 2nd 7.30pm, LH

Full Town Council Meeting (*pages 8-9*)

Thursday 12th 7.30pm - 8.30pm, LH

Prostate Cancer Support Group Meeting

E-mail - bayprostategroup@pm.me

Monday 16th 7.30pm, LH

Marketing & Development Committee

Friday 20th 6.30-9.30pm, LH, LASRUG AGM

Monday 23rd 7.30pm, LH

Buildings Committee

Town Hall - Coffee Mornings

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

Saturday 10am - 12noon

7th - Leck St Peter's PTFA

14th - Church of the Good Shepherd, Tatham Fells

21st - Bentham Youth Club

Bentham Golf Club

Every Friday 11am - 2pm, Age Concern

Bentham Friday Lunch Club

6th, 13th, 20th & 27th

WI (*see page 36*)

High Bentham - Thurs 5th, 7.30pm, BR THall

Tatham Fells - Tuesday 10th, Old School

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

Methodist Church

Toddle-In

Starts Monday 9th September

10am-11.30am

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

Footpath (*see page 41*)

For September walks meet first at Lairgill for 9.30am except on the 19th where we meet for 9am.

Wednesday 4th, Peter Lennard, 07474-120898,
Giggleswick Scar, 7.5 miles.

Friday 13th, Mary and Kate Taylor, 61672,
Waddington, 7 miles.

Thursday 19th, Rick Clapham, 07792-935564,
Coniston Old Man, 10 miles.

Tuesday 24th, Kate Rowe, 51402, Chapel/
Ingleborough, 8 miles

Bentham Pantry Club (*see page 43*)

Wednesdays

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.

Bentham Fire Station

Bentham & District Dementia Friendly
Community Breakfast Club

Thursday 12th at 10am

Thursday 26th Canal trip to Skipton with lunch. Meet at fire station at 10am.

Burton Film Club

Films restart this month on the 3rd Saturday of the month.

On **Saturday 21st 'Wicked Little Letters'** at 7.30pm in the Village Hall. Doors open 7pm.

£5 tickets available on the door. You are welcome to bring your own refreshments.

Bentham Youth Club (*see page 10*)

Tuesdays

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

Seniors 11+ (Yr7) - 6.15pm to 8.15pm.

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

See facebook page for recent updates.

Victoria Institute

Every Monday

9am - 12.30pm Office open Enquiries/
Bookings

11.30am - 2pm Community Link Cafe
Light lunches and activities

6.15 - 7.45pm Tai Chi Qigong starting

16th September

Every Tuesday

4 - 9.30pm Helen Howard school of dance -
Term time

Every Wednesday

9am-12.30pm Office open Enquiries/Bookings

10am - 12noon Post Office Services

12noon - 2pm Community Link Lunch

4. - 6.15pm Helen Howard School of Dance -
Term time

Every Friday

10am - 12noon Post Office Services

Every Sunday

11am - 12.30 pm Cornerstone Church Services

Thursday 19th September 7pm

Low Bentham WI

New bookings now being taken

Ewecross Historical Society

Monday 30th September 7.30pm at

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Pioneer Projects - Looking Well Studios (unless otherwise stated) (page 19)

Every Monday Meet Lairgill car park 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 10th September 2 - 4pm, Book Group
in the library

Every Wednesday 10am to 12noon, Sing
Along to Every Song – face to face and Zoom

Every Wednesday 2 - 4pm, Art for All

Every Wednesday 9:30am to 4:30pm, Barclays
Bank

Every Wednesday 3:45 - 4.45 pm Lego Club,
Bentham Library

Every Thursday 12:30 - 3:30pm, Community
Art Shed

Every Friday 10am to 12:30pm, Mental Health
& Wellbeing Hub

Every Friday 9:30am to 4:30pm, Barclays Bank

**For more info and to join any of the above
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Wednesday 10:00am - 2:00pm

Friday 2:30pm - 4.20pm

Saturday 10:00am - 12:noon

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News from the Fells of the Stone Man and Rabbits Eating Sunflowers

By Helen Wilkinson

Although the final data has yet to be published the Bowland Wader Project has shown disappointing results for the curlew population. Over fifty chicks were tagged with all but a few taken by predators; buzzards, crows and stoats. On a more positive note five barn owl chicks from two nests in Higher Tatham have all been ringed so their future can be monitored. On 3rd August ten people enjoyed a walk led by John Wilson to the Stone Man on Burn Moor (see photo of the Stoneman by Helen Ditchfield, above). This is a rocky cairn that can be seen on the skyline above Bentham and fortunately it was a breezy but sunny day so the lovely views could be appreciated. A walk around Mill Houses as part of the Tatham History Society summer programme was led by Mike Wynstanley. The walk started by looking at Lane Head and then the old mill site and the houses in this area. A track leading down to the Hindburn was explored but it was impossible to identify just where this would have crossed the river. Finally we walked to Gambleshome and Meal Bank, again trying to locate the line of some disused tracks.

In the middle of August the road through Lowgill was closed for repairs. The road surface on the hill leading up from Mill Bridge towards Lowgill was removed, work done to the drains and the road re-tarmacked.

Although the rabbits ate all the sunflowers that the children had planted out in the school garden there are still some growing in the polytunnel along with sweetcorn, pumpkins and watermelon so hopefully there will be produce for the children to enjoy in the autumn term. On 29th July family and friends gathered at church for the funeral of Mary Whitfield. In her hundredth year Mary passed away peacefully with her family at High Park House.


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"If in doubt give Mr Whits a shout"

Finding Common Ground

By Mary Winter

on behalf of Calf Cop Quaker Meeting, Low Bentham



As I write this article, police in British cities are braced for another weekend of discord. A refugee friend of mine reports that a colleague who wears the hijab is afraid to come to work. Lancaster organisation East Meets West has had to cancel a planned outing for its members for fear of intimidation. A friend whose son is a police officer is consumed with anxiety for his safety.

But that's not all: On Sunday August 4th, a couple of hundred members of the public stood on the steps of Lancaster Town Hall, holding signs indicating their support for refugees and other migrants. The planned demonstration by the 'English Defence League' fizzled out. In Blackpool, 'punks' attending the city's annual punk festival challenged far-right demonstrators and helped clear up the mess afterwards. Following serious rioting in Middlesbrough, police were overwhelmed by support from the public, who brought food and thank-you cards to the police station.

We discussed the evolving situation after our Quaker Meeting for Worship last Sunday. One Friend reminded us that one of the groups for which we are currently fundraising -- **Israeli Palestinian Bereaved Families for Reconciliation and Peace** -- has the slogan 'It won't end until we talk', and suggested that in this situation, too, talking to each other might be the answer. That got me thinking. And over the next few days, I began to see increasing sparks of light.

Some of you will be familiar with the story of Adam Kelwick, the Imam from Liverpool who tackled the threatening atmosphere outside his mosque by bringing out food for the protesters. He gave out burgers and chips, and – as so often happens when we share food – conversations began and people began to open up. They realised that they shared many of the same concerns, and that they were all being manipulated by those using social media to pit one side against the other. In a subsequent radio interview that he and one of the protesters did for ITV, Imam Kelwick spoke of the need to talk: 'See the other side as human, talk, listen – and amazing things will happen.'

This sounds remarkably like the Quaker injunction to recognise and speak to 'that of God in everyone'. Or, if you're not too sure about the whole 'God bit', we could describe it as 'establishing common ground based on our shared humanity'. But this can seem scary and difficult. Why is it so hard to have amicable conversations with people we don't agree with?

Science can help us here. Humans feel safe when they belong to some sort of 'tribe', and we find it reassuring to talk to people who share our views. It reinforces our sense of belonging, which is one of our key human needs. But an opposing view can make us feel threatened – and that is when the 'fight or flight' reflex in the brain kicks in. We have all experienced how destructive that can be.

If we follow the Imam's advice, though – seeing the other side as human, talking and listening – then we can get past the divisions – whether genuine or perceived – and start to see what we have in common. We all want a society where we recognise, as murdered MP Jo Cox said, that 'we have more in common than that which divides us.' May we all find opportunities, over the coming weeks, to see 'that of God in everyone', to share food, to talk and listen, and to remind ourselves of our common humanity.

Bowland Life Through a Lens

By Sandra Silk, Project Officer, Forest of Bowland National Landscape

This month sees the launch of a special photography competition to celebrate Bowland as a newly named National Landscape during our 60th anniversary year.

The Forest of Bowland photo competition – Life through a Lens - is a fantastic opportunity for photographers to showcase their skills in capturing the essence of this beautiful area.

With three categories to choose from - people, nature, and place - participants can highlight the distinct beauty of the Forest of Bowland. Whether it's the warmth of community life, intriguing wildlife, or the unique character of local landscapes and places, each category offers a chance to tell a different story through the lens.

Winners can expect exciting prizes and the honour of having their work featured in various publications and online platforms associated with the Forest of Bowland. 'Life through a Lens' is not just a competition but a celebration of the Forest of Bowland, its seasons, and its significance as a National Landscape.

Whether you're a seasoned photographer or an enthusiastic beginner, it's a chance to celebrate the stunning landscapes, wildlife, and activities in the area.

The competition will run from until 30th September 2024, with shortlisted entrants and winners announced early October.

Local businesses – all Forest of Bowland Sustainable Tourism Network members - have been generous in prize donations. These include Hayloft accommodation (with secret garden and hot tub) for one night at Laythams Holiday Lets Retreat; A night's stay for 2 people at Gibbon Bridge Hotel; A night in a shepherd's hut (2 people) from



Bowland Escapes; A night's stay in glamping pods at Wenningdale Escapes; A meal for 2 at the Traddock, Austwick on the 10 course tasting menu and a bottle of wine; Lunch for 2 people at the Fleece Inn, Dolphinholme; A £50 voucher from Bee Creative Designs; A family day pass from the Bowland Wild Boar Park and a £30 voucher from The Cabin, Barley.

There will also be a People's Choice Award which the public can vote from the shortlist of photos across the categories. The winner will receive a £200 James' Places gift voucher kindly donated by Ben Scott Contracting Ltd.

Feedback from this year's exhibition featuring the shortlisted entries from 2023 captured the imagination of the public with the following comments: '*Fantastic collection of mesmerising images. Bravo!*' and '*Choosing a favourite was nearly impossible!*'

Competition entries can be uploaded on the Forest of Bowland National Landscape website at:

www.forestofbowland.com/bowland-life-through-lens

Photos must not be submitted to any other competitions or initiatives. Remember to check the specific competition details for submission deadlines and terms and conditions.

Happy snapping! For further information please email hetty.byrne@lancashire.gov.uk
Tel: 01200 448000.

For all Forest of Bowland news, visit: www.forestofbowland.com/news

Photo left, Bradley Hamer - Golden Light Badger



Forest of
Bowland
National
Landscape

Step Outside this Summer and Discover the Beauty of Bowland



By Sandra Silk sandra.silk@lancashire.gov.uk or phone 07973-923142

Bowland has beauty in every season but, as the heather starts to cover the fells, this is a fantastic time to get out and experience this wonderful part of Lancashire and North Yorkshire. The Festival Bowland programme has a whole range of events - many of them free or low-cost – and they offer a great way to explore the area.

Wyre Coast & Countryside Service will be running their regular walks from Garstang over the summer months. Taking place most Mondays (apart from Bank Holidays) from 11am, these **relaxing walks** last just an hour and are a great way to take in some fresh air and enjoy the views. No need to book ahead but do check with the organisers to find out more and keep up to date with any changes.

Why not head out at dusk and explore the night-time world of the bat? These flying mammals are fascinating creatures and there is no shortage of guided walks this season. Choose from Claughton-on-Brock on 9th September, Calder Vale on 5th September or Gisburn Forest on 6th September.

The Wyre Rivers Trust will be setting off to **collect native tree seeds** at Claughton-on-Brock on 4th September and Scorton on 19th September. Join them to find out all about the Trust's important conservation work – and give them a hand with their collecting.

For those with a creative eye, Friday 6th September offers half day workshops on **smartphone nature photography** at Gisburn Forest and nature-inspired pottery in Slaidburn, so why not discover your inner artist?

Full details of all the Festival Bowland events, including booking information and costs, can be found on the Forest of Bowland National Landscape website - <https://www.forestofbowland.com/>

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Biodiversity Along the Bentham Line

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

What do six university students studying topics as diverse as History, Economics and Electrical Engineering at various northern universities have in common? They became involved in a biodiversity project at stations along the Bentham Line whilst spending a year-in-industry with Northern, the local train operator. This is the sixth year that year-in-industry students with Northern have successfully undertaken community projects with the Bentham Line.

Working with Brian Howarth, an Officer from the Leeds-Morecambe Community Rail Partnership (CRP), and local schools, they established insect habitats and pollinator patches to enhance wild-life provision at three primary schools and stations. Earlier in the year, the students spent an enjoyable day at Bentham with the volunteers from the Friends of Bentham Station creating the frameworks for insect habitats by recycling the wood from pallets donated by Angus Fire, and sharing ideas about suitable materials that pupils could collect or make for their habitats.

Brain Haworth commented *"It was good to see the students interact with the children who demonstrated how much they care about their local environment through the project."*

Gerald Townson, Chairman of the CRP said: *"as well as looking at ecological and educational issues, the project has helped the students understand how Community Rail integrates with the local communities that the Bentham Line serves."*

The students will return to Leeds, Manchester, York, Sheffield and Huddersfield universities in September to finish their degree courses in history, economics, business management, geography and electrical engineering.

Photo of students left to right: Daniel Wing, Tom Starks, Tamara Baxter-Allen, Jason Osaka and Mia Hillsden. Brian Haworth is on the end.





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Latest news from Bentham St John's Parish Church

By Libby Wheildon

At a time when many churches are having to resort to pre-recorded accompaniments for their hymns, we are very blessed at St John's to have two exceptional organists. David Johnson has been our organist at St John's for many years and continues to play regularly for our services, weddings, baptisms and funerals.

We are also very lucky to have Claire Oldfield (*right*) play for our services. Claire has very recently achieved her ARSM (Associate of the Royal Schools of Music) with distinction for her organ playing. In the last few months while preparing for her exam, Claire has played some of her pieces for us in church following the services, so we have asked her to give an organ recital. The details of this will be in the next edition of the Bentham News but provisionally will take place on Saturday afternoon 12th October at 3pm in St John's church. Tickets will be available on the door and will include a St John's special Cream Tea. All are welcome.

On the 13th July, we held our first ever Messy Church. Based on a seaside theme, the children made postcards, boats, and a fishy sea collage. They decorated fish biscuits and painted stones and then listened to a talk about the wise man and the foolish man by Canon Peter. The afternoon concluded with a delicious chilli and nacho tea cooked by Christine Bosman. The event was very well attended and enjoyed by all. Look out for details of our next Messy Church to take place in December.



*Don't forget the BN deadline date is **12th September** for the **October** edition*

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Tatham Fells

By Mary Taylor

Tatham Fells Women's Institute members celebrated Yorkshire Day on August 1st, although they are in Lancashire Federation, by visiting Hebden Bridge and the Piece Hall at Halifax.

Twenty members joined a scheduled day excursion with Bibby's of Ingleton with a very informative driver who told the history of the area and pointed out landmarks. The route took them alongside the Worth Valley railway, into Haworth, then over the moors to Hebden Bridge where part of 'Happy Valley' was filmed. The day was fine and sunny, so following refreshing coffee and cake they explored the market and shops, walked along the Rochdale Canal or sat by the river Calder. After two hours they travelled downstream, noting the recent flood defenses, to Halifax and the grade 1 listed Piece Hall. Built in 1799 it consists of many small shops which were originally used by handloom weavers to sell their woolen cloth. These surround a huge open-air courtyard and are now independent shops and cafés. Members explored the shops and as the courtyard was being prepared for a concert went into the town and the ancient Halifax Minster containing box pews and the final resting place of Anne Lister. Four hours later they left noting the welcome absence of litter, and the steeply wooded sides of the valley. The homeward route was also memorable, looking down on Bradford, and all agreed they had had a great day out. The next meeting in the Old School on September 10th will be Helen Grimshaw speaking on Scams and Fraud.



Low Bentham and District

By Kathryn Brownsord

Our July meeting was a trip to Daisy Clough Garden Centre at Scorton. We had a lovely day looking round the garden centre and gift shop and ate a tasty meal in their café. The Craft and Chat Day was held at Kathryn Brownsord's home where a relaxing few hours were spent crafting and enjoying a lovely lunch.

Low Bentham and District WI were meant to be hosting the group's Treasure Hunt and Quiz night, followed by a supper in July. Unfortunately due to all the improvements being done at the Victoria Institute this had to be cancelled.

The improvements to the Victoria Institute have also made it impossible for our August meeting to be held there but St John's Church, Low Bentham have very kindly said we could hold our August meeting in the church.

There was no Craft and Chat Day in August and no Luncheon Club as many of our members are on holiday or looking after grandchildren.

A report about our August Coffee morning will follow in next month's Bentham News.

It was the 100th Birthday of Austwick WI recently and a few of our members attended their celebrations. Everyone was asked to dress up and wear a hat or fascinator so we all looked very smart! Champagne was provided and a harpist played in the background whilst a lovely carvery buffet was served (courtesy of Mandy from Simply Delicious), followed by live music and even some dancing – a lovely occasion!

Just to remind you that our meetings are held on the third Thursday of each month and visitors are very welcome. We are always open to new members. Why not come and join us?





'Ingleborough and cotton grass'.

This photo is from the Bentham Imaging Calendar 2025 which will be on sale at Bentham Show.



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Police News

Members of your Safer Neighbourhood Team covering the Benthams, 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 Benthams and the surrounding area.



34 incidents were reported between 12th July and 12th August 2024.

These included: general admin from other police forces, safeguarding, abandon/hoax call, sudden death, wanted persons, crime fraud – banking, abandon vehicle – checked in order, highway disruption – cattle Thickrash Brow and Ravens Close, road related offence – manner of driving Springfield – Robin Lane, crime violence, concern for safety/welfare joint partnership working, neighbour dispute, domestic incident, criminal damage – Low Benthams, ASB nuisance, civil dispute, alarm sound – false, theft of cooking oil, RTC's Low Benthams and parking on pavement.

Crime Prevention Advice - Dangers of open water in hot weather:

With sunny weather forecast for the coming (weekend/week), Craven Police are reminding the public about the dangers of open water, which in our area includes lakes, reservoirs, the canal and rivers. As the weather gets warmer, the force typically sees an increase in reports of people swimming in open water – often unaware of the dangers that can lead to injury and sadly in some cases, to accidental death. We know how tempting it can be, particularly on a hot or humid day, to jump into or swim in open water, but we want to remind people of the potential dangers and urge them to stay safe as drowning is one of the leading causes of accidental death in the UK. Officers will be patrolling areas around bodies of open water, including popular spots that can attract groups of youths who actively engage in anti-social behaviour. We will share water safety advice with members of the public and take positive action regarding any anti-social behaviour, so residents and visitors alike can enjoy the area and stay safe.

Please familiarise yourselves with the water safety advice from the Fire & Rescue Service and the RNLI: UNDERSTANDING THE DANGERS OF OPEN WATER:

The water is cold – even on very warm days. Sudden immersion can lead to cold water shock, which can cause gasping and intake of water

Riverbanks and cliff edges may be unstable and give way, particularly after bad weather

Depth can be difficult to estimate and debris under the water such as shopping trolleys, broken glass and cans can cause injury and trap you

You can get in, but can you get out? People often get into difficulty with steep sides and slimy banks

There may be hidden currents

Avoid alcohol and drugs when carrying out activities in or near water

If you are spending time near water - whether at home or abroad - make sure you are familiar with local safety information

IF YOU SEE SOMEONE IN DANGER IN THE WATER:

Remember: Call, Tell, Throw

CALL - dial 999 and for the Fire & Rescue Service if inland or Coastguard if near the coast

TELL - Tell them to float on their back

THROW - Look for something that floats or that they could hold onto and throw it to them.

Do not enter the water yourself – you could also get into difficulty

..... /continued overleaf

...../continued from page 39

IF YOU ARE IN DANGER IN THE WATER:

If you fall into the water unexpectedly, or get into difficulty, remember: Float to Live

Fight your instinct to thrash around – lean back and extend your arms and legs

Float until you can control your breathing

Only then, call for help, swim to safety or continue floating until help arrives

How to report speeding concerns - Speed Management Protocol

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

North Yorkshire Community Messaging is a free email messaging service from North Yorkshire Police and the Office of the Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner, providing news and updates on policing matters that are relevant to you and your local community. Sign up and receive email alerts about policing activity and initiatives in your local area as well as crime prevention advice and information. You could also reply directly to your neighbourhood team and provide feedback via surveys.

www.northyorkshirecommunitymessaging.co.uk

Contact Information:

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

2 - Ring 101 to report incidents or provide information

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

4 - Email SNACraven@northyorkshire.police.uk

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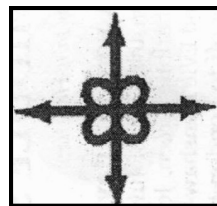
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Bentham Footpath Group - (benthamfootpathgroup.co.uk) A September Hike to the Summit of the Old Man of Coniston

By Don Cartledge



A challenging mountain walk this month with an elevation climb of 2,500 feet. I remember walking with the group up the "Old Man" about nine years ago and can still remember looking down from on high at the miniscule steamship "Gondola", chugging its way slowly across Coniston Water.

For this walk (19th September) meet first at Lairgill for 9.00 am, for the remainder, meet for 9.30 am.

The first walk, on Wednesday 4th, is a 7.5 mile ramble over Giggleswick Scar led by Peter Lennard (07474-120898). Starting from Giggleswick we head up through Lord's Wood to reach the top of the Scar at Schoolboy's Tower. It's then along the Scar heading north to Feizor Thwaite where a sharp turn brings us to Stackhouse and back to the start. This walk includes a steep climb and terrain that may be slippery when wet.

Mary and Kate Taylor (015242-61672) lead a 7 mile walk around Waddington on Friday 13th. Starting in the village, we walk past the alms houses and along the road to a footpath which leads to West Bradford. Taking a right then a left, we continue alongside the Ribble to Grindleton and continue along the road for a short distance as far as Lane Side. Here we turn right towards White Hall and follow the footpath past Lowcocks, Bucks and Cuttock Clough farms as far as Mill Farm and then take a path back to the start.

The Coniston walk on Thursday 19th is led by Rick Clapham (07792-935564) and covers 8 miles. Starting from the School Room car park in Torver (£3 honestly box), there is a gradual climb to Ash Gill Beck and a traverse heading up to Torver Bridge. The route continues to the summit of the Old Man (2635 ft) and returns via Walna Scar Road, Torver Beck and back to the cars.

Finally, on Tuesday 24th, Kate Rowe (015242-51402) takes us on an 8 mile ramble around Chapel-le-Dale. Parking is at Chapel-le-Dale Church (donation) from where we take the uphill path past Ellerbeck and Winterscales and, on reaching the railway, head south to Ribbleshead. Turning right on the road we pass the old quarry and follow tracks passing the ancient Viking settlement to reach Douk Cave, then it's downhill back to the start. After the initial uphill walk from the church, there are no other steep sections.

**Don't forget the BN deadline date is
12th September for the
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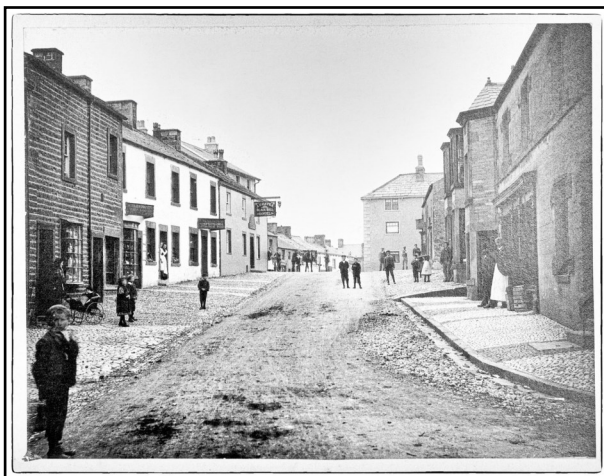
Update on the David Johnson Local History Archive

As some of you may know, many photographs and other articles of local historical interest, collected by Mr David Johnson, are now housed in two filing cabinets in Bentham Community Library. The contents can be viewed during Library opening hours, just ask the volunteer or librarian present.

A few interested volunteers have started compiling an on-line catalogue, though this will very much be a work in progress! In the meantime, Allan Hartley has spent a good deal of time re-formatting the images which were already digitised, two of which can be seen here.

Bentham of Yesterday by Allan Hartley

Both these images are shot around 1900, perhaps slightly earlier. Maybe it was the lead-up to the procession through Bentham for Queen Victoria's Diamond Jubilee in 1897. Both images were shot at the



same time as the photographer has aroused a significant amount of interest with his presence with this new technology called photography.

The information on both prints is credited to the photographer W.H Sawdon of Studio Broadwood, Ingleton. Where in Ingleton would that have been?

What is interesting is that the people in both images are all well turned out in what looks like their Sunday best. Perhaps it was a holiday? I think they are waiting for the Diamond Jubilee procession passing through the town with brass band. I remember seeing [somewhere] a photograph of said procession at the Punch Bowl in Low Bentham.

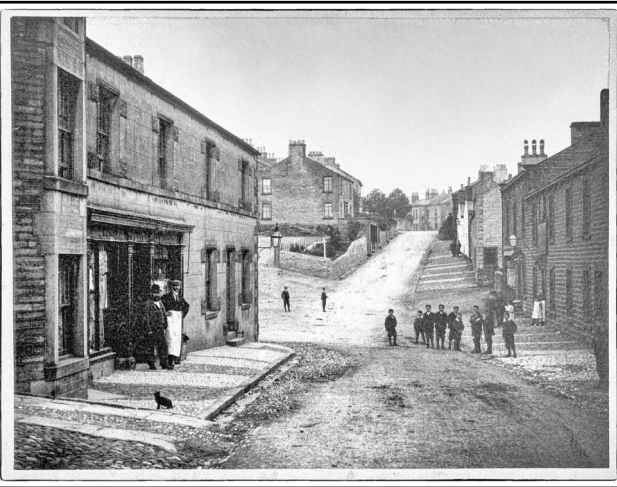
Certainly not a Sunday as the shops would have been closed.

Photo 1. High Bentham Main Street looking west to the Black Bull and Junction with Station Road (above).

On the left is a young Mum with infant in a pram and two young girls standing outside what is today Duxbury's Store and the Post Office. Unfortunately, the sign above their heads is illegible but it's a shop of some description with the two girls in pinafore dresses are perhaps shop assistants. The next street sign, above the young boy's head is that of a confectionary shop. Then further on the left is the banner sign for the Black Bull Hotel and the then proprietor John Coates.

At the head of the street is the main transport of the day with a horse and carriage, there is also a guy with a bicycle, cars would not be seen on Bentham's streets for at least the next five years. Moving to the right in what is today the Co-Op Store was the grocery shop owned by the Foster family, with James and Thomas Foster in the white apron standing outside.

Photo 2. High Bentham Main Street looking east towards School Hill and Mount Pleasant (right).



This street scene looking towards School Hill and Mount Pleasant shows a group of young boys in their Sunday best clothes of breeches, white shirts and school type caps. Close inspection shows that some of the boys, with what would have been the must have toy of the day, with a bicycle wheel rim and stick to chivvy it along, girls would have had a spinning top.

The girls in the doorway on the right are also suitably well dressed in pinafore dresses. Maybe they were in service at the Royal Oak Hotel [now Richard Turner's Offices] perhaps as chamber maids?

The men on the left outside what is now the Co-op Store is of the Foster's Family Grocery store with James Foster on the left and Thomas Foster in the white apron on the right.

Image provided from the David Johnson Collection gifted to Pioneer Projects, Bentham Community Library and North Yorkshire Council.

Image editing by Allan Hartley A2RPS.

If you are interested in helping to catalogue the archive and/or volunteering in the Library, please contact Lynda at lyndaburns@pioneerprojects.org.uk

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Save Our Insects

By Jill Franklin

As we enter September, many insects are starting to prepare for the challenges of winter. It's been a very tough year for them. 'Why should I care?' you may ask.

Insects pollinate the food we eat and predate other insects so, as they disappear, food shortages are more likely and, with fewer predators around, agricultural pests are on the rise. That's why this year's news about the huge drop in insect numbers is bad news for us all - some butterfly numbers are down by over 80%, wasps have been almost totally absent and over 30 UK bee species are now under threat of extinction, to name just a few of this year's statistics so far. Both the weather and the continuing use of pesticides have been blamed. But, whatever the reason, the evidence shows we can all make a difference.

As local residents and gardeners we can do many things to help insect numbers. Firstly - put the sprays away. Secondly - ask the town council for road verges to be mown less frequently. And thirdly, as autumn approaches, give those insects that are around as many places to hibernate as possible. Leaving plants standing gives a wonderful habitat for overwintering insects as well as other wildlife. So please don't cut your plants back. Leave them until late spring once the weather has improved. We desperately need more spaces for insects to shelter and feed!

In amongst the gloomy nature news, we have had some wonderful sightings of moths recently. Moths are important pollinators and food for many other animals such as birds and bats. Every one is as special as their names - the Scalloped Oak, the White Wave, the Shaded Broad Bar, the Mother of Pearl and the Emerald moth all visited us in August. We were also fortunate to see two Poplar Hawk-Moths - a stunning sight. This autumn, they and their not-so-showy insect friends all need our help. Anyone with an outside space can make things better. In England alone, the area of our gardens is more than four and a half times larger than that of our National Nature Reserves, so each of us really CAN help to improve things for insects and wildlife.



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