

BENTHAM EWES

November 2024 Issue 457 Recommended price £1



**A pen full of Dalesbred Ewes ready for auction at
Bentham Auction Mart in early October.
For more information about this local breed see page 11.**

Photography by Jon Brook of Bentham Imaging

Person of Bentham – Joe Chesters

Joe Chesters, our 80th Person of Bentham, was born in Ingleton, is a member of a large local family and has lived full time in Bentham since he was 18. Now 37, he has been running his own construction business, 'Dales Building', for the last three years and lives here with his fiancée Claire Taylor. She is currently a cleaner at QES and is working towards accountancy qualifications to expand her own career choices and to help with their business. They have two young daughters, Emily and Belle.

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

I lived in Clapham as a child and went to school there to start with and then moved to Austwick County Primary School, followed by Settle College. When my mum and dad split up, my dad moved to Bentham, and I started to spend my weekends with him on a regular basis. I came to live here permanently in my late teens. I had a great childhood with lots of freedom, roaming about in the countryside with friends, fishing, making dens, making bows and arrows, playing on old mopeds, that sort of thing.

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

I was a finalist in the Great Britain Monopoly Championships when I was around 12 years old. My Nanna Beryl entered me for it because we played quite a lot at home. It took place in Headingley and was all very serious, with invigilators etc. If I'd won, I would have gone to Las Vegas! Never mind!

Another thing that people might not know, is that my lovely ferret, John, came fourth in the National Ferret Championships in Birmingham. He is as tame, gentle and domesticated as can be and lives free-range in the house with us. I got into ferrets as a youngster and used to take them hunting. It's their natural instinct. We would give the kill to the Falconry Centre (that used to be near Settle), or to friends for the table.

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

Australia to see my sisters, two of whom went travelling there, met partners and stayed. I don't see enough of them, and it would be such a great experience. Also, I would like to go to some obscure place like Romania with a lot of forested wildernesses where I could ride my Enduro bike in remote areas, and where it would be a really adventurous experience. I do a lot of Enduro riding at places like Leighton Hall and up at Ripon. It would be great to try it somewhere far out in the wilds, with an added edge of danger to it.

I got to travel in Europe quite a bit working for a company called Quatro for five years, laying strong rubber flooring in upmarket stables. I travelled all over the place with that job; Geneva, Switzerland, France and Ireland. I laid stable flooring for Sheik Mohammed of Fly Emirates and for Zara Phillips. That's totally another world! We did the Horse Guards' stables in London too.

What does a perfect day look like to you?

Trail riding round the Lakes or in North Wales where the landscape is fantastic. Then I'd come home to a roast beef dinner and curl up on the settee with Claire and the girls and watch a film.

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

Not a world event, but I'd like to see the wheelbarrow races that used to happen in Bentham start up again – one person or child in the barrow, the other pushing. There used to be such a lot of stuff like that happening here, bike races, galas etc. and it'd be great if they could happen again.



Photo by Jon Brook of Bentham Imaging

I would love to have seen 'Beautiful South' when they were in their heyday and Barry Manilow, who I really rate.

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

The attacks on the Twin Towers in 2001, of course. It's the first world event I really remember. I associate it with the bus ride to school that day.

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

I've met a big variety of people in my life who, between them, have taught me everything I know. We only grow by learning from the best bits of the people we meet on the way. I learnt a lot from my grandad who farmed at Holly Platt farm, near Clapham. I spent a lot of time there as a kid, farming, fishing, hunting and playing.

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

I'd build some kind of outdoor activity centre. Kids today spend too much time looking at screens. We were never in the house as children: we were out having adventures. So, I'd build somewhere where you could let youngsters go and do slightly dangerous stuff, riding cross-country bikes, building dens; some kind of huge adventure playground where they could learn about weighing up risks. It's the only way to learn. I remember us building a tree house that had four storeys with a settee in it that we hoisted up with ropes: that kind of stuff!

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

Probably shovelling up spillages from under the conveyor belt at Ingleton quarry at night when I was a young man. But I was with mates, and we all got stuck in, so it wasn't that bad.

...../continued on page 4

...../continued from page 3

Tearing down old ceilings and pulling up smelly carpets is never great. Also ripping up old, rotten stable flooring for Quatro could be unpleasant, but not awful. One day, working for them, I was drilling some capping and had forgotten my ear defenders, so I stuffed some tissues into my ears. A lady in a head scarf appeared beside me and asked how it was going. I said it was a right pain, but we'd get there and got back to work. Someone came and told me a few minutes later it was Princess Anne. Of course, it was because that was Zara Phillips' place! I'm not well up on the royals, as you can tell.

What is your most treasured possession?

Claire and my girls are what's most precious in my life, but they aren't possessions, of course. Talking about objects, it would be my Enduro motorbike. It's road legal, so I can just set off from home and go and ride somewhere out in the wilds, switch my brain off and de-stress.

How do you relax?

Riding cross country on my motorbike and going fishing. We have a boat and go fishing on Lake Windermere sometimes, as well as more locally.

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

A gamekeeper. 'Danny the Champion of the World' was my favourite book and film. I absolutely love that country way of life.

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

As I've said, 'Danny the Champion of the World' is my favourite film ever. I went to see 'South' recently (what's left of the 'Beautiful South' band) at Settle and really enjoyed that. I must get to see Ocker and his band doing their 'Beautiful South' stuff one of these days!

Don't forget the BN deadline date is 12th November for the December edition

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Dates: Friday 15th November and Saturday 16th November

Venue: Bentham Town Hall

Time: 7.30pm

Tickets price £10 (Adults only) for sale online by visiting:

www.ticketsource.co.uk/bentham-theatre-group

N.B: The play contains adult themes and language some may find offensive.





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Business of Bentham – Jowett Wagons

This month, for the second in BN's 'Business of Bentham' feature spotlighting local businesses, we visited Jowett Wagons. The workshops for Jowett Wagons are tucked away on Low Bentham Road, where three generations of master craftsmen produce the finest quality, exquisitely decorated bow top wagons, drays and associated items.

How long ago did Philip Jowett establish the business?

I left school in Bradford at 16 and became an apprentice joiner. Having learned my craft, I began working for himself and as the years went by, have been joined in the business by my son and grandsons.

Why is your business based in Bentham?

We had family connections in Wharfe, so visited this area regularly. As a family we knew that Bentham offered what we needed: countryside, and enough space to live and work all together. "You can get anything you need in Bentham, and often cheaper than elsewhere, it's a great working town." The family moved to Bentham in 1994 and in the last 30 years we have made it our home and a base from which we can carry on this unique business.

What work do you do here?

You can see that all our workshops are filled with a variety of vehicles at varying stages of development. Everything is hand-crafted from scratch on site, often using original heritage tools. Only the axles, springs and rubber for the wheels are bought in. The wood used, mainly ash and oak, is sourced as locally as possible, from specialist suppliers and as each of our craftsman's way of carving is slightly different, if one man starts the carving on a wagon, then they alone finish it. A wagon can take 12 months





Photos by Jon Brook of Bentham Imaging

from beginning to end. The finishing touches to each individually crafted wagon are intricately hand-painted designs with gold leaf decoration. Each one is unique.

How many people work here alongside Philip?

This is a 5-man 3-generation business. Me, my son David and grandsons David (junior), Joby (the painter) and Tom.

How do you sell what you make?

We have been working fulltime on wagons for a very long time, and people who need us find us by word of mouth. Our reputation is well-known. There's a wagon we've just had back for a small repair on the carved exterior – we made it 30 years ago and it's been in regular use since, and this is the only repair it has needed. That speaks for the quality of workmanship we achieve. We have enough on our order book for about 5 years of work, so we are always kept busy. We also sell wagon wheels and are just preparing a shipment for a customer in Australia. We can do repairs too, so if there's a wagon in the area which has a problem, maybe on its way to Appleby Fair, we can help with that.

Could you sum up your business ethos in a few words?

Quality. Craftsmanship. Integrity. Personal service.

What are your future plans?

We carry on doing what we do, nice and quiet, that's how we like it.

Photos by Jon Brook of Bentham Imaging

With thanks for some details to Cath Muldowney's article in 'Travellers Times' issue 74

If you would like your business to be included as one of the twelve to be featured, please contact Councillor Mark Paige (mark.paige@benthamtowncouncil.co.uk).

Bentham Town Council meeting Monday 7th October

(This month Annie Neligan volunteered to be our guest reporter, so if anyone else fancies doing this occasionally on behalf of Bentham News, please let us know)

General report by Annie Neligan on issues discussed. Details will be found in the official minutes posted on the BTC website <https://www.benthamtowncouncil.co.uk/minutes/>

Present: Councillors Adams, Taylor, Hill, Marshall, Stannard and Town Clerk Claire Burrow

Apologies: Councillors Ryan, Paige and Burton. Also, County Councillor Ireton.

Four members of the public were present, who raised issues of:

The difficulty of hearing everything said at meetings while recognising the need for councillors to have good discussions with each other. The council came back to this later in the meeting, agreeing to address it initially by speaking more clearly and recognising that the arrangement of seating means that some speakers will be heard more clearly than others.

The bizarre NYC regulation that a **20-mph limit** will only be imposed if average current speeds are found to be less than 24 mph and suggesting instead that the higher the speeds, the more the limit is needed. During the meeting councillors announced that the week of data collecting was finishing today and that once the results are in, they will take appropriate action.

Bus travel: David Ireton had reported that bus number 582, currently running to Hornby on Wednesdays, will in addition do a second run on Thursdays, same time, same route. The additional service is being supported by NYC.

Planning applications:

No objections were raised to the following applications:

- to vary conditions at Wenning View, Low Bentham Road;
- to divert footpath at Waterscale, Greystonegill Lane, a short diversion necessitated by approved construction of a new agricultural building;
- replacement of timber window and door frames at Woodside Barn, Back Lane, Low Bentham.

Financial matters covering current bank balance (£126,332.31), direct debits, salary payments and clerk's additional hours were all agreed.

Town Hall: After a tour of the building by the Buildings Committee, several issues had been identified, some of which (e.g. automatic doors and the lift) have already been fixed. The assessor is satisfied that all's well after a **fire inspection** completed. A lengthy discussion about who has **keys** to allow access to the building and the clerk's office if she is absent appeared to leave councillors satisfied that the issue has been resolved. It was agreed that £500 should be allocated to **Christmas decorations** this year – with the chair emphasising that this need not all be spent. There's been a request for a **projector** to be available to users of the Town Hall. Should it be fixed or roving? It was agreed that prices should be explored, and a request put to January's precept budget.

Other matters: Lighting: Cleveland Square lighting is installed but not working – David Ireton to be asked to report to NYC. Duke Street lighting now working. Cross Lane, Low Bentham: mystery of the new but unconnected lights, the missing pole, the absent Electricity Northwest, who should be contacting them (NYC or BTC). We were reassured that the mayor would 'do some digging'.

Calendar: 80 pieces of **artwork** had been submitted and choosing 13 for the calendar had been tough. Agreed that they were well worth A4 rather than A5 size calendar and 200 copies will be ordered, costing around £1,000. Later, Councillor Hill suggested that all 80 of the artworks be displayed in some way in the Town Hall to brighten it up, or perhaps elsewhere in town. He is going to investigate what is practicable.

Upgrades to BTC domain and website were agreed.

D-day events for 8th May 2025: to have a beacon lit at Big Stone, depending on the agreement of the landowner. A new wreath is to be purchased for Remembrance Day.

Roads: Ask NYC Highways to clean out drains following tarmacking on Main Street. Send query to NYC Highways following unsatisfactory work on Mount Pleasant, wondering if this is 'work in progress'?

Cemetery extension: Councillor Marshall to get a group of councillors together with Open Spaces committee to look at options, issues of access and land ownership, costings, and report back.

There are vacancies for **trustees for the Almshouses** – anyone interested contact Emma Greenep (07971-830257).

Councillor activity:

When councillors resign from the council it was suggested that there should be **exit interviews**. The Chair said it was important to understand why the councillors had left. After discussion it was agreed the opportunity should be made available with a questionnaire which could be anonymous/in confidence and not compulsory.

Policies covering matters such as lone working, equality and diversity, disciplinary and grievance, were accepted.

Membership of **inquire** committees (1 or 2?) and missing representatives to community groups were noted in the light of recent resignations, and efforts to fill vacancies from current councillors to be made.

A **networking event** with councillors from across Yorkshire was reported to have been useful and an opportunity to collect important nuggets of information, such as that **public toilets** do not have to pay rates.

Update from Angus Fire: A letter was received on October 2nd after a meeting with the Town Council to consider the consultants' report. They refer to a programme of alleviation of the results of the pollution which will take several years and to identifying sites where further testing needed. The next testing is to be of the River Wenning. They plan future work with specialist environmental consultants and the Environment Agency and the installation of a wastewater treatment plant.

Angus will continue providing information on their microsite <https://www.derbs.co.uk/> and are committed to working with the community and acknowledge that people living in Bentham and visiting the town may have been personally affected. The councillors seemed happy with the progress reported and didn't discuss how this might be reported to Bentham people.

Please see Editorial Note at the end.

Bentham Business Boost update: The launch meeting went well; various businesses are applying for grants to improve their shopfronts in Main Street and Station Road; Bentham News has already launched its Spotlight on Bentham Businesses by interviewing Beaver Tree Surgeons.

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Local Plan: A whole new plan must be launched since the merging of Craven into North Yorkshire, repeating the process of consultation e.g. with landowners about possible development sites.

Next Full Town Council Meeting is Monday 4th November, and members of the public are invited to attend.

Editorial Note: Bentham News receives regular articles about the ongoing situation involving the presence of PFAS in Bentham and we wish to keep readers consistently informed. This month we have been sent updates from Angus Fire and an article from the Cleaner Bentham Group.

The Angus Fire update mentions a meeting with the Town Council on 17th September and several other meetings with residents directly affected by the testing. Details of these meetings and test results can be found on the microsite www.derbs.co.uk

The **Cleaner Bentham Group** have had a visit from an Italian environmental anthropologist detailing his research into how communities in the Veneto region of Italy have responded to PFAS contamination in their area.

Both these articles can be viewed, in full, on www.thebenthamnews.co.uk

Bentham Business Boost Programme

By Laura Farthing

Thank you to all those who attended the Bentham Business Boost launch event on 17th September. The event was a great success with 26 individuals attending representing 18 businesses. If you would like to get involved with the Bentham Business Boost programme or seek further information, please email townclerk@benthamtowncouncil.co.uk. The Bentham Business Boost programme has received £20,000 from the UK Government through the UK Shared Prosperity Fund, administered through North Yorkshire Council.

There are still opportunities to be featured in Bentham News as a 'Business of Bentham.' If interested, please email townclerk@benthamtowncouncil.co.uk. More information on training and workshops which will be free for local businesses will be available soon.

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Our Dalesbred Sheep

By Pam Woof

The Dalesbred Sheep Association recently held their 93rd Annual Sales of breeding rams, ewes and lambs at Bentham Auction Mart.

The breed originated from a Swaledale crossed with a Scottish Blackface over a century ago. In 1925 the 'Dalesbred Breeders' split from the Swaledale and Dalesbred Society, but it was not until 30th May 1934 that the 'Dalesbred Sheep Breeders Society' held its first Annual Meeting in Hellifield. The Dalesbred is classed as an indigenous breed in the UK and are found mostly on the Yorkshire Dales, North Lancashire Pennines and the South Cumbrian Fells.

To the non-farmers amongst us, the key features that distinguish this handsome sheep from other breeds are: a well-developed head which is black with curved horns, a small white patch each side of the nostrils and a grey nose. The legs are black and white. The rams have large, curled horns.

Dalesbred sheep are long-lived and hardy, so the ewes are capable of rearing strong lambs for many years, even in harsh environments. Ewes are usually kept for breeding on the farm for 3 to 4 years before being sold widely across the UK to produce prime lambs for the meat industry. Many will be put to a 'Teeswater' ram to produce 'Masham' lambs, or the 'Blue faced Leicester' ram to produce the 'Mule', both of which are widely used to produce fat lambs for the table and for breeding. (You can find out more at www.dalesbredsheep.co.uk).

Rams can reach a very high price if the quality is good! At Bentham Auction Mart this year, the best ewes sold for £320 each but the top shearling ram sold for £11,000. How's that for gender inequality!? Bentham Auction Mart handles most UK sales of Dalesbred sheep and lambs. We may be a small town tucked away on the edge of the Yorkshire Dales, but this is another key fact that makes Bentham special!

Photo of a Dalesbred ram at Bentham Auction Mart by Jon Brook of Bentham Imaging





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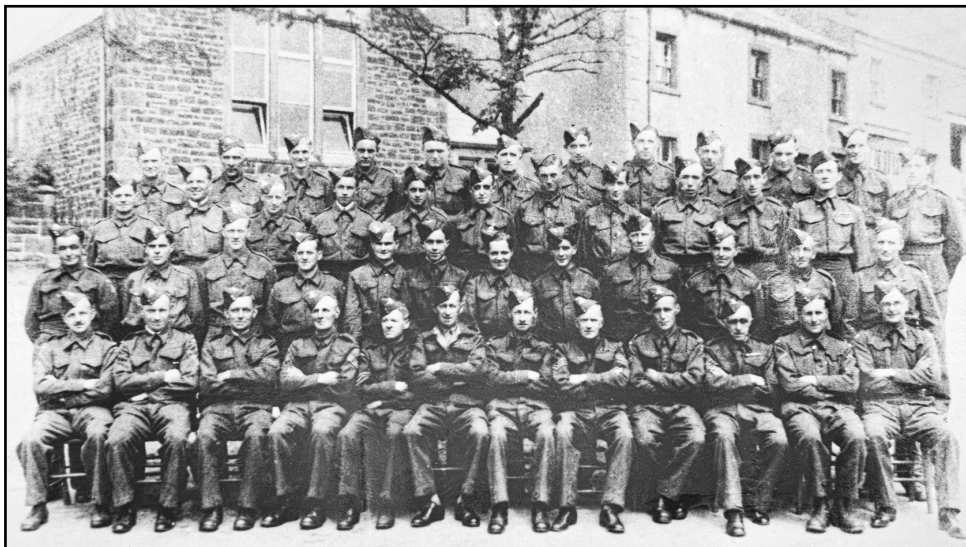
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Lest We Forget - Bentham of Yesterday

Comments and observations by Allan Hartley

At this time of year, for Armistice Day I would normally write about the 60 men who served and died during the First World War. However, a chance photograph which has surfaced from David Johnson's extensive archive held in trust by Bentham Community Library shows a large group of uniformed men assembled at School Hill during the Second World War. These men were Bentham's Home Guard army (derogatively named 'Dads Army') charged with the security and the last point defence of our town should we be invaded by Germany. Their task was to secure all the main points of access and egress around Bentham (other towns did the same) when at the time it should be remembered that during the latter stages of 1940, with Germany at the height of its military power, there was a very real risk of invasion. Fortunately, the Royal Air Force had other ideas, successfully defeating the German Luftwaffe during the Battle of Britain.

From inspection, most of the men, particularly those seated have stripes for their rank of Corporal or Sergeants, and from their medal ribbons, all would have been veterans of the First World War with some in the ranks behind them also with medal ribbons would also be veterans of that war.

And finally, we should remember the 20 Bentham men who went before them who fought in the Second World War and didn't come home. **We Will Remember Them.**

Photograph courtesy of David Johnson and Bentham Community Library



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Memories of Wenning Badminton Club at the Town Hall, High Bentham

By Ian Wood in conjunction with Kathleen Cashmore (née Redhead)

My most vivid memories are from learning to play Badminton within the Junior section of Wenning Badminton Club in the 1960s and 70s. Together with my siblings and my mother and father, Wenning Badminton Club gave all my family a lifelong love of the game and provided friendships for me that have lasted for over 60 years.

Frannie Forster, who had a newsagent's and toyshop in Station Road, had founded and been involved with Wenning BC and Evening Institute for the benefit of the local community after World War II. After approximately 20 years, he wished to retire and approached badminton players and coaches, Desmond and Irene Redhead from Ingleton (*see photo page 15*), to ask if they would support local youngsters to play and enjoy the sport of badminton.

By the late 1960s, there were already some older teenagers playing competitively for Wenning Badminton Club in the Lancaster and Morecambe and the Craven Badminton Leagues and the family members of Howson, Metcalfe, Newhouse, Hogg, Carr, Taylor, Huck, Capstick and Marshall helped Desmond and Irene promote badminton to other locals in the area.

Junior club nights began to take place every Saturday evening from 7pm on the first floor of the Town Hall, High Bentham. The expensive Badminton Court had to be rolled out from a wide box in front of the stage where it was housed and the net posts and nets erected before play could begin - the room was only big enough for this one court and the players also had to contend with the low roof beams.

When I began attending on Saturday nights, the Junior club had become so popular, there could be anywhere between 30 to 45 juniors turn up each week. With this many youngsters in the room it was, as you can imagine, very noisy but great fun.

Desmond maintained order with his booming voice and it was noted in an article that was published in the national magazine "The Badminton Gazette" that he was referred to as "Des - The Dictator".

It was only right that to maintain order with so many young people in the room, he had to be strict.

Games were fast and furious with 4 players on court playing for a timed 6 minutes only, so that all the juniors were kept busy and learned how to score correctly. There was just enough room for 2 more to practice at the entrance door end and 2 more practising at the stage end playing all sorts of made-up games involving hitting the plastic shuttlecocks in some way or another!

The local community also helped as, when the juniors had some down time, they were allowed frequent visits to the local sweet shop which stayed open late, or the local chip shop for refuelling.

Occasionally, Desmond would split everyone into 2 teams on either side of the net - you had to play a shot and then run clockwise round to the back of the team on the other side. Anyone making a mistake had to sit down and the game would continue until there was a 'last man standing'. At the end of the evening there was a competitive singles ladder played in 3 divisions with games to 5 points and the winner stayed on to challenge the next higher opponent on that division's ladder. Once you lost, it was time to go home to bed. The higher you were on the singles ladder meant that it was sometimes nearly midnight before that week's champion emerged. The competition was fierce! At the end of the evening, the expensive badminton court had to be rolled up and put back into the wide box in front of the stage and the net posts and nets put away until the next Saturday night.

It was not long before this blossoming Junior club started to spread its wings as the most able players were entered into English Schools competitions in Yorkshire, Lancashire, Cumbria and then further south. Christine Ralston and Anne Staveley were the first two who not only entered but started to win those competitions. They were then selected to represent Lancashire Schools and on one occasion travelled with other team members to the Isle of Man and won 12-0. They flew out to Douglas at an air fare cost of £4 and 5 shillings each!

On one occasion in April 1967, Desmond had arranged for Christine and Anne together with other members of the Wenning Junior Club to enter the Lancashire County Junior U/18 Championships and they all travelled to Lytham. They all played well and won lots of their matches in the singles and doubles but in the mixed doubles, the girl partner of the top boy player, Alan Harkness from Southport, did not turn up to play. Desmond suggested the only spare girl in the hall was his 10-year-old daughter Kathleen, who had just started to learn badminton at the Wenning Club. Alan was eventually persuaded,



reluctantly, to play in the mixed doubles with this 10-year-old beginner.

Alan won the boys singles, then won the boys doubles and then remarkably won the mixed doubles with 10-year-old Kathleen Redhead. **This result catapulted Wenning Junior Badminton Club into instant stardom.**

The Junior Club went from strength to strength during the 1960s and 70s as more and more local families sent their children to learn to play badminton on a Saturday night, including mine:- Wood, Armstrong, Skeats, Clapham, Russell, Rosier, Chappell, Redhead, Scott, Parker, Harrison, Leak, Williams, Wilcock, King, Cowgill, Pedder, Jackson, Slinger, Lister, Seggar and many more.

As well as singles successes, many doubles and mixed doubles partnerships emerged from these families to play in Junior County teams and competitions.

My partnership with Hugh Redhead was particularly successful, as was Paul Wood's successful with Gary Scott. Kathleen Redhead was successful with Hazel Scott, Susan Parker, Hugh Redhead and Paul Wood, and Catherine Wood did well with Lynva Russell.

The National Junior Badminton Championships were known as the Junior All-England and were held in Wimbledon, Surrey over the Christmas period each year for both U/15 and U/18 age groups. Members of Wenning Badminton Junior Club were successful at National Level in both age categories:

Paul Wood, Carl Wood and Gary Scott for Boys Singles

Kathleen Redhead for Girls Singles

Paul Wood and Gary Scott for Boys Doubles

Kathleen Redhead and Susan Parker for Girls Doubles

This then led to them being selected for Junior England in International Matches against Denmark, Scotland and Ireland and travelling to Europe for competitions.

Some Juniors, as I did, moved away from the area for either further education or work reasons but those who remained eventually became good enough to play in the Senior Teams of Wenning Badminton Club in the Lancaster and Morecambe and the Craven Badminton Leagues. Many of them also went on to be selected for their chosen Regions and Counties in Lancashire, Yorkshire or Cumbria.

Wenning Senior Badminton Club gradually became strong enough to have 4 full teams in the Lancaster and Morecambe District League which had been dominated by teams from Lancaster for decades. Wenning started challenging the Lancaster and surrounding teams in all divisions and went on to become Division 1 Champions. **For almost a decade, they remained unbeaten.**



Desmond's achievements were recognised when the Lancashire Evening Post coupled with Rothmans presented him with their "Services to Local Sport Award" (see photo page 16) for which he had been nominated by Wenning Badminton Club President/Chairman Bateman Marshall.

Success had been based on the hard work, coaching, love of the game and dedication to Wenning Badminton Club put in by Desmond and Irene Redhead but this remarkable achievement was also due to the unwavering support and time given by all the local families and their willing children. It was a magical moment in time and had done Bentham proud with its sporting achievements at both junior and senior levels having gained national recognition and admiration in the world of badminton.

But as in life, things change and over time Desmond and Irene's health deteriorated. The sport of badminton was slowly moving from its amateur status into the harsh reality of professionalism.

Many other life opportunities became available in the locality and of course, technology was beginning to take over in everyone's lives. Although many former players tried to keep both the Junior and Senior Clubs going for many years after those halcyon days, unfortunately the Town Hall had to finally bring down its curtain on Wenning Badminton Club in 2004, but the memories of those good times remain.

Photo on page 14 shows some of the juniors receiving coaching from Bobby Capstick of Ingleton who was one of the top players in the Seniors and played county badminton.

Left to right, Gary Scott, Paul Wood, Graham Skeats, Kathleen Redhead, Catherine Wood (half of her head), don't know who is behind Catherine, Hazel Scott, Jennifer Lister, Ian Wood (me), Lynda Armstrong, Barry Clapham, Lynva Russell and the coach Bobby Capstick.

November
classes



3 Peaks Yoga

Low Bentham ~ Hornby ~ Burton (tbc)



From 11th November 2024

LOW BENTHAM VI

MONDAY ~ Women's Yoga for all ~ 10am to 11am

WEDNESDAY ~ Mixed Rise & Shine ~ 7am to 8am

THURSDAY (from 28th) ~

Men's Foundations of Yoga ~ 6pm to 7pm

Mixed Yoga for all ~ 7pm to 8pm

HORNBY INSTITUTE

WEDNESDAY ~ Mixed Yoga for all ~ 12noon-1pm

FRIDAY ~ Mixed Rise & Shine ~ 7am to 8am

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Letters/People Page Messages/ Thanks/Notices

Dear Bentham News

I am in complete agreement with the many people who have commented that they would love to see Bentham looking its best. I feel sure a group effort supported by even small contributions of paint, hanging baskets/pots/plants or weekend afternoons to spruce things up, would work wonders in making the most of our actually very beautiful village.

However, I have been even more saddened by the increasingly dilapidated state of the 'Horse & Farrier' and rumours that it is being sold off for housing. Surely this is a travesty? The pub was not only a community focal point and a pleasant place for tourists to stop, but, with its extremely attractive front and character filled interior, an integral part of Bentham's aesthetic, internally as well as externally - a historical and architectural treasure. Do we really want to lose it? I was personally very upset to learn that the inside of the 'Black Bull' had changed from that of an ancient inn full of antique charm to a fairly modernised space some time ago, but at least it still looks fabulous on the outside.

No one would walk into the National Gallery and rip up even a single pencil doodle by Turner or Constable, yet countrywide our gorgeous world-renowned buildings are being sold off as if they don't matter. Burton-in-Lonsdale is saving their pub. Can't we do the same before it's too late?

Jane Crossley, High Bentham

Margaret Hutchinson

June, Linda and families wish to thank everyone for the lovely cards, flowers and kind words following the passing of Margaret. A special thank you to Jimmy and Tara of B&W Funerals, to Canon Peter Greenwood and the Golf Club for all their help and support.

Thank you to everyone who attended the Lakes Gospel Choir concert at Bentham Methodist Church. It was an uplifting evening and raised **£1185 for the Rosemere Cancer Foundation**. At the Harvest Thanksgiving service a cash collection raised **£253.00 for Farming Community Network**.



Bentham Christmas Lights committee would like to say a HUGE thank you, once again, to Gary Carter for choosing to donate **the fundraising efforts of £1,010** from the President's Day at Bentham Golf Course to the Bentham Christmas Lights Committee! Wow!!! We are blown away by the amount. Thank you so much to Gary and all involved for your continued support. The monies raised will go towards improving Bentham's Christmas Lights for future festive seasons.

Photo of Julia Abbotts, Gary Carter, Mark Paige and Pete Abbotts with the cheque, above.

Local Mencap Group (Bentham Ingleton and Burton)

By Liz Whitfield

On Saturday 21st September a group travelled by cars to The Matrix at Skipton for two games of bowling. Matthew and Chloe were the winners of the young people's games. The young people completed their games before the team of carers/committee members and were



happy to take over from them. Our trips are funded through the annual Coffee Morning so thank you to all who support this.

l-r, Sam, Sean, Jack, Chloe and Matthew at The Matrix in Skipton 10-pin bowling

Bentham of Yesterday:

Ancestry: Looking for relatives of James Lamb

Sifting through David Johnson's archive held in trust by Bentham Community Library, we are looking for relatives of James Lamb (1880-1937), Bentham Postman who resided at Oysterber in Low Bentham then later in High Bentham, though we don't know where. James was married to Annie Lamb, née Corby. Their daughter, Mildred Lamb, was born around 1919, later becoming Mildred Slater. Another relative we know of is their granddaughter, Dianne Watterton. James served throughout the First World War looking after horses in the aptly named Remount Service, returning to his work as a postman after the Armistice. James had a brother, George, who also served, sadly he was killed in France at Cambrai in 1917.

Any relative reading this who wants to know more about James and his family should get in touch with me via Bentham News.

*Many thanks, Allan Hartley,
Bentham Community Library
Archive Team*

Notice from Jimmy and Tara of Brown & Whittaker Independent Funeral Directors:

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We have a contributor who has excellent photos of the collapse of Kersey's garage front and the fire at the Horse and Farrier many years ago, and would like to publish them in the December BN as a historical record of Benthams Main Street businesses - but to make sense of them would need a few words about each event to go with the photos. If any reader can provide some words, please submit them to info@thebenthamnews.co.uk.

Lune Valley Swimming Pool

By Georgia Tazzyman

Christmas holiday: We will be open for most of the Christmas period excluding the 24th, 25th and 26th of December as well as the 1st of January. During this period, we will be offering a variety of swimming sessions such as Family Hire Sessions, Open Family Swims, Lane Swims, Splashing Tot sessions and much more! Our full Christmas timetable will be available on our website and Facebook Page towards the end of November.

Our annual Christmas Raffle will be returning from the 25th of November with some amazing prizes! Tickets will be available at the swimming pool reception desk from the 25th of November. All funds raised will go towards maintaining the swimming pool. For all pool enquiries, please contact Georgia or Scott on: 01524 805666.

Website: www.lunevalleypool.com

Facebook: Lune Valley Swimming Pool

Email: poolmanager@lunevalleypool.com

Direct line: (01524) 805666.


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Your Garden or Allotment in November

By Joyce Knapp

By November the temperature is likely to have dropped considerably, so as gardeners we need to suit the task to the prevailing weather conditions. On milder days, we can look at pruning apple and pear trees as they lose their leaves and move into dormancy. On established trees this task is relatively simple as we check the main branches (leaders) and aim to only remove any damaged/diseased wood and any facing the centre, leaving the rest to grow on to extend the overall reach of the tree. Any side-shoots (laterals) facing away from the centre of the tree can be left intact, whilst those facing inwards can be cut back to 4 buds thereby reducing congestion. When pruning blackcurrant bushes, we will need to use a completely different approach, removing 1/3 branches near ground level. By selecting the oldest stems (darkest wood) and making the cut just above an outward facing bud, we will be encouraging the plant to produce new growth which in turn will lead to increased cropping.



If we need a task to help warm us up after all that pruning, we can fork the soil lightly around raspberry canes, bringing to the surface any larvae and pupae of insect pests which will quickly attract any nearby robins who will be very grateful for a tasty meal. This is the kind of pest control preferred by us organic gardeners as we are avoiding the use of pesticides whilst also providing a natural high-energy food source for wild birds.

During November we are likely to see lots of fallen leaves in and around our gardens and these can be dealt with in a variety of ways. Firstly, any that fall onto bare soil around bushes and trees can simply be left in situ to rot down naturally, forming a layer of leaf-mould that will provide a slow-release food source for the plants over the coming year. Another good reason for doing this is to provide an over-winter home for many helpful creatures whilst also protecting the plants from any penetrating ground frosts. We may find it necessary to remove fallen leaves from hard surfaces such as drives and paths and these can be put into a leaf bin if we have space to accommodate one or sent as garden waste in the appropriate council bin.

One last note for this month is to check regularly any fruit and vegetables we may have in store - the old story of one bad apple that can soon rot the whole box comes to mind here.

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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.

**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/
BENTHAMYOUTHCLUB@GMAIL.COM/ OR FACEBOOK BENTHAM YOUTH CLUB.

Hip Joint's Retro Return

By The Hip Joint Team

Our next lunch-time event for the actively retired and friends, is on Friday 6th December at 12.30pm in The Victoria Institute, Low Bentham.

Let's get together for a seasonal festive party! Following our summer break, it's time to get together, catch up and feel the warmth from a Hip Joint winter gathering. A chance to relax, eat well, be entertained and absorb the atmosphere.

Entertainment: We start the season with a local band, 'The Little Things'. Come along and experience these talented singer/song writers and musicians. You will hear great favourites from the 60s and 70s as well as some material they have written.

Food: There will be delicious winter-warming dishes and wonderful home-made desserts.

Simple Booking: Tickets will be on sale on 16th November.

The cost is £12.50 plus a 15p ticket fee. Buy tickets by card or use PayPal. Go to www.trybooking.co.uk/DYXX.

If you have any queries, please email hipjointtickets@icloud.com.

There is the option of a £6 ticket if you are on a reduced income. If you have difficulty going online, please email hipjointbentham@gmail.com

'Hip Joint' is a community creation. The first tickets go to those who can help in some capacity. So, if you feel able to help, maybe in the kitchen or as a waiter or a cook, please email us.



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Exciting News from Longstaffe's Educational Foundation

By Liz Lister

We, the trustees of the Longstaffe's Educational Foundation, are excited to announce the return of our annual concert:

Nicola Mills – Opera for the People

Sunday 1st December, 3pm at Bentham Golf Club

With her down-to-earth Northern roots, Nicola has turned opera on its head. In this performance she will amaze us with her beautiful voice and stories of working-class life, from singing in some of Europe's finest opera houses to then taking opera to the streets. Admission will be by ticket only at £14.50 each. Tickets are available from Bentham Golf Club and Riverside Caravan Park or from any of our trustees. Advance booking is advisable.

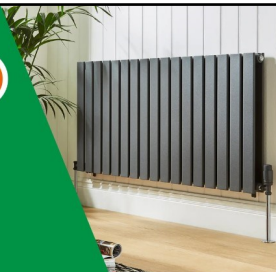
In other news, following the 2024 application process for our Longstaffe's Educational Foundation Awards, we are pleased to have been able to provide several young people with donations to support the funding of laptops, educational experiences, travel costs and course equipment.

With thanks to generous donations received in 2023 and 2024 and by our fundraising efforts at events such as this concert and our successful Yorkshire themed summer quiz back in August, we can continue to provide funds to the young people of High and Low Bentham up to the age of 25 years to assist them in their educational activities in years to come.

To find out more about the Longstaffe's Educational Foundation and what we do, please visit our website - www.longstaffeducationalfoundation.co.uk








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Events in November



Town Hall

Every Monday Indoor Bowling 1 - 4pm
Every Tuesday Blue Moose Dance 9.30am-12noon LH. Showcase Sat. 30th. BR 2pm
 Craft Club 10am - 12noon, WR
Every Wed, Stepping Stones 10 - 11:30am, BR.
 Pilates with Sally Horn 9.30am - 10.30am, LH
Every Sat., Gaming club, WR 6-10pm Starts 2nd Nov - Dungeons & dragons, Warhammer
 Sat 2nd Benthams Playing Fields Ceilidh 7pm
Sunday 17th 1.30 - 3.30pm Ali Baker Movement Dance
 Friday 15th & Saturday 16th - Theatre Group performances (StandUp) *see page 5*
 Saturday 30th - Blue Moose Dance showcase

Town Hall - Meetings

Monday 4th 7.30pm, LH
 Full Town Council Meeting (*pages 8 - 10*)
Thursday 14th Benthams Agricultural Show
 AGM WR 7.30pm (*page 30*)
Prostate Cancer Support Group Meeting
Thursday 14th 7.30pm LH Prostate & Cancer Support Group (Tim Stannard)
[E-mail - bayprostategroup@pm.me](mailto:bayprostategroup@pm.me)
Monday 18th 7.30pm, LH
 Finance Meeting
Wednesday 27th : 7pm, BR (*see page 45*)
 River Wenning Group talk: 'How can we protect our beautiful rivers and wildlife?'

Town Hall - Coffee Mornings



Saturday 10am - 12noon
9th - NSPCC
16th - Pet Rescue
23rd - Victoria Institute
30th - Benthams Agricultural Show

WI (*see pages 36/37*)



High Benthams - Thurs 7th, 7.30pm
Tatham Fells - Tuesday 12th, Old School
Low Benthams and District - Thurs 21st, 7pm, Victoria Institute.

Keeping Others Cosy (*see page 45*)

High Benthams Methodist Church, Station Road, Saturday 16th November 2 - 4pm

Footpath (*see page 41*)

For the November walks meet first at Lairgill for 9.30am except for that on the 21st, where we meet for 9am.
 Wednesday 6th, Kate Rowe, 51402, West Windermere Way, 7 miles.
 Saturday 16th, David Longton, 61838, Cockerham to Glasson, 9 miles.
 Thursday 21st, Sandra and Bryn Craggs, 62416, Askrigg, 7 miles.
 Wednesday 27th, Valerie Eccles and Mary Pickstone, 07979-607191, 6 miles.

Benthams Pantry Club (*see page 42*)

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.

Benthams Fire Station

Benthams & District Dementia Friendly Community Breakfast Club
 Thursday 7th & 21st at 10am

Benthams Golf Club

Every Friday 11am - 2pm, Age Concern
 Benthams Friday Lunch Club
 1st, 8th, 15th, 22nd & 29th

Benthams Youth Club - Tuesdays

Methodist Church
 Juniors age 7 - 11 (Yr6) - 3.45pm to 5.45pm
 Seniors 11+ (Yr7) - 6.15pm to 8.15pm.
benthamyouthclub@gmail.com *see Facebook*

Methodist Church Toddle-In

Monday 4th, 11th, 18th and 25th 10 - 11.30am
 For parents/carers of children from birth to school age. £2 per family includes drinks and refreshments.

Ewecross Historical Society

Monday 25th November 7.30pm at High Benthams Methodist Church, Lee Cartledge: *Burton Potters*. Visitors welcome: £3

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

Every Tuesday

4 - 9.30pm Helen Howard school of dance

Term time

Every Wednesday

9am - 12.30pm Office open Enquiries/
Bookings

10am - 12pm Post Office Services

12 - 2pm Community Link Lunch

4 - 7.15pm Helen Howard school of dance

Term time

Every Friday

10am - 12noon Post Office Services

Every Sunday

11am - 12.30pm Cornerstone Church Services

Thursday November 21st

Low Bentham Women's Institute

SPECIAL EVENT

Saturday 23rd November 10am

Coffee Morning at High Bentham Town Hall

We have a temporary phone number at the
moment 02039579186

Due to staffing issues we will have no Post
Office Services in November

Burton Film Club are showing 'One
Life' on Saturday 16th of November in
the Village Hall. Doors open 7pm. £5 tickets
available on the door.

**Austwick Field and Local History
Society** has a programme of evening
talks, held in the village hall at 7.30pm
on the third Wednesday of each month,
except December, when it will be on the
second Wednesday. Visitors are
welcome.

November 20th's meeting will be
preceded by a short AGM, before Sarah
Lister speaks about **Yorkshire Navvies**,
and in **December 11th's** meeting David
Johnson will talk about **lime kilns**.
£3 each meeting. Annual individual
membership: £10.

Pioneer Projects - Looking Well

Studios (unless otherwise stated)

Every Monday Meet Lairgill carpark 9:20am
Health Walks for Women

Every Monday 10:30am to 12:30pm, Making
Connections Dementia Group

Every Tuesday 10:30am to 12:30pm, Creative
Community Hub

Every Tuesday 11:45am to 1pm, Creative
Writing Group, Bentham Library and Zoom

Tuesday 12th November 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 - 4.45pm Lego Club,
Bentham Library

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

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

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

As you may have read in the September
Bentham News, the Creative Writing Group
on Tuesdays has space for more writers of any
genre. It's a lovely, relaxed and positive group
– do give it a try if you're interested.

*For more info and to join any of the above groups
please contact:-*

015242 62672 or office@pioneerprojects.org.uk

Facebook and Instagram - Pioneer Projects -
Celebratory Arts Ltd

Bentham Community Library (p43)

Library Telephone: 01609 534533

Library Email: library@pioneerprojects.org.uk

Monday 2:30pm - 5:00pm

Wednesday 10:00am - 2:00pm

Friday 2:30pm - 4.20pm

Saturday 10:00am - 12:noon

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News from the Fells - Thanks to Ann Dawson, the Harvest and a Wonderful Concert

By Helen Wilkinson

On 29th September a Benefice service was held at St Peter's, Leck. At the end of the service the congregation expressed a heartfelt thank you to Ann Dawson for all the work she has done for the Benefice of East Lonsdale. Ann has led services, organised rotas and many other tasks for several years. She was presented with a reading lamp, books and a bouquet of flowers.

Harvest Praise was led by Peter Osborne and the following evening a sale of the produce was held in the Old School. Stephen Middleton took on the role of auctioneer, fortunately having only one marrow to sell! The fiercest bidding was for a bale of hay that had been filling the Old School with a lovely scent of summer throughout the evening. Some harvest gifts were donated to the Bentham Pantry and the proceeds of the sale will be shared between them and the church.

The school polytunnel and garden have had a good tidy ready for the winter (*see photo by Julie Blacow*). Sadly, although we managed to grow a large watermelon plant, it did not produce a watermelon. An overgrown tree has now been cut back and maybe with a bit more sunshine next year we will be more successful. The rabbits found a way in through the fence and munched on the sunflowers, but a colourful bee garden did very well as did the juicy tomatoes in the polytunnel.

On an evening when the first icy wind was picking leaves off the trees and rattling the doors, we had our autumn 'Music in the Fells' concert. Cocooned in the warm church, 'K Shoes Male Voice Choir' sang a varied programme with quiet thoughtful pieces, the rousing rhythms of sea shanties and musicals and some classical pieces. The nineteen voices, accompanied by a keyboard, filled the church with a wonderful sound.

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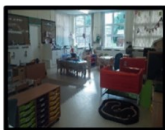
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A Heartbreaking Tale

By Sue Arnott www.benthampetrescue.org.uk

At Bentham and District Pet Rescue, we're used to sad stories and pets that are not in the best of health. But the poor creature that came into our care a few weeks ago was truly heartbreaking.

Walking along Grasmere Drive one Sunday morning, a kind passer-by found a small cat crouched in the road. Not a road traffic casualty this time but a cat collapsed and unable to stagger any further. A call to our charity led to us taking her in that morning. Seeing the state she was in meant another call to Dalehead Vets and to us rushing her to their Settle surgery for emergency treatment. I have never seen a cat so emaciated, so dehydrated and with a coat so full of fleas, poor thing. Yet she managed to purr as I tried to help her.

We don't know where she came from as no-one reported her missing and she wasn't microchipped. But our guess is that she had been shut indoors, somewhere nearby, without food or water for quite a long time. Perhaps in a shed? A garage? Perhaps as a consequence of her owner becoming seriously ill and unable to care for her. We'll probably never know. But it does remind us how easy it can be to miss the signs of an animal in need. Sadly, we weren't in time to help this desperate little cat. She had complete organ failure and was put to sleep the next morning. We called her 'Mini'.

This is why we raise funds to carry on the work we do. Why not come along to our **coffee morning in the Town Hall in High Bentham on 16th November** and support us. Or buy our Christmas cards from the Post Office. It all helps - thanks.



Healthy Pet Club

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150th Bentham Agricultural Show – A Great Success

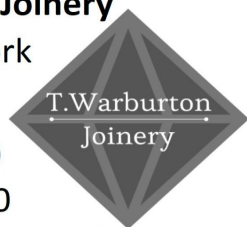
By Janet Greenwood - Show Secretary Secretary: benthamshow@hotmail.com

We had a fantastic day on Saturday 7th September celebrating the 150th Bentham Agricultural Show. Thank you to all the exhibitors, judges, trade stands, craft stalls and visitors who came along to support us. Thank you to the Bentham Auction Mart Directors for their generosity in allowing us to use the Auction once again for the show and thanks to the staff who helped us prepare and tidy up. A special mention goes to our president, Mr John Whitfield and his wife Lisa, who did a fabulous job judging a variety of classes: cakes, champion sheep, vintage and trade stands.

Bentham Agricultural Show is looking for new volunteers and committee members to ensure the show continues to be a success in the future. You don't need to be from an agricultural background. Please contact the secretary or join us at the AGM for more information. Bentham Agricultural Show's AGM is provisionally booked for **Thursday 14th November, 7.30pm in the Wenningdale Room, Town Hall**. Please check our Facebook page or contact the secretary for a confirmed date.

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New Bank Account for 'The Bentham News CIC'

Following our article in the May BN when we explained the change of status of Bentham News to become a CIC – Community Interest Company – we have now completed the opening of a new company bank account with the Co-op Bank. Please see details right...

Whilst the old Barclays account won't be closed until the New Year, please make payments from now on into the new Co-op Bank account. Changing payment details also applies to our kind and generous readers who have set up standing orders to BN. We are extremely grateful for the support you continue to give us; it makes a massive difference.



NEW BANK DETAILS

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Bentham Primary School Children Involved in Everything from Climbing Ingleborough to Making Chocolates

By Mrs C Pearson, Headteacher

The shorter, colder autumn days have not stopped children at school from enjoying lots of outdoor activities, going on educational visits, or taking part in sporting events. Unfortunately, the weather did manage to impact our Year 4 children from venturing to the top of **Pen-y-Ghent** during September, with last minute arrangements made instead for children to explore the nature trail in Clapham and visit Ingleborough Show Cave. Despite the very wet weather, there were no complaints from children, and we are proud of how they adapted and showed resilience. Later the same week, children in Year 5 were successful in their bid to walk up Pen-y-Ghent, with children in Year 6 facing the challenge of conquering **Ingleborough**. Again, all our children were wonderful, and successfully reach the top! We have more outdoor adventurous activities planned for the spring and summer terms. We have also organised several visits for children in all classes to Bentham Library over the coming weeks.

During October children in our Fox and Owl classes will be visiting Tatton Park in Cheshire to take part in series of workshops about the **Stone, Bronze and Iron Age**, which will support children with their classroom learning. In early November, it will be the turn of children in Rabbit and Badger Class to take their learning about the Stone, Bronze and Iron Age out of the classroom when they visit Herd Farm in Leeds.

We continue to promote participation in **sporting events** and recently teams of children have represented the school in both cluster football and netball events. Our oldest children in Owl Class have been enjoying weekly swimming lessons at Settle Swimming Pool and next term it will be the turn of Fox Class.

As a Headteacher it is always lovely to pop into classrooms and see what children are learning. Our youngest children in **Butterfly Class** have recently been busy starting their Phonics, as well as showcasing their artistic talents and creating their own self-portraits. When the sun was shining, children made the most of our outdoor EYFS area and enjoyed washing some socks and practising pairing them up. In **Hedgehog Class** children have been setting up a weather recording station. They have also enjoyed their class book 'Milly and the Super School Day', and looking at this has led them to think about what super-powers they would like. **Rabbit Class** has been busy investigating what material would be best for blocking out sunlight and have also started learning some Spanish. **Badger Class** has created some harvest-themed masterpieces, and in English have been improving their sentences by using exciting verbs and nouns and learning about different countries around the world and global trade. **Fox Class** has participated in multi-skills in PE, involving lots of balancing and co-ordination skills and in science they been looking at rocks, evolution and inheritance. Finally, our oldest children in **Owl Class** have been happily making some home-made chocolates from Cocoa Bean to final product! The smells wafting down the corridor were delightful! Thank you to 'The FIG Tree' for leading this wonderful workshop.



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Churches Together

By Canon Peter Greenwood, Bentham Parish Church,
The Church of England



When my adult son, Chris, died a few years ago, one of the things which gave me comfort was remembering the words of the poet Rumi. Rumi composed poetry in Persian 800 or so years ago. Lots of his words have been rendered into contemporary English by the American poet Coleman Barks. Reading Rumi is a bit like panning for gold - suddenly amongst all the stone, something flashes gold for you. These words flashed gold for me.

"Stop the words now. Open the window in the centre of your chest, let the spirits fly in and out."

"Ave is the salve that will heal our eyes, and keen, constant listening. Stay out in the open like a date palm lifting its arms. Don't bore mouse-holes in the ground, arguing inside doctrinal labyrinths."

"The mystery does not get clearer by repeating the question, nor is it bought by going to amazing places. Until you've kept your eyes and your wanting still for fifty years, you don't begin to cross over from confusion."

"There comes a time when nothing is meaningful except surrendering to love, do it."

"When I die, I'm not leaving, I'm arriving, at eternal love."

November is a traditional month for remembering those whom we've loved and who've died. At the beginning of the month there are All Saints and All Souls days, the other side of the coin from Hallowe'en; and then there's Remembrance Day and Armistice Day. If this year, there is a sadness in your remembering (and why shouldn't there be?) I pray that there may be comfort too.

All Bentham's churches are there for us all, God bless.

Remembrance Services at St John's Parish Church

By Libby Wheildon

November is the month of Remembrance, and we mark it with three special services during the month. The first takes place on **November 3rd at 10.30am**. This service is our 'In Loving Memory' service where we come together to remember those we have loved and lost. Our Remembrance Day Service takes place on **November 10th at 10.30am** and on **Monday November 11th** all the churches in Bentham meet at the War Memorial on School Hill for a special service beginning at 10.55am in preparation for the two minutes' silence at 11am. Everyone is welcome at all three services.

Thank you to everyone who came to our 'Quiz and Curry' night on Friday 11th October. With 10 teams competing to win the quiz, we enjoyed several rounds of questions with a delicious curry supper in between. Helped by a mention on Vernon Kay's Radio 2 show on the morning of the 11th, the Victoria Institute was packed, and we raised a wonderful £525 to go towards the running costs of the church.

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High Bentham

By Jan Stuiver

At the October meeting of High Bentham WI we had our annual general meeting, followed by a delicious pie and peas supper, provided by Simply Delicious, and a fun quiz.

Our next meeting will be on Thursday 7th November, when a representative from the River Wenning Group will be telling us about what they have been doing over the last 12 months and what they hope to achieve in the future. Members of the public will be very welcome to join us if they wish. Our last meeting of the year will be our annual Christmas Dinner on Thursday 5th December. We would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who attended our coffee morning on Saturday 19th October.



Low Bentham and District

By Sue Fitzsimmons

Our speaker for September was Rachel Benson from Broadrake Barn, Chapel-le-Dale. The title of her talk was "New life for a Dales Barn", which was

illustrated beautifully throughout with photos and slow motion videos, taken by Rachel and which captured the changing landscape, renovation of the barn and the visiting wildlife, and, through sheer hard work and determination, their vision to enhance this area of outstanding beauty, increase the biodiversity even further and share it with others, became real. Dating back to the 17th century Broadrake is a former farm in the Yorkshire Dales National Park, lying at the foot of Whernside. Rachel and her husband moved here from Harrogate in 2011 and soon, with assistance from the Woodland Trust, planted the field behind the house with 600 native trees. A wildlife pond has been created and a wildflower meadow has been gradually established. The old barn attached to the house has been converted to form bunkhouse accommodation for groups or individuals and they also bring in experienced tutors to run several craft workshops throughout the year such as blacksmithing, scything and willow basket making. It is no wonder that people come back to this haven time and time again.

The competition for a picture of Ingleborough was won by Sheila Brown. The Chat and Craft Day was held at Jennifer Watkinson's home and a lovely relaxing few hours and luncheon were had. Four of our members had a very enjoyable trip to Liverpool on a fine day, and an entertaining guide described the sights as they toured the city on an open-topped tour bus. This was followed by a walk around the Albert Dock area, popping into some of the independent shops and enjoying a tasty lunch in one of the many eateries along the quayside. Reminders of the 'fab four' were seen along the way and, as a grand cruise liner was in dock, our members ambled up to see if there was a chance of stowing away. More likely they'd be taking a 'Ferry across the Mersey'!

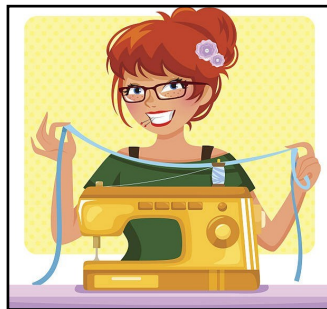
Just a reminder: our meetings are on the third Thursday of each month (21st November), visitors are very welcome and we are always open to new members. Why not come and join us?



Tatham Fells

By Mary Taylor

Ruth Garstang, President of Tatham Fells Women's Institute, welcomed members, guests and guest speaker Angela Fletcher to the annual meeting held in the Old School on 8th October. Angela, who had competed in 'The Great British Sewing Bee' in 2022, told how she had been selected from numerous applicants to be one of 12 to take part in the show, and of the secrecy surrounding it. She displayed the many outfits that she had made on the show including a sports jacket for her sporting hero Freddie Flintoff, and two that had won the week's prize as she revealed the intricacies of the show.



Margaret Wilson thanked Angela, who judged the competition for a sewn item; winners were first Andrea Ball, second Mary Taylor and third Sue Dodgson. Carole Thurnham, Margaret Wilson and Linda Kirkby provided refreshments, and everyone settled down for the Annual Meeting. Mary Kidd, treasurer, gave the financial report, Jenny Herd, secretary, the annual report and Ruth Garstang thanked everyone, mentioning some by name, before retiring as president. Linda Kirkby was elected president by secret ballot; cyclamen plants were presented to Ruth Garstang, Mary Kidd and Jenny Herd, and a bouquet of flowers was given to Carole Thurnham who has retired from the committee. Several members are to attend the November meeting of Wennington WI, and the next meeting at the Old School will be a craft evening on 12th November.

Ewecross Historical Society Learn About the Early Age of Consent 500 Years Ago

By Mary Taylor

Ewecross Historical Society members met in Bentham Methodist church on Monday, 30th September where Chair, Mike Winstanley, welcomed speaker, Dr Loretta Dolan, a Fellow of the University of Western Australia. For her illustrated talk, 'Child marriage in sixteenth century northern England', she had pored through chests full of Ecclesiastical records, some in York dating from 1450 to 1603 and partly in Latin. Showing us paintings of child marriages, some with the child in arms, she began by giving reasons for the marriages. Catherine of Aragon came to England when she was 12 years old to be betrothed to Prince Arthur who was 11, to unite the countries of Spain and England. More usual reasons were to secure the future of a girl, to bring in more land to the family or to consolidate their assets. The speaker had found that after the ceremony the children were taken back to their own homes or to the home of their spouse. The age of consent at that time was 12 for girls and 14 for boys; some problems occurred if the young people didn't like each other. Many documents referred to annulment or divorce, with the rich being able to pay and the poor just drifting apart. Dr Dolan had analysed 137 cases, ranging from wealthy landowners to innkeepers and shoemakers. The speaker was thanked by Mike at the end of her talk.





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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.



21 incidents were reported between 12th September and 10th October 2024.

These included: abandoned calls, criminal damage, concern for safety/welfare, ambulance, anti-social behaviour, road related offence with criminal damage and driving offences and theft from a store.

Crime Prevention Bonfire – Fireworks:

Everyone should be able to enjoy fireworks safely, whether at an organised display or in their back garden.

Fireworks and the law: what time can fireworks be used?

Answer: in the UK any time from 7am to 11pm, and on bonfire night 7am to midnight.

Who can use fireworks?

According to The Fireworks Regulations 2004 and The Pyrotechnic Articles (Safety) Regulations 2015: anyone over 18 can buy, carry or use category one, two and three fireworks, anyone over 16 can only buy, carry or use category one fireworks, anyone over 12 can buy Christmas crackers but only licensed professionals can buy, carry and use category four fireworks.

Unless part of an organised event by licensed professionals, fireworks cannot be used on the street or in a public place. It is an offence to throw or set off any firework (including sparklers and category one fireworks) in or into any highway, street, thoroughfare or public space.

What is the impact of firework misuse?

Used irresponsibly, fireworks can cause damage to property and do significant harm to people and animals. Not only is there a danger from fireworks exploding, but they can also pose a serious fire risk. This is why members of the public may only use fireworks on private property, such as their back gardens, and only licensed professionals can use them in public places.

What you can do...

If a local retailer is selling adult fireworks to people under 18, please report it to your local Trading Standards. If children are setting off fireworks in your area, our first advice is to ask them politely to stop. It's possible they're unaware that they are breaking the law. If you know their parents, perhaps ask them to intervene. If you're having an ongoing problem with people setting off fireworks, please report antisocial behaviour to us.

Have a great time, stay safe and look out for each other.

If you or someone you know is in danger, call 999.

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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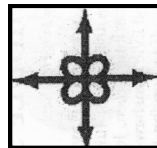
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"If in doubt give Mr Whits a shout"



Bentham Footpath Group - Four November Walks

By Don Cartledge



A reminder for any Bentham News readers: if you are interested in joining us on a walk, you will be made most welcome. Just turn up at Lairgill or phone the walk leader who will be pleased to answer any queries you may have.

The November walks meet first at Lairgill for 9.30am, except for the walk on 21st when it's 9am. Please note also that the Saturday 16th ramble involves a short bus journey, so have your bus passes at the ready.

Wednesday 6th is our first walk in November. It's led by Kate Rowe and Kate Butcher (015242-51402) and covers 7 miles around the West Windermere Way and High Dam. Parking by the church at Finisthwaite (donation), we travel quite steeply uphill as far as High Dam, which we traverse in an anticlockwise direction, then it's downhill to reach the West Windermere Way. We follow this route south, past Stott Park and back up to Finisthwaite to cross fields and woods and eventually arrive at Newby Bridge. Passing the Swan Inn, we walk as far as Lakeside then back uphill to reach the start. This walk is a figure of eight so, should anyone wish, there are opportunities to cover a shorter distance.

David Longton (015242-61838) leads a 9-mile walk on **Saturday 16th** from Cockerham to Glasson Dock. Parking at Cockerham Village Hall we catch the 10.31am bus to Thurnham Hall gates. The walk route takes us past the Hall and along the canal towpath which we follow as far as Brows Bridge and onto the Lancashire Coastal Way. Following the coastal path, we reach Glasson and continue past the remains of Cockersands Abbey and the skydiving centre as far as Cocker Bridge. Finally, walking along a pavement, we follow the road to Cockerham and back to the cars.

The 6-mile Askrigg walk on **Thursday 21st** is led by Sandra and Bryn Craggs (015242-62416). Parking for this walk is limited and will be advised on the day. From Askrigg village centre, the route goes through the churchyard and across fields and woodland to reach Mill Gill waterfall. The route continues to Mill Gill and Low Straights Lane to eventually arrive at Newbiggin where we pick up a path at Heugh leading down to Nappa Scar Farm (good views over Wensleydale). After crossing a road, we pass Nappa Hall, a disused railway line to reach the River Ure at Nappa Mill, where, after a brief diversion to Worton, we return to Askrigg.

Finally, on **Wednesday 27th**, Valerie Eccles and Mary Pickstone (07979-607191) take us on a Lunesdale ramble covering 6 miles. Starting from Devil's Bridge at Kirkby Lonsdale, we travel via field paths, tracks and lanes to Whittington passing Sellet Mill and Sellet Hall. From Whittington the route is southwards to eventually reach the River Lune where we walk alongside the river and back to Kirkby Lonsdale.

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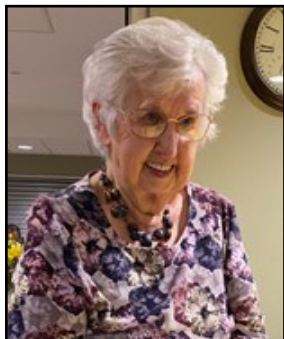
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My Home at Bowland View

By Betty Mason

Betty was a hill farmer near Chapel-le-Dale until circumstances led her to move into Bentham, to the care and support available for her at Bowland View. Although apprehensive about making such a massive change in her life, she has embraced the Bowland View community and has committed her thoughts about this to a poem which she would like to share with BN readers:

Bowland View is the place to be,
Just come for a visit and you'll soon see.
For management and carers, nothing's too much bother,
And everybody helps to care for one another;
(It's almost like having a 'Community Mother!')
The 'vacuum and blue duster' ladies can be seen,
All pleasantly keeping our home nice and clean.
Our gardener and friendly handyman
Will always be helpful whenever he can.
Sometimes you may hear a rattle or bang,
This is only our cheerful dustbin gang.
We have a great Bistro for when you need food,
And a hairdressing salon to make you feel good.
So many events and good things to do,
Relax and I'll tell you about just a few:
Wow! A steel band playing tunes in the sun
To make someone's birthday a whole lot of fun.
The Chinese New Year, with tables red and gold
With such different food (we had hot and cold).
On a day at the TV races, I won a pound or two
Followed by drinks and a Barbecue.
(To get your tickets you had to join a queue).
We held our own Wimbledon - what a great team!
Afterwards, naturally, strawberries and cream!
Bingo each Tuesday is always a treat,
Whilst coffee on Thursday is where we all meet.
Wednesday's 'Knit and Natter' is welcoming to all,
And the group does so much for the good of our home.
Bowland Paralympics! Hard to know what to say.
We really did have a wonderful day.
Afternoon tea was outside in the sun,
And quite well deserved after having such fun.
Our home feels secure and the friendship's all free,
Which is why Bowland View is the right place for me!



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By Lynda Burns, Administrator, 015242-62672

lyndaburns@pioneerprojects.org.uk

The Home Library Service delivers books, audio books, and other information to people who find it difficult to visit their local library themselves. Volunteers visit people in their homes (including residential homes) to deliver pre-selected materials, spend time talking to customers - particularly about their reading/listening choices, and collect items that have been read. Volunteers always go out in pairs and receive travel expenses.

Pioneer Projects/Bentham Community Library are looking for some more Home Library volunteers to choose and deliver books for customers – could you help? The role would particularly suit people who have an interest in reading, good communication and interpersonal skills, and are punctual and reliable. It requires being able to give a regular commitment on a set day once a fortnight, being able to lift small carrier bags containing books, and may include using stairs and lifts.

Might you be interested in volunteering for this great service? If so, please call: 015242-62672. Or you can email: office@pioneerprojects.org.uk

We also always welcome new volunteers for Bentham Community Library. If you're interested in joining the wonderful team covering one or more two hour slots each month, please either collect a form from the library or contact us via email or phone as above.



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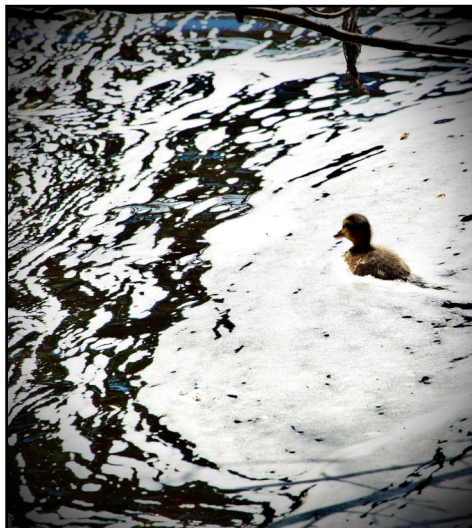
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'How Can We Protect Our Beautiful Rivers and Wildlife?

By The River Wenning Group

The River Wenning Group has invited Professor Rick Battarbee FRS, who has been part of Ilkley's campaign for a clean River Wharfe, to come and speak in Bentham Town Hall on **Wednesday November 27th** at 7pm. After the talk he'll answer questions. Although his area of scientific expertise does not include 'forever chemicals', he is part of a network of experienced campaigners and can suggest ways forward. Entry including tea and biscuits will be free, and donations are welcome.



Keeping Others Cosy

By Bentham Refugee Support Group

Have you ever been caught outside in the freezing cold and pouring rain, only to return home to the warmth of radiators and dry clothes? It's a simple but incredible feeling, isn't it?

Now, imagine you don't have a coat to keep you dry or warm. And the 'home' you're returning to isn't a warm house but a one-person tent, already soaked from the rain. This is the cruel reality many people face in Calais every day.



The Refugee Support Group are collecting coats to send to Care4Calais. You can deliver a spare coat to us at High Bentham Methodist Church, Station Road on **Saturday 16th November 2-4pm**. Bring along any spare coats in good condition, and we will deliver them to Care4Calais and refugees living in camps in Northern Europe. We will welcome you with a cup of tea and cake. You can join in to knit a square towards a blanket for those living in Abigail Housing in Bradford (a charity providing support and homes to refugees and asylum seekers who find themselves destitute on our streets). We'll provide wool and needles.

You will come with a warm coat, or help knit a warm blanket and leave with a warm heart.

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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 Emma Greenep, advertising manager, can be reached on ads@thebenthamnews.co.uk or call/message 07971-830257. Bentham News aims to acknowledge all emails and telephone messages promptly, so if you do not receive a reply, please contact us again as your communication may not have been received.

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Please note we cannot guarantee the inclusion of any articles after this date.

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OPENING Saturday 23rd November

Neil Wright, Bentham's local and established independent estate and letting agents with over 35 years of business experience in the town, has an exciting development to announce, which is aimed at enhancing the Main Street and Bentham's shopping experience.

Neil's listed building, which is located prominently in the centre of town, has been redeveloped at ground floor level to accommodate a large new retail shop, which covers two thirds of the ground floor with prominent display windows on to the Main Street and Station Road.

Neil's motivation to open the shop was borne out of his desire to keep the economy of Bentham going, providing a focal point and complementing the existing business. In an age of shop closures and declining High Streets, Neil's hope is to buck the trend and provide the people of Bentham, and the many visitors, with a worthy retail experience.

Trading as Wright@Home, the shop will be selling a wide range of interesting, unique and sometimes eccentric items for the home and to suit a range of tastes. There will be large statement pieces for the home as well as smaller gift items for all occasions including cards, alongside soft furnishings, furniture and a gallery show-casing local artists' work and crafts.

Some items are sourced locally and others are from around the world with a focus on upcycling, recycling and quality.

Any artists/craft people who want to display within the shop should contact Neil on 015242-62458 or call into the estate agent's office. Also anybody interested in working within the shop, should contact Neil or send their CV to

Neil Wright Associates, 15 Main Street, High Bentham LA2 7LG.