

BENTHAM NEWS

October 2026

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PERSON OF BENTHAM

Fred Winstanley

Fred, our 102nd person of Bentham, was born in 1954 and brought up in Wigan. He and his wife Gaynor divide their time between Bentham and their home in Turkey. He has worked in the offshore construction industry all over the world.

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

I arrived here around 40 years ago, attracted by the caving in the area. Initially I lived in Ingleton but soon bought a small holding in Mewith.

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

- My name isn't Fred, it's Paul! I started my working life as an engineering apprentice working for Gullick Dobson, who made mining equipment. Winstanley is a common name in Wigan and there were two other Paul Winstanleys in the company and this caused confusion. The most senior Paul, stayed as Paul, the other Paul became 'Dolph' (dolphin), because he played water polo and I was christened Fred and it has stuck.
- Myself and Gaynor are the only people ever to be married in The Coach House on Main Street.
- I appeared on the Weakest Link and almost won but in the sudden death round failed to remember the name of the little boy who befriends ET. (Answer on Page 17 – Ed)
- I think I'm the only cave diver to have had two air valves fail and lived to tell the tale. Not related to that experience, but I was instrumental in getting the Cave Diving safety tables re-written after I published an article questioning the received wisdom at the time.

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

South America is the short answer. I have worked all round the world because of the nature of my job but have never travelled around South America. After finishing my apprenticeship, I went back to college to get an HND in Civil Engineering and began working for North West Gas maintaining land-based pipelines. At the same time, I had learnt to dive and my weekends were taken up with cave diving in this area. My role at North West Gas was becoming a tedious desk-based job, but a chance encounter in The Craven Heifer in Ingleton led me to being an offshore diver in Qatar within 4 weeks.

I have worked in the Far East, the Middle East, India, Australia, the North Sea and Azerbaijan, where my ability to speak rudimentary Turkish was handy. I have been an air diver and a saturation diver. This means living and working in a decompression chamber for up to 28 days. Once it took me 6.5 days to decompress before I could come out. I went from being a diver to being the diver supervisor and eventually becoming an Offshore Construction Manager where I was responsible for everything except sailing the ship. I have dived in less exotic locations, for instance, Heysham Power Stations (1 and 2) and the Conway Tunnel.



Photo by Jon Brook of Bentham Imaging

What does the perfect day look like to you?

The perfect day has a good weather forecast for paragliding. I'll strap my paraglider to my back and walk up either Whernside, Gragareth or Ingleborough and fly from there. A perfect day would involve a lift from where I land, back to my car. The difference between a hang glider and a paraglider is that a hang glider is shaped like a dart and a paraglider looks like a banana shaped parachute. People are flying over 300km in a single paragliding flight in this country.

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

I would have liked to have met William Walker, known as Diver Bill, who single-handedly saved Winchester Cathedral. He carried out repairs on the foundations of the Cathedral to stop it from sinking into the ground. He had to descend into the murky water of 235 pits, each about 20ft deep, to dig out rotten foundations and shore up the walls with concrete. He worked from 1906 until 1911, spending nearly six hours a day underwater, in darkness, working with his bare hands and entirely by touch. He died aged 49 during the Spanish flu epidemic of 1918.

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

I remember the World Cup final in 1966. I was 11 years old and watched it at a Boys Brigade Summer Camp on the Isle of Man.

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

The Reverend Barry Whitehead was an industrial Chaplin. He took us on mini outward-bound courses to Wharfedale and Shropshire. He opened my eyes to a world beyond Wigan and rugby. When I was 19 he and I did the Welsh 3000s, which are the 13 mountains in Wales over 3000 feet. At this time, I discovered caving.

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

I would use the money to clean up the 'Forever Chemicals'/PFAS problem in Bentham. Then I would sort out the car parking in the town.

What's the worst job you have ever done?

When I was at college I hitchhiked to see my friend in Kings Lynn. I was given a lift by the managing director of a vegetable freezing factory who offered me a job for the summer. It turned out to be shovelling peas for 8 hours a day and 12 hours at the weekend in the really hot summer of 1976.

What's your most treasured possession?

At the moment, I would say my paragliders. I have 2 here and 2 in Turkey. I fly one and get one serviced.

How do you relax?

I love to ride my motorbikes. I have a Harley Davidson, which I have ridden to Turkey and back. It broke down in Albania, but that is another story. I have a couple of bikes from the seventies, a Norton Commando and a Triton, which is a Triumph engine in a Norton frame. I also spend my time doing leather work. I hand tooled the seat of the Triton and have made handbags for my wife Gaynor.

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

Like so many young boys in Wigan, I wanted to play rugby league for Wigan. I played league at college and we got to the University Cup Final. I played Rugby Union at school and for Orrell Rugby Club. It used to be the case that once you had played Rugby League you weren't allowed to play Rugby Union, but students were exempt.

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

I have just read The Ragged Trousered Philanthropists by Robert Tressell which was great. My stepdaughter Sarah is a composer. We went to The Piece Hall in Halifax to see a show put on by Walk the Plank which featured her music.



Country Harvest Bakery Opens

Words by Shirley Brown, photo by Jon Brook of Bentham Imaging

These are just 4 of the friendly faces to greet you when you shop at Bentham's newly refurbished bakery, The Country Harvest Bakery in Station Road.

Lyndsey Wright (Manageress), Avena Oversby, Vycky Pickup and Angela Wills are excited to be working in their new surroundings, which officially opened its doors at 8am on Wednesday 2nd September 2026. The extensive renovation has been an interesting experience for all involved, and Bentham News hopes to bring you stories and photos about what happened along the way next month.





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Bentham Beats and Clubhouse News

By the Playing Fields Committee



Our old 'Music on the Field' was renamed 'Bentham Beats', and the name change and a new date brought us luck. The last 2 years were wet and cold, but in 2026, August 22nd was a glorious sunny day with only an occasional cloud.

We had fantastic music all day long. Opening the show was 'Firestarter' followed by 'Rueben Jones', 'Alfresco', 'Paper Jones' and 'Alice and The Looking Glass'. Bentham's Got Talent gets better every year, showcasing some of our younger talent, and we finished the evening with a 'Silent Disco', and the committee wandering around with headphones on clearing up the rubbish.

We couldn't do this without our wonderful stage provided by Bob Woodhouse and his Truck: Bob does this every year at no cost! We served food all day long until we ran out, and for the first time sold alcohol which went down well. Most of the committee never get to see any of the bands because we are too busy, some not getting out of the kitchen all day. But it really makes our day to see around 300 people having a great time.

We rely on donations, and profits from sales and things like tombola and face painting to make money to pay bands etc and this year we made a profit of nearly £2,000. This helps towards the rebuilding of the clubhouse.

We are happy to announce that the New Clubhouse has received £49,999 from David Skaith, Mayor of York and North Yorkshire, and York and North Yorkshire Combined Authority. This was a very tough round 2 of the Movement and Sport Grant. This along with other grants we have received, including the wonderful £25,000 from Angus Fire, has given us enough to start the build as soon as plans are passed.

We Still Need Your Help: This is not the end of fundraising as we must raise money for external and internal work, toilets, an industrial kitchen, tables, chairs, flooring and heating. We really do still need your help.



We have already started the raffle which is drawn every month. We encourage you all to set up a monthly donation, maybe £2, which is less than a cup of coffee! Or £4, which is less than a pint of beer! Or whatever you can afford. If we get regular monthly amounts, we can also up the prize money. We have worked so hard to get this far so please, please don't let's stop now. This could be the start of something really big for Bentham and our wonderful Playing Fields.

Just scan the barcode above or go to www.thelocalfund.co.uk/benthamplayingfields

Photos by Jon Brook of Bentham Imaging



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The Hang-Over

Double sausage pattie with cheese & a fried egg in bun with homemade hash browns



Bentham Playing Fields Association Benefits From SPAR Community Cashback

By Will Cook, PR and Communications Officer for James Hall & Co Ltd

SPAR's Community Cashback scheme has helped Bentham Playing Fields Association sow the seeds for future success by granting the organisation £2,000.

The funds have come at a great time for the organisation which is looking to redevelop its old clubhouse. As well as the clubhouse, Bentham Playing Fields Association also oversees the upkeep of a skate park, tennis courts and children's play area. The facilities also include grass playing fields which five junior football teams use for training and matches, while a rounders team uses the fields in the summer for home games.

Run entirely by volunteers, Bentham Playing Fields Association has received the funds from SPAR through its Community Cashback initiative which returned for a fifth year in 2026. It means that over the last five years, more than £100,000 has been donated to local organisations across the North of England through SPAR's primary retailer, wholesaler, and distributor for the region James Hall & Co. Ltd.

Heather Knowles, a Trustee at Bentham Playing Fields Association, said: "We heard about SPAR Community Cashback in our Bentham SPAR store. We applied but did not think it was likely we would be granted funding, so it was a lovely surprise to hear the news we had been successful. It is a massive boost to our fundraising and grant applications. We have recently had a structural survey carried out on the old clubhouse so the grant is very timely as it will pay for that chunky bill. We are a very tight community, with lots of voluntary groups, clubs and organisations. It feels great that we may at last be nearer our goal as the funding is nearly all in place now. The whole village are behind us with this project and are excited for the future of the playing fields."

Philippa Harrington, Marketing Manager at James Hall & Co. Ltd, said: "We have a much-loved SPAR store in Bentham, and we felt it was a great opportunity to give something back with the Bentham Playing Fields Association's Community Cashback application. We understand how difficult it is for local organisations to get by day-to-day and to access grant funding so I am delighted that SPAR's grant has been put to great use right away for a facility that will be a superb community asset in the future."

Kayleigh, Will and Heather left

Photos by Malcolm Preece of Bentham Show opposite.

See article on page 10.





Bentham Show

By Laoise Brown, Bentham Show Secretary

We had a fantastic day on Saturday 5th September celebrating the 152nd Bentham Agricultural Show.

The weather was on our side and helped to ensure everyone was able to enjoy the day.

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 committee who helped us to prepare and tidy up. A special mention goes to our president Mr Thomas Sedgwick and his wife, who did a fabulous job judging the vintage classes and trade stands.

The big hit of the day was the Fun Dog Show, ran by Dalehead Vets. We had plenty of entries across all areas and we are looking forward to seeing you all return again next year!

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.

Photo by Malcolm Preece



Slice and Scoop: How a Local Couple Built the Ultimate Comfort Food Business

By Sally Preece. Photo by Jon Brook of Bentham Imaging

Scoop and Slice combine two of life's great comfort foods – hot, artisanal pizza and perfectly chilled ice cream. I met up with the owners to find out how they developed their idea and what it's like serving pizza and ice cream from a van.

Two years ago, Al (a trained chef and baker) and Helen (a food production auditor) left their jobs to start Scoop and Slice. Combining their culinary and food safety backgrounds, they spent a year researching and planning before investing in a brand-new, custom-designed van built to last.

Customers frequently ask how they manage the extreme temperature differences required for their products. The van's interior layout provides the solution:

The Cold End: A perfectly chilled freezer holds the ice cream at one end of the vehicle

The Hot End: A wood-fired pizza oven sits at the opposite end. The oven is highly insulated to trap heat inside and features a small chimney to safely vent smoke

Al and Helen prioritise high-quality, locally sourced ingredients to create their menu:

- Milk and cream are sourced from Dales Dairy
- Specialist cheeses are supplied by The Courtyard Dairy
- They strictly use British wheat for their pizza dough

As proud locals (Al was born and bred in Bentham), the duo has focused on building a consistent presence in the community. They regularly park in local villages where they have received a warm welcome, and they plan to expand their business further by booking more events and private functions.

What drives Al and Helen is their love of meeting people, and they have been thrilled by the incredible support from the local community.

Unlike many modern businesses, Scoop and Slice has a refreshing long-term vision. Their ultimate goal is simply to keep running the business together for as long as possible, maintaining the personal, hands-on touch that their customers love.



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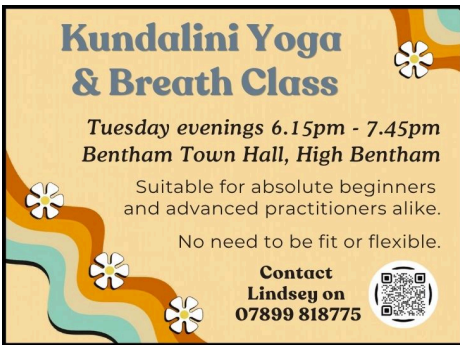
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Your Garden or Allotment in October

Words and Photo by Joyce Knapp

As we move into October our gardens may need a little tidying up. This could include raking up fallen leaves around deciduous trees and bushes. If we have storage space, we can save them to make what is commonly known as leaf mould. The leaves in the picture have been encased in a framework of chicken netting attached to corner posts. Whilst this is quite suitable in a large garden or allotment, it is possible even in a small garden to use a black bin bag for this purpose as long as you puncture a few holes in it for drainage and ventilation. Books I have read state that the leaves will take up to two years to rot down, but I have found from experience that they may only need one year in order to break down into a friable soil-like texture that can then be added back into the garden.



In the garden we can apply a thick layer of the resulting leaf mould around the base of plants such as heathers, conifers and camellia; in the allotment it can be used to aid food production. Putting a layer on the beds where we intend to grow root crops such as carrots, beetroot and parsnips will help provide an open soil structure, allowing the roots to develop more easily. Any residual leaf mould can be spread around strawberry plants which are traditionally woodland plants. Using leaf mould instead of garden compost for these crops avoids over-production of leaf to the detriment of root or fruit formation.

October is the month when our minds turn to bulb planting, especially those of daffodil and crocus. These can be used in a variety of ways including being part of a display in a container, or directly in the ground in a bed or border. It is worth noting that if added to containers then space must be left between other plants in order for them to grow. We could cover the soil above them with ground-cover plants e.g. a very small sedum, as they would be capable of growing up through such cover. When planting in the soil we need to be aware of the depth. By putting them at least twice the depth of their own height we will be giving them the best chance of surviving, even if we choose to leave them in the ground through the hot, dry weather of next summer. One last note, bulbs tend to look best if grouped in odd numbers. We may wish to plant clusters of five or seven in the ground, but may only have space for groups of three in pots and troughs.

Bentham Town Council Meeting, 7th September

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

Present: Councillors Adams, Stannard, Taylor, Whittet and MacEley-Young, the Town Clerk, Claire Burrow and 40 members of the public.

Apologies: Councillor Marshall

Comments and concerns from members of the public:

A member of the public requested that the film 'People's Emergency Briefing', produced by the independent public information National Emergency project and fronted by Chris Packham, be sponsored by the council and shown in the Town Hall in Bentham. They pointed out that the council had acknowledged in 2014 that we are heading for a climate crisis and that this year's hot summer has confirmed that this is now upon us. This matter was discussed later in the meeting and the council voted to sponsor the event on **Tuesday, 27th October**.

A second member of the public spoke objecting to planning application 26/04645/PIP regarding permission in principle for residential housing of between 1 to 9 dwellings at The Sidings in Low Bentham, the area that is currently used as Low Bentham's only car park. PIP can only be refused on grounds of unsuitability for housing regarding suitability of location, whether it is appropriate for housing and the amount of development. This individual raised the point that this is Low Bentham's only car park and serves the Victoria Institute where numerous community events take place. There is no other parking available. They asked whether changing the land use to residential is acceptable in principle given its established community function. The lease on the land may have ended but the community need has not. He asked that the Town Council nominate The Sidings as an Asset of Community Value. This has a precedent in a case won in Shropshire where an ACV listing of a car park serving a village hall was upheld, recognising that the parking furthered community well-being by enabling people to attend activities there. He asked that the council object to the PIP on grounds of its long-standing function as a car park; that a nomination for ACV be submitted urgently and that they ask that the PIP decision is not determined before the ACV has been submitted, so that any listing decision may be taken into consideration.

A third member of the public drew attention to the fact that staff and visitors to the Hexagon Care Service school in Low Bentham would also have nowhere to park. Also, that dropping off small children at Helen Howard's dance classes, which take place in the VI would cause dangerous traffic situations as would parking to facilitate access for the elderly and infirm who use the building for various activities.

Police Report: This was read out in and appears in full on Page 33 of this edition.




The People's Emergency Briefing Film

Take the message across the U.K.

Tuesday 27th October 2026

7:30 to 9:00pm

**Ballroom, Bentham Town Hall,
Station Road, High Bentham**

Bentham Town Council brings you an eye-opening film in which leading U.K. scientists and experts update us on the latest in the climate and nature crisis. They show us its growing impact on everyday life and bring a sense of urgency and optimism about what can still be done.

For more information email:
townclerk@benthamtowncouncil.co.uk

A collection will be held in aid of Bentham Playing Fields for anyone wishing to make a donation.

The film is 50 minutes long; there will be refreshments and discussions once the film has concluded.

Report from NYC Councillor: The Chief Executive of NYC is retiring in March 2027. The Heads of Finance, Social Services and Education are also moving on, so big changes are happening at county level.

Financial Matters: Current Account: £35,618.49; Public Sector deposit account £85,000; Virgin Current Account £31,257.07

A quote for an interim audit for 2026-2027 was accepted.

New Planning Applications: 26/04645/PIP: Permission in Principle for residential housing of between 1 and 9 dwellings The Sidings, Low Bentham, LA2 7BH. The Council unanimously took on board the arguments of members of the public, the strong public opposition to this proposal, as demonstrated by the many members of the public who attended this meeting, and the approximately 75 registered comments on the NYC Planning Public Access Portal website. The narrow parameters of grounds for objection to PIP applications makes objection at this stage tricky for the council, but they will do their best and continue to oppose the proposal should it be progressed further. They will also investigate and pursue the nomination of the land as an Asset of Community Value as requested, if possible.

Council Matters: There have not been sufficient elector requests received for an election to fill the vacancy following Cllr. Burton's resignation, so the council will advertise for someone to co-opt. The council also decided how to fill the vacancies on the various committees (Finance, Buildings, Open Spaces). The shortage of councillors means it is increasingly hard for them to achieve a quorum on these committees.

The council had a meeting with the Environment Agency and discussed setting up a Community Liaison Group so that the community might be kept abreast of all developments on the PFAS issue locally. They advised that the body should consist of 12 members, meet every 2 months and have representatives from the Environmental Agency, North Yorkshire Council, the UK Health and Safety Executive, Angus Fire, agricultural representatives and community groups (e.g. The Playing Fields Association) and members of the public. They would work towards holding public meetings. The council agreed to set the wheels in motion regarding the creation of this new body.

To receive information on ongoing issues:

- The damp in the Wenningdale Room has been dealt with and the room has been replastered. Quotes for skirting boards and redecoration are being sought.
- A communication from North Yorkshire Water states that the work renewing the water mains is on pause now for various logistical reasons and will not recommence until January 2027 at the very earliest.

Correspondence received: A letter was received from Cleaner Bentham about the PFAS testing on the allotments which was commissioned privately from an independent company. These state that the PFAS levels there are low and that the produce is safe. Cleaner Bentham raised some interesting queries about the depth of the testing and other concerns. Their letter will be reproduced in full in the official minutes of this meeting on the Town Council website.

Angus Fire sent in an update. The deep groundwater investigation results will be ready by the end of September and will be presented to the Environment Agency and other regulatory bodies together with any proposals for corrective action and/or remediation

if required. It has now been established that the properties at Sunnyside on Duke Street do not require any corrective action and will be put up for sale in 2026. Ashbank will also return to the market in early 2027 after remediation to a patch of Angus' land closest to their back gardens, thus ensuring that PFAS is unable to migrate to their gardens over time.

A letter was received by Julian Smith MP from John Neville of the Environment Agency and shared with the Council. This stated that it was very unlikely that PFAS on the Angus site could have migrated to Bentham allotments because of distance and the lack of a pathway. It also highlighted the different situations at the Angus site and the contaminated site at Thornton-Cleveleys. This letter and the update from Angus are also available in the official minutes on the Town Council website.

There was also a letter from NYC about the Mayor's Local Transport Plan. A public consultation meeting will be held in the Town Hall on Tuesday September 15th from 6pm until 8pm.

Bentham Boost: Funding finishes in December but the committee will continue to pursue further funding. The flags are up and the Bistro night is set for November 7th. New bins have been ordered and benches for Benthamers to sit on to chat and relax. Artwork has been commissioned that will involve the schoolchildren, the residents at Bowland View and community workshops.

Minor Items: United Utilities will be pursued to reinstate Grasmere Drive following sewer repairs.

Date of next full Town Council meeting: Monday, 5th October at 7.30pm, the public are welcome to attend.



Bentham Town Council - Community Liaison Group – Have Your Say!

By Claire Burrow (Bentham Town Clerk)

What is being proposed? Bentham Town Council is considering establishing a Community Liaison Group in response to ongoing community concerns about PFAS and environmental issues associated with the Angus Fire site. The proposed group would bring together local community representatives, relevant organisations, regulators and experts to:

- Share clear and up-to-date information;
- Give residents an opportunity to ask questions;
- Raise and discuss community concerns;
- Improve communication between residents and relevant organisations.



Meetings would be expected to take place approximately every two to three months.

Before deciding; Bentham Town Council would like to know whether residents feel there is a need for, and interest in, a Community Liaison Group.

Please Have Your Say! Just take a few minutes and scan the QR code to complete our short online survey.

Your views will help Bentham Town Council decide whether to establish a Community Liaison Group and how it could best support the community. Thank you for taking part.

Letters

Bentham News has received communications objecting to the planning application to build houses on the car park in Low Bentham, a matter considered in detail in the Town Council report on page 14.

We are not printing the letters as the date for objecting has passed, but as readers will be aware, our Town Council is on the case, is objecting to the planning application and is pursuing nomination of the land as an Asset of Community Value.

Thanks

Mary Murphy

9th September 1927 - 13th August 2026

Following our recent loss, Liz and family thank everyone who sent kind words in cards and messages. Thanks also to all who attended Mary's funeral, especially those we didn't have the opportunity to speak with. The generous donations to Esme's Umbrella are much appreciated. Sincere thanks to Jimmy and Tara at B&W, and to Liz, Anne and Clive for the lovely funeral service.

Alan Coates

3rd November 1946 - 21st June 2026

Audrey and family wish to thank everyone for messages of condolence, also for donations in Alan's memory to the North West Air Ambulance. Grateful thanks also to Canon Peter Greenwood and Jimmy and Tara of B&W Funerals for their kind and assured services.

Notices

Joint charity coffee morning for 'Craft for Cure' blood cancer charity and St John's hospice on 21st October in Bentham Methodist church, 10:30-12:30. Chance to try some crafting as well as coffee and cake, Christmas cards, stalls etc.

Ingleton and Bentham Twinning Group

2 diary dates

Friday 16th October at 7pm

Ingleton and Bentham Twinning Group AGM - i Centre, Ingleton. Review of activities during last year and future plans. The formalities will be over quickly, then, in true Twinning fashion, we will be socialising over wine and cheese.

Saturday 24th October at 2pm

Jumble Sale at Ingleton Community Centre. Please let Val Carroll know if you want jumble collected from you. Contact her at vacarroll@gmail.com. Offers to help set up from 9.30am or with the sale at 1.30pm will be gladly accepted.

Answer to the name of the little boy who befriends ET is Elliott. See page 2.

Sole to Soul

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Katie Laura has left the nest!
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Five October Walks

By Don Cartledge - benthamfootpathgroup.co.uk



It's October already, the second month of autumn, whooper swans and geese are arriving from Scandinavia replacing the swallows and house martins which are emigrating to Africa. Hallowe'en is on the 31st - this is the occasion when, (after instructing our children never to take sweets from strangers), we dress them up and take them knocking on strangers' doors asking for sweets!!!

Meet at **Lairgill for 9.30am** for all October walks except for that on the **27th where we meet for 9am.**

Friday 2nd is our first walk. It covers 8 miles around Clapham and is led by Kate Butcher and Kate Rowe (015242-51402). Starting at St. James church, the walk takes in some typical limestone scenery and visits Clapham Nature Trail (£3), Dudderhouse Hill with views across Pen-y-Ghent and Ingleborough and Newby Moss moorland. There are inevitably some steep and steady climbs, but walking is generally good.

Thursday 8th sees Terri Kwiecinska (07972-653791) take us on a 6-mile Shap Abbey stroll. Parking on the roadside in Shap village (near the public car park or in it) we make a part circuit of the village and church before heading for Rosgill. Passing the Thunder Stone and crossing the River Lowther, we pick up the coast-to-coast path to reach the remains of the Abbey. It's then on to Keld and a return to the start passing Goggleby Stone.

Wednesday 14th has Glyn Barnes (07950-230728) leading a 6.5-mile circular walk from Kettlewell. Starting from the Wharfedale village of Kettlewell, we head towards Arncliffe following a path towards the limestone outcrop high above the river where there are stunning views of this beautiful dale and Whernside. Reaching a limestone escarpment overlooking Littondale, we skirt Park Scar wood to take a bridleway down into Arncliffe, then walk alongside the River Skirfare and back to the start via the picturesque village of Hawskwick. There are some steep sections that require care on this walk.

Thursday 22nd sees Mary Taylor (015242-61672) taking us on a 5-mile ramble to Great Knoutbury Hill at Dent. Driving past Dent station, we park to the right on a wide entrance to the Pennine Bridleway which we follow for about 10 minutes, then over a stile on the left to access open moorland. Continuing up the steep moor we reach a trig point before returning to the start by the bridleway.

Tuesday 27th provides a walk/train journey combination by Sandra and Bryn Craggs (015242-62416) where we drive to Gargrave Station to board the 10.03 train to Hellifield - then walk the 8 miles return to Gargrave. Leaving Hellifield station we walk through the village to pick up the Haw Lane track for a gentle climb before descending to Otterburn. Following a quiet road, we reach Bell Busk and then onto Crag Laithe and Mark House Lane back to Gargrave. Please make sure you have a ticket before boarding the train.

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What's That Coming Over the Hill, Is It a Monster?!

By Gayle Denny

No, it's a Bentham Beagle! This Hallowe'en, Bentham Beagles Running Club will be holding its annual 'Tricks, Treats and Trails' event.

Here's what you need to know:

- Sunday 1st November
- Open from 3pm, first race from 4pm
- Bentham Golf Club
- 1k fun run (all ages)
- 2k U11 race
- 4k U16 race
- 5k senior race
- Pre-enter at Run Belong (scan QR code)



The races will take place on the tracks around the golf club, which is marshalled and well-marked by the lights and glow sticks, but a torch is definitely needed. As you run round, you may see some ghosts and ghouls, so watch out!

Fang-tastic trophies are up for grabs (see last year's in photo) and anyone entering the fun run will be rewarded with treats. We strongly encourage fancy dress for all ages, and it's buggy friendly for those with small kids, so everyone can get involved.

There will also be plenty to do inside the golf club, with a tombola, crafts for kids, cake stall and more.

Pre-entry is encouraged but there will be spaces available on the day too.



Do you dare take on the challenge of the Hallowe'en run...?! Whether you're a seasoned pro or fancy trying something new, pre-enter now and save money!

More info at benthambeagles.co.uk

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This photo and back cover photos by Jon Brook of Bentham Imaging

The Children of Bentham Bring Fun and Laughter to our Community

By Shirley Brown

The idea of a panto in the summer took a bit of getting used to, but what a brilliant idea it was to have a children's show with rehearsals during the summer holidays and 2 performances at the start of the school term. Thanks go to Heather Knowles who thought up the idea, then wrote, produced and directed 'Snow White' with 'The Children of Bentham' to packed, enthusiastic, noisy, fabulous audiences in the Town Hall on 11th and 12th September.

With expenses kept to a minimum, and The Hub supplying the raw material for many of the costumes, local technicians and artists using their time and range of talents to provide sets, scenery, props, sound, lights and special effects: 34 children aged between 3 and 16 were able to take part in a memorable production (with a little help from 2 seasoned adult panto performers, Roy and Dan).

Asked what they liked best, some excited children we asked said the dancing, the little boy wolf, the man in the mirror and (inevitably) the farting rendition of 'Happy Birthday'. For me there were so many star performers, they all deserve to take a bow and soak up the applause. Their happy faces were a real tonic, and I wonder how many will have caught the acting bug and want to do more of it?

Which raises the question, will there be another summer show? Asked about this, Heather wouldn't say a definite 'yes' or 'no': but she did say that without a stage manager or two, the task is too much for her. So, Bentham people, if we want more fun, laughter and joy next summer, you know what you have to do.... give Heather a call (07981-752218).

Incidentally, all proceeds from the show go to Bentham Playing Fields, and we think the amount will be around £1,000. So, if you, sadly, missed the show but would like to donate, you can do so anytime (see article on pages 6 and 7).



What's On In October

Town Hall

Every Monday

Springfield Bowling Club, BR, 1-4pm

Every Tuesday

Blue Moose Dance 9.30am-10.30am Mature Movers and 10.45am-12.15pm Ballet BR (not 27th)

Craft Club 10am-12noon WR

Lindsey Beveridge Yoga class LH

Every Wednesday

Stepping Stones 10-11.30am BR (not 28/10)

Pilates with Beth Evans 6-7pm (not 28/10) BR

Every Thursday

Men's Pilates 7-8pm BR (not 29th)

Sunday 11th & 25th

Gaming Club, 11am - 3pm, WR.

Town Hall - Meetings and Events

Thursday 1st 7.30pm LH High Bentham WI

Monday 5th 7.30pm LH Full town council meeting

Thursday 8th 7.30pm LH Prostate Cancer

Support Group (Tim Stannard) Email - bayprostategroup@pm.me

Monday 19th 7.30pm, LH Finance Committee

Tuesday 20th 9.05 pm WR Marketing & Development Committee

Saturday 24th 10am - 6pm, BR, Prostate Cancer Blood Testing

Tuesday 27th People's Emergency Briefing Film - free showing 9.30 pm BR

Town Hall - Coffee Mornings

Saturdays 10am - 12 noon BR

3rd - Emma Mackenzie

10th - Low Bentham WI

17th - Bentham Area Refugee Support Group

31st - Bentham & District Pet Rescue

WI Meetings *(see pages 38/39)*

High Bentham - Thurs 1st, 7.30pm LH

Low Bentham - Thurs 15th, 7pm, Victoria Institute, Low Bentham

Tatham Fells - Tuesday 13th, 7.30pm, Old School Room, AGM & Lisa from Cancer Care

Bentham & District Dementia Friendly Community Breakfast

8th & 22nd October

Thursdays at 10am at Bentham Golf Club

Footpath *(see page 19)*

For October walks meet first at Lairgill for 9.30am except for the 27th where we meet for 9.00am.

Friday 2nd, Kate Butcher and Kate Rowe, 51402, Clapham, 8 miles.

Thursday 8th, Terri Kwiecinska, 07972-653791, Shap Abbey, 6 miles.

Wednesday 14th, Glyn Barnes, 07950-230728, Kettlewell, 6.5 miles.

Thursday 22nd, Mary Taylor, 61672, Dent, 5 miles.

Tuesday 27th, Sandra and Bryn Craggs, 62416, Gargrave to Hellifield (Train) 8 miles.

Victoria Institute

Every Monday

9.00 - 12.30 Office Open

11.30 - 2.00 Community Link Cafe

Light Lunch & Activities

6.15 - 7.45 Tai-chi Qigong

Every Tuesday

4.00 - 9.30 Helen Howard School of Dance

Term Time

Every Wednesday

9.00 - 12.30 Office Open

10.00 - 12.00 Post Office Services

11.30 - 2.00 Community Link Cafe

Lunch & Activities

4.00 - 6.45 Helen Howard School of Dance

Term Time

Thursday 15th 7.00

Low Bentham Women's Institute

Every Friday

10.00 - 12.00 Post Office Services

Every Sunday

11.00 - 12.30 Cornerstone Church

Friday 23rd October 7.30

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www.lowbenthamvi.co.uk

Pickleball

Mondays and Wednesdays 6-7.30pm and 7.30-9pm at Bentham Community

Primary School

Bentham Golf Club

Age Concern Bentham Thursday Lunch

Club. **Every Thursday** 11am - 2pm

Pioneer Projects - Looking

Well Studios

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

Every Tuesday (except 27th) 9:30am to 11am, Little Notes Music session in the library

Every Tuesday (except 27th) 10:30am to 12.30pm, Mosaic Creative Wellbeing Cafe

Every Tuesday (except 27th) 11:30am to 1pm, Creative Writing Group, in the library

Tuesday 13th October 2pm to 3:30pm, Book Group in the library

Wednesday 7th Living Well Smoke Free STOPTOBER Drop-in Information session 10am to 12noon Bentham Library

Every Wednesday (except 28th) 10:00am to 12noon, Sing Along to Every Song

Every Wednesday (except 28th) 2pm to 4pm, Art for All

Every Wednesday (except 28th) 3:45pm to 4:45 pm, LEGO Club Age 5-11 yrs (Parents to accompany under 9yrs)

Every Thursday (except 29th) 12:30pm to 3:00pm, Community Art Shed

Every Friday (except 30th) 10am to 12:30pm, Mosaic Mental Health Hub

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

Bentham Community Library

Library Telephone: 01609 534533

Email: library@pioneerprojects.org.uk

Monday - 2:30pm - 5pm

Wednesday - 10am - 2pm

Friday - 2:30pm - 4.30pm

Saturday - 10am - 12noon

Ewecross Historical Society

Monday 26th October, 7.30 pm in High Bentham Methodist Church; Jamie Quartermaine: Stocks in Bowland - The rediscovery of a lost village. Visitors welcome: £3

Bentham Methodist Church

Saturday 3rd - An evening of praise with the Ayrton Family & The gospel songbook 7.30pm (a good sing guaranteed)

Sunday 4th - Harvest Festival Service - 10.30am followed by a Bring and Share Lunch - Donations to be divided between The Farming Community Network and The Field Nurse

Monday 5th, 12th and 19th - Toddle In - 10am. to 11.30am.

Wednesday 7th and 21st - Brunch and Shop - 10.30am. to 12.30pm in the Hall

Wednesday 21st - Coffee morning for St. John's Hospice and Craft for Cure All

Blood Cancers - 10am. to 11.30am.

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HIP JOINT is back!

Bringing you sounds of the sea with 'The Mermaids'

By the Hip Joint Team

It's that time of year again! A time when we can look forward to being brilliantly entertained by a range of talented musicians and taste food from around the world ... all on our doorstep!

On Friday October 23rd at 12.30pm in The Victoria Institute, Low Bentham LA2 7BX we are excited to bring to our stage, 'The Mermaids'.

'The Mermaids' is a new musical project that brings together three of the UK's most talented singer/songwriters: Jane Stockdale, Sarah Dean and Anne-Marie Helder. They are each stunning vocalists, prolific songwriters and multi-instrumentalists. They bring together a deep pool of talent – plus an abundance of instruments – to create fresh and breathtaking new soundscapes. Shimmering Celtic harp, acoustic guitars and earthly hand-drums will ebb and flow together like the tide, while soaring voices fly above ... and on the breeze you may hear flutes, mandolin, accordion and more, all weaving their magical textures to create endless moods within these beautiful songs.

Food: To put you in the mood for the sounds of the sea that will follow lunch, there will be a range of Greek delights from moussaka to stuffed peppers to baklava. As always, there will be an element of surprise with each tasty contribution.

Simple booking: Tickets will be on sale from Thursday October 8th and cost £14 plus a 15p administration fee.

There is the option of a £7 ticket if you are on a reduced income.

Buy tickets by card or use PayPal. Go to www.trybooking.co.uk/GUWP.

If it is fully booked it is worth putting your name on the waiting list as people do sometimes have to drop out.

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

And please email hipjointbentham@gmail.com to obtain a ticket or if you have any difficulty going online.

'Hip Joint' welcomes the active retired and their friends in the community: it is run by us, the community. Each event is special and different. If you enjoy good food and live music, do join us. We are grateful to everyone who contributes, without whom it would not happen. If you feel able to cook, be a waiter, wash up, help set up or clear up: do email us.

The dates for 'Hip Joints' in 2026 and 2027 are: 4th December, 29th January, 5th March and 16th April



In 'All Our Yesterdays' we are celebrating BN's 40th anniversary year by reproducing some items from early editions.

'Mischief': Dec '95, 'Hippies': 'Oct '89, 'Get Off': Dec '95,

'Full Monty': Jul '98, Bamford's ad: Dec '95

Dear Editor,

On "mischief" night at the tennis court on the High Bentham playing fields, a tennis net, which had cost £75 earlier this year, was damaged beyond repair. If the person or persons unknown who were responsible for this act of wanton vandalism, would like to retrieve the cigarette lighter that was used to burn holes in the net, I have it in my possession. However, I feel duty-bound to point out that smoking tobacco can seriously damage one's health.

Ken Robertson, Treasurer, Bentham Tennis Association,

"Lynwood", High Bentham.

"Hippies" camped on Newby Moor (having been booted out of Ribbleshead) seem to have caused only a little trouble. But TC members stated a vague intention to either see them off or to ignore them next July. The burger stall is well ensconced in Cleveland Square, where it seems to bother no residents. It certainly keeps some late night munchers happy. Still no bottle bank! And thoughts are meandering in the direction of the **SPECTACULAR BENTHAM CHRISTMAS LIGHTS**. The *Bentham Guide*, edited right here in Bentham, is a bit late. Be patient, when it comes, it will knock your socks off.

Tom Cahill

"GET OFF YOUR BAR STOOLS!"

By Tim Stannard, Secretary Low Bentham Gala Committee

This is especially for the residents of Low Bentham who have voiced their dissatisfaction with the Gala Committee's efforts. Get off your bar stools and out of your armchairs and come to the meetings. We need your help and ideas, not your complaints. We all have homes, jobs and families to look after, but still find time to spare for the community.

It always seems to be the same people doing the organising, so we are bound to run out of ideas. We are not looking for gratitude, just some support for what is, after all, your Gala. The meetings are informal and we welcome anyone with something to say. So come and say it to us!

WILL THEY GO ALL THE WAY?

By Sam Dixon

If you're over 18 and watching five feisty fellas get their kit off is your bag, then you can't miss the strip of the century that is "The Full Monty - Bentham Style." For the bargain price of a fiver (tickets available from 'The Byres'), you get a sensational performance, followed by a disco and bar until midnight. Money raised will go to the McMillan Fund. 8pm - Friday 31st July - Town Hall.

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We wish all our customers a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Fire Point: Oct '89, Les Pilling Oct '95, Rainfall: Nov '95, Tooby's ad: Dec '95



FIREPOINT

MUSHROOMS FOR BREAKFAST.

We were called out at 6.30am on Bank Holiday Saturday to two shouts. The first being Angus Fire who are having problems with their new alarms, and the second to a barn at Clapham reported by the local constabulary.

The barn fire was nothing more than two peace campers who had spent the night inside the barn and had lit a camp fire with some old fence posts to keep them warm. In the first light of day all the police could see was clouds of smoke coming from the barn and feared the worst, rightly so they called the Brigade before discovering and removing the offenders.

After making the barn safe, we found the way back across the fields littered with mushrooms and so without any diversion from our route arrived back at the fire engine with two fire helmets, half a bucket and shovelfuls of the same. An enjoyable breakfast was had by all, what a nice way to end a turn out.

Bentham's World Record Holder

Bentham has its first world champion record holder. Forty year old Les Pilling of Lakeber Avenue, took the Master Class title at the recent World Drug-Free Powerlifting Federation Championships at Horsham in West Sussex.

Les has been power lifting for 7 years and for the last three years has been British and European champion. He realised his ambition to be world champion after a long gruelling contest with the existing world record holder, Johnny Graham of America. Power lifting contests incorporate squat, bench and dead lifts, and his world beating efforts saw him lift a total of 795kgs over the three categories, breaking the existing record by 10kg. In the squat he lifted 310kg (about 6 cwt), followed by 165kg in the bench lift and 320kg in the dead lift. The dead lift was another world record. Les trains at Lancaster University with his friend, Peter Hudson of Lancaster.

September Rainfall

Figures supplied by Mrs M Foster and compiled by Judith Johnson

The rainfall in September in Bentham was 2.75 inches, which was near to the average of 3.5 inches. The second and third weeks of the month were mainly dry and sunny, with a more changeable patch at both the beginning and the end.

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PIONEER Bentham Community Library News

By Lynda Burns



Well done and thank you to all the young readers who took part in the **Summer Reading Challenge**. We were delighted to meet so many of you – we had 125 starters. Freya (9) said "I enjoyed coming to the library more often and finding more books by my favourite author", while Becca (7) enjoyed hunting round the library for the hidden pictures - and reading some of her sister's books as well as her own! Our 'Read to the Beat' activity workshops were popular too, with lots of creativity on display.

LEGO Club news! – Last month we restarted Lego Club! Open for children aged 5-11 years every Wednesday from 3.45-4.45pm during term time – parents/guardians are required to stay.

On **Saturday 10th (10/10)** as part of World Mental Health Day, we're encouraging everyone to join the **#Take10toRead** campaign and discover the wellbeing benefits that can come from just ten minutes of reading. Join in with us if you can.

During **Get Online Week from 19th-25th October** we'll be focusing on helping people to develop digital skills for practical purposes - such as how to use the NHS app - as well as for leisure activities like accessing e-books with the Libby and Borrowbox apps.

The North Yorkshire **Living Well Smoke Free** team are also in the library to offer support and practical advice every Wednesday on how to stop smoking. There's an informal drop-in event on Wednesday 7th October from 10am-1pm. Come and find out about the service which offers appointments most Wednesdays.

We're also taking part in **Green Libraries Week from 21st - 28th October**, with a display of information and books on sustainability and climate change available all year round.

If you need help or advice or don't have a library card, it's easy to join. We're open 4 days a week: Monday 2.30-5pm, Wednesday 10am-2pm, Friday 2.30-4.30pm and Saturday 10am-12 noon.





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Bentham Police News

Your Safer Neighbourhood Team covering the Bentham, Ingleton and Settle areas is Inspector 1214 Paul Crabtree, PS 1040 Daniel Price, PS 881 Sohail Tariq, PC 188 Jane Carpenter, PC 1004 Natham Dale, PCSO 5561 Jayne Grace, PCSO 5881 Julia Runciman and PSO 9710 James Metcalfe.



Between 8 August and 11 September 2026, there were 45 incidents reported to the police in the Bentham area.

Most were of a minor nature, whilst others included incidents of safeguarding, harassment, antisocial behaviour, a violent crime, a non-injury road traffic collision, theft from a store using a fake note, a suspicious person and a drugs warrant was executed.

Appeal for Information

In addition to this, there were 2 burglaries in Low Bentham at the Victoria Institute and The Sundial pub. We believe these could be linked. We are appealing for any information that may help us identify the offenders including any CCTV footage, doorbell footage or witnesses.

The burglary at the Sundial Pub occurred between 19th and 25th August 2026. It was unoccupied when the offender(s) broke into the pub and caused damage throughout the building. Reference 0030.

The burglary at Victoria Institute occurred on the 3rd September 2026 between 6pm and 7.10pm where money was stolen. Customers found 2 offenders in the building committing the crime. The offenders then fled from the scene in the direction of Main Street. Reference 0499.

The offenders are described as being of slim build and around 5 ft 2 inches tall. One was wearing a balaclava and both were wearing dark clothing.

If you have any information, please contact us as detailed below quoting the reference numbers and remember you can always contact us anonymously via Crimestoppers.

Contact Information:

- Call 999 in an emergency or to report a crime in progress
- Call 101 to report non-urgent incidents or provide information
- Call 0800-555-111 for CrimeStoppers to provide information anonymously
- Online www.northyorkshire.police
- Email SNACraven@northyorkshire.police.uk for your local neighbourhood team
- Email Jayne.grace@northyorkshire.police.uk for the community messaging service

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Something Special Happened at Bentham Town Hall on Friday 4th September

By Janet Smith

It began a few weeks earlier, when two ladies were chatting on the phone, as ladies do. They had decided to raise money for a different charity every year and that breast cancer would be their chosen cause for 2026. The problem was that 2026 was already half gone and, due to "unforeseen circumstances", very little money had been collected so far. As they spoke, the TV screen lit up with an advert for holding an afternoon tea to raise funds for 'Breast Cancer Now'. Their immediate reaction was "It's a sign!"



After rallying their family, friends and neighbours (men call this networking), the ladies formulated a plan. They would hold an 'Afternoon Tea' in Bentham Town Hall, on Friday 4th September. They contacted several local businesses and were overwhelmed with generous gifts of food, from Bentham Co-op and Country Harvest Bakery, plus raffle prizes from Courtyard Dairy, Taylors of Harrogate (Yorkshire Tea) and Daisy Hair & Beauty. The posters went up in and around Bentham and online, inviting everyone.

On the day, a group of fabulous ladies arrived early, to organise the tables and seating, decorate the hall and prepare the food. The decorations in the foyer included a washing line of bras, to attract attention and make a point (sorry!). At short notice, Jon Brook turned up with his camera to record the occasion.

At 3pm the guests began to arrive, and the food and drinks (tea or coffee) were served. There was a choice of soup, sandwiches, scones and homemade cakes. A quiz with a 'tea' theme and a game to guess the number of strawberries in a picture, helped to increase the fun. A raffle was also held, with numerous prizes. Everyone had a great time, even those who were washing up afterwards.

Breast cancer is the most common cancer in the UK. Around 55,000 women and 400 men are diagnosed with breast cancer in the UK every year. In Bentham there are ladies whose lives have been, or are being, affected by the disease. 'Breast Cancer Now' is the UK's leading breast cancer charity. Their aim is that everyone who develops breast cancer will live. Over £400 was raised for the charity.

All the special people of Bentham who supported this event should feel proud that they have done their bit to help defeat breast cancer.

Photo by Jon Brook of Bentham Imaging

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Closing date for applications 23rd October 2026

Settle College Commits to FREE Transport for Local Families

By Claire Bibby - Headteacher's PA

Settle College has announced that it will once again provide free transport for eligible students from local catchment communities, helping families access their local school regardless of changes to local authority transport arrangements.

The decision has been unanimously approved by the College's Governing Body and will ensure that eligible students from Bentham, Ingleton, Burton-in-Lonsdale and surrounding catchment areas can continue to choose Settle College as their local secondary school.

FREE transport will be available for September 2027 entrants who must make their applications by October 31st, 2026, and, crucially, it will remain in place for subsequent years.

Headteacher Gareth Whitaker explained: "Rather than waiting for further reviews, Governors felt it important to provide clarity for parents. We want families to be able to choose their local school without transport costs being a deciding factor. We believe in supporting local communities and ensuring young people can access the excellent education, pastoral care and opportunities available at Settle College."

The announcement also includes support for current families, and eligible parents of students who joined Year 7 in September 2026 and who are currently paying transport costs will receive reimbursement from the College.

For more information families are encouraged to contact the school directly: Settle College, Settle, North Yorkshire, BD24 0AU, telephone: 01729-822451.

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High Bentham WI

By Jan Stuiver

On 12th August 8 members of High Bentham WI enjoyed a scenic drive to Dent, a stroll around the Dent Heritage Centre and an excellent cream tea in the Heritage Centre Café. The weather was perfect and the views stunning. The exhibits in the Heritage Centre brought back many memories and reminiscences.



Then on Thursday 3rd September we had a very interesting talk about the work of St John's Hospice from Jenny Kirkby. Her talk brought a lump to the throat and a few tears, but was also uplifting and led to a few smiles and chuckles. The team at the Hospice supports not just their patients, but the whole family, and that support continues long after the loved one has passed away. A small number of beds are available in the Hospice itself, but many more people are supported in their own homes by the outreach team. The team covers from Kendal in the north to Garstang in the south, and from Sedbergh in the east to Morecambe in the west. The Hospice does huge amounts of fundraising, from its 4 charity shops, sponsored walks, and countless fetes and coffee mornings. Jenny will give the speaker's fee received from the WI group to the Hospice, and many of those attending the meeting added personal donations. After Jenny's talk members who had brought in an item as a memento of a lost loved one, talked about the item and the people they remembered.

Our next meeting on Thursday 4th October is our annual meeting, with reports and elections of committee members and officers. It is open only to members, and after the business, members will enjoy a pie and peas supper provided by Mandy of 'Simply Delicious'.

Low Bentham WI enjoyed an August meeting with home-grown fun

By Barbara Vigour

The round-up of past events produced both laughter and satisfaction. There was a trip to Lancaster's Ashton Garden Centre, another to the gardening charity Growing Well near Levens, plus a coach trip to Liverpool. Sign-ups were taken for the next lunch outing.

Most satisfying of all has to be the afternoon tea for the Women's Institute from High Bentham. Picture-perfect weather shone down on friends and neighbours catching up over good tea and in-house catering. The Victoria Institute garden was lush after early August's showers. Our generous guests gave us a scented rose bush developed especially for the WI's 2025 Centenary. It was planted the next day at the Institute near to the tree we planted for the Queen's Platinum Jubilee in 2024.

A comedy sketch by Wendy D. and Faith W. depicted hilarious miscommunication as an Englishwoman attempts to book a holiday with a Continental landlady. Their facial



expressions, minimal props and consummate timing had us all in stitches. Then six or seven members read out a pair of quiz questions which we had mixed success in answering. Sue F. won the contest points for her clever punning questions. The evening wound up with a challenging quiz using the names of chocolate bars, mostly long-gone. Nearly impossible for this non-native chocoholic!

October 15th's highly recommended programme features Yorkshire Dales Wildlife Rescue's Jill Franklin. The competition's theme is for a wildlife ornament. We welcome anyone to join us by 7pm at the Victoria Institute for the £5 visitor's fee.

Tatham Fells WI

By Mary Taylor

Gill Gilbertson, president of Tatham Fells Women's Institute, welcomed members to the meeting on September 8th beside the table resplendent with the silver rose bowl and many prize cards which showed how well members had done at Bentham Show; they also won first prize in the five-item entry. Prize winning members were Gill Gilbertson, Ruth Garstang, Jenny Herd, Margaret Hewitt, Ruth Holden, Linda Kirkby, Mary Kidd and Joan Metcalf. Carole Thurnham told of a tea party and tour of the new family rooms at St John's Hospice to which she and Linda Kirkby had been invited.



The president introduced, for his second visit, the larger-than-life personality Count Nikolai Vandzhyra wearing magnificent local costume from his home village in Ukraine. He had his audience in stitches as he told of the intricacies of marriage in his village. Before marrying, the couple always have two chaperones with them; the groom asks the bride's father for her hand, taking a small gift. The bride's parents look into the background of the groom before giving consent, the bride's grandfather dresses up as a woman to wish them well. All the villagers attend the wedding, following the bride and groom round the church three times before going in. They also provide the food for the wedding party and sometimes build the couple a house.

The Count judged the competition for four slices of gingerbread; winners were Ruth Holden, Kath Coats and Mary Kidd. The committee provided refreshments and manned a sales table. At the AGM on October 13th the speaker will be Lisa from Cancer Care.

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for the November
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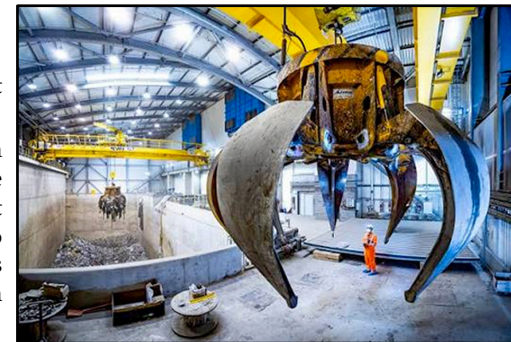
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A Rubbish Adventure

By Della Angel and Annie Heligan

Have you ever wondered what happens to our green bin waste?

We found out on a visit to Allerton Waste Recovery plant organised by the Clapham Sustainability group. It is first taken by local collection trucks to Skipton, then loaded into larger lorries for the trip to the Allerton plant which is built on a former landfill site.



The lorries drive into a pressurised, sealed chamber and unload through shredders onto conveyor belts that take the rubbish around the plant where it is mechanically sorted. Metals are picked out by magnets and paper blown out. These are baled up to be sent elsewhere for recycling. Food waste is sent to the on-site anaerobic digester where it makes enough gas to power the whole plant.

Everything else, mostly plastic rubbish, sheeting and bags, is piled up in huge mountains and then fed into the furnace at incredibly high temperatures. The great claw in the picture is feeding the furnace which creates steam used to generate electricity which is fed into the national grid. The toxic gases released from the furnace are treated chemically and filtered so that they are safe enough to release through the chimney.

The plant generates enough electricity to supply 60,000 homes, and has cut the amount that goes to landfill by 90%. We learnt some of the dos and don'ts for our green bins:

DO put broken glass tumblers, jugs, Pyrex etc in your green bin: this grade of glass can't be recycled like glass jars and bottles.

DO take bulky items e.g. duvets and mattresses to Settle. They tangle up the machinery.

Most important of all: DON'T put batteries, vapes or toys and appliances that might contain batteries in the bin. They explode when crushed and cause fires in the lorry or at the plant. They cause about 2 fires a week at Allerton. Take used vapes back to the shop where you bought them and batteries to the Co-op or Spar.

The message is: it is so much better to REDUCE what we use, to REUSE what we can and to RECYCLE what we can't. Our green bins should be our last resort.

Hold your seats for tips on blue bins next month!

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All Hallows Service and Fabulous Concert at St John's

By Libby Wheildon

November 1st has a special name in the church's calendar, All Hallows. So, October 31st is Halloween, the eve of All Hallows. All Hallows means All Saints. It's one of the days when we give thanks to God for all the people who have been special to us, who have gone before us. That includes the people who we might look upon as mentors and role models, that is saints and family members and friends who've been our special saints. If you would like to come along and remember some of those people, our special service to remember them will be at 10.30am on Sunday November 1st. Everyone will be warmly welcomed.



We are excited to be hosting another fabulous concert in church at 7.30pm on Saturday 21st November, with performers Becky Taylor and Sam Lawrence. They are an unusual acoustic duo known for their rich, multi-instrumental performances. Between them, they draw on a vast array of instruments including Uilleann pipes, Northumbrian Smallpipes, whistles, accordion, guitar, hurdy-gurdy, mandolin, bouzouki and sometimes even a stomp shoe— creating a lively and engaging set full of variety and character. Tickets: £15 (adults) and £7.50 (children), available from our Box Office on 07498-044649. Wine, soft drinks and nibbles available (cash only). Doors open at 7pm.

Bentham Boost – Community Update

By Laura Davy - Bentham Boost Admin Clerk – www.benthamtowncouncil.gov.uk

Here's a quick update from the Bentham Boost team about what's happening in Bentham.

Flags Up, and Down, and Up Again! Our new flags went up around Bentham recently – and you may have noticed that they have since come down! We've had a few teething issues, so they have been taken down for inspection while we work out the best plan going forward. More flags will be printed so we want to resolve the issues before ordering more. We've had lots of positive feedback and think they are a fantastic way to showcase the many groups, organisations and activities that make Bentham such a vibrant community. We look forward to seeing them flying again!

Curry Night: Tickets are now live for our Curry Night at Bentham Town Hall on Saturday 7th November. There'll be great food from Simply Delicious, along with entertainment from Alfresco throughout the evening and bring your own alcohol as there will be no bar on site. Tickets must be booked in advance via TicketSource and will not be available on the night. Please email us if you help with this and look out for posters around town too! *See advert opposite.*

Bentham Parkrun: We've held several trial sessions and would love more people to attend future trials. Having more participants will help us properly test the route and identify any potential issues before we launch. Keep an eye on our Facebook page for trial dates.

Christmas in the Mart: As part of Christmas in the Mart, we'd love to see local businesses getting involved in a late-night opening evening on Friday 11th December. Would you

like to see this happen, or could your business take part? Please contact us by email or call into the Town Hall to let us know.

Colourful Bentham: Artist Rachel Thornton has been commissioned to create public artwork as part of our Colourful Bentham project – and we need your ideas about what makes Bentham, Bentham! We'd love your photographs, memories, quotes, sayings and ideas about what makes our town special. Please send them to Bentham Boost or contact Rachel directly via Facebook.

We're also organising a **Coffee Morning** to raise funds for next spring's plants. The planting has made a real difference to our High Street, and we want to continue bringing colour to the town.

Bentham Boost meets monthly at Bentham Golf Club, and everyone is welcome. If you have ideas, would like to help or simply want to find out more, please get in touch.

Our email is:

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Christmas in the Mart – Celebrating 10 Years!

By the CITM team



This year Christmas in the Mart is celebrating its 10th anniversary! What started back in 2016 has grown into a special part of Christmas in Bentham, and we're incredibly proud that the event continues to bring so many people together. We're grateful to everyone who has supported the event over the past ten years – whether as volunteers, stallholders, performers, decorated tractor drivers, sponsors or by simply coming along and enjoying the festivities.

Last year was our biggest Christmas in the Mart yet, with more than 3,500 people coming through the doors and over 60 stallholders joining us. From the lantern procession and Farmers' Carol Service to the fantastic, illuminated Tractor Run, live entertainment, children's activities and Christmas shopping, the whole weekend was filled with a brilliant sense of community.

This year (on 11th and 12th December), we'd love to make our 10th anniversary celebrations even more special – and we'd like local businesses to be part of it. We're looking for businesses who might like to sponsor or support Christmas in the Mart 2026. It's a lovely way to get behind a local event, put your business in front of thousands of visitors and, most importantly, help us to continue bringing our community together while supporting some fantastic charities and good causes. If you'd like to find out more about sponsorship or getting involved, please contact hello@christmasinthemart.co.uk.

Here's to 10 years of Christmas in the Mart – and hopefully many more to come.



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News from the Fells of a Treasure Hunt, a Tractor Run, Heritage Tomatoes, Farming Families and a Reflective Moment at Dawn

By Helen Wilkinson

There was a good turnout for the village treasure hunt on 18th August; the weather had cooled for the walk across the fields to White Pits Lane, passing through Fleet Green, back down to Higher Stockbridge and then to the Old Vicarage to read the date stone. Who built this building? A return to church following the woodland track that previous vicars would have taken and an investigation in the vestry revealed that it was built by James Chadwick in 1868, it was said to have been designed by his wife. Winners were Mary Myers, Martin Knowles and Edward Huddleston.

Wigglesworth Tractor Run passed through on 30th August. A mix of old and new tractors on a forty-mile journey on and off road, enjoying the scenery of the Bowland Hills, travelled down Helks Brow and then up Silly Lane.

On September 5th we had a coffee morning in Bentham Town Hall, with a cake stall and produce table laden with fruit and vegetables including some lovely colourful heritage tomatoes; £456.10 was raised for church funds.

On Saturday September 12th, Tatham History autumn programme began with a walk from Fourstones, formerly a farm known as Hodgson House the present house was built as a shooting lodge. It sits on the boundary beck (Mearsbeck) between Lancashire and Yorkshire. We followed this across the fields to Moorlands before turning up to Fleet House and circling back past Rantree Fold and Beethams. John Wilson talked about six farms and the families that had lived in them, one of whom was the Ellershaws who have been in the area for over 600 years. As part of the Blackburn Diocese Centenary celebrations a Celtic Communion service was held at dawn at the Big Stone (see photo of Ingleborough at dawn). A reflective start to the day in soft grey mist, followed by bacon butties at Fourstones.



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