

## HIGH BENTHAM WOMENS INSTITUTE REPORT TO BENTHAM TOWN COUNCIL – APRIL 2025

High Bentham Women's Institute has 17 members who meet once a month. At our meetings we have speakers on a range of subjects plus activities and social events. Additional visits and outings are also arranged. It looked for a while as if the WI would be closing this April due to lack of volunteers for the committee. However, some new committee members have been appointed so that we can keep going, with a full programme for the next year.

Since 2022 we have been raising money with coffee mornings and other fundraising for a physic garden around the bench supplied by the WI, outside the medical centre. The stone paving and a raised planter were completed in March 2024. The raised planter was filled and planted by members in early July 2024 using funds supplied by the Town Council. Unfortunately, a combination of bad weather through the summer and difficulty getting anyone to assist meant we made no further progress and thus used only a fraction of the funds allocated by the Town Council for last year.

We finally managed to get the beds dug this month. The next stage will be to fit edging to the beds and plant with medicinal herbs and plants, selected to attract birds, butterflies and other pollinators. We hope to provide a display board detailing the medicinal uses of the plants selected.

The WI will undertake / co-ordinate maintenance of the garden once planted.

ROUNDERS REPORT FOR 2024  
FOR THE BENTHAM PLAYING FIELDS AGM  
TUESDAY 08/04/2025

We had a good season in 2024 playing most of the games as the weather was kind to us. We have 16 members which is great and we play from May to September on a home and away basis. We play 4 other teams including Settle, Ingleton and Hellifield.

Angus very kindly sponsored us for new Polo Shirts which was a fantastic help.

We hope that 2025 is as good.

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(Secretary and organiser of the Bentham Ladies Rounders Team,)

PFA Report for the Annual Parish Council Meeting 2025  
Monday 28th of April 7pm

I can report that it has been a busy year down at the Playing Fields. We have managed to get rid of the Asbestos which is great and we are now going after grants to either rebuild the existing pavilion or have second hand porto-pods which we can alter to our specifications. We have obtained a new large Rubbish bin and the Container for the Craven Wanderers should be sorted soon. As the one we have, the floor has collapsed. We have lots of fund raising events in the pipe line. The nearest being the Duck Race on the 4th of May. We had a children's Bingo party in the Black Bull upstairs on the 13th of April which was a great success. There will be Music on the Field in September. We have had an opera singer, Valentines party, New Years Eve Party, Ceilidh night, all have been great successes. o we hope to continue with our quest to improve the field with a better looking pavilion. Many Thanks for the Precept Grant as this is a life saver for us.

Many Thanks

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(Secretary to the Bentham Playing Fields)



**THE BAY**

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# ***PROSTATE CANCER***

## ***SUPPORT GROUP***

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The Prostate Cancer Peer Support Group was set up to provide peer support for those living with Prostate Cancer, Their family and Carers.

We hold meetings on the second Thursday of each month in Bentham Town Hall from 7:30 pm until 9pm.

It is an informal drop in to talk to others with the same disease and similar symptoms and side effects.

All are welcome, no matter where you live we are not fussy

We are one of a network of similar nationwide groups that share information on new treatments in the pipeline, Some will be too late for us, but may help others.

We also raise awareness of the risk in family members, such as our sons who are at increased risk of Prostate cancer and our Daughters of breast cancer.

We have had amazing support plus fund raising from the people of Bentham and Bentham Town Council for which we are extremely grateful.

## LOW BENTHAM PUBLIC HALL & VICTORIA INSTITUTE

The Victoria Institute is the only public space in the village and is used by many groups Community Link Café, Women's Institute, Dance, Tai-chi group, Yoga, Hip Joint and Cornerstone Church.

It has recently been refurbished with grants from NYC to enable us to have new toilets replaced and all the rooms refurbished. This will enable us to let out the institute to a wider audience.

We have also installed a public toilet which is a great asset to the village.

We are very grateful to Bentham Town Council for the monies which will help towards the new blinds for the main hall.

Thank you

**Bentham, Ingleton & Burton Mencap  
report to Bentham Annual Parish Meeting**

This small group supports 17 people with learning difficulties, some in residential care and others living at home. Last year we arranged two trips to Matrix Superbowl at Skipton which was enjoyed by both the members and their carers.

Our Fundraiser is the coffee morning in the Town Hall, which makes enough to cover the annual fees; insurance, Information Commissioner, affiliation to Mencap and venue hire for the AGM. We are very grateful to individuals and groups for donations which allow us to go on trips and every member receives an Easter Egg and a gift of money at Christmas.

Stepping Stones Baby & Toddler Group meets every Wednesday morning during term-time in the Town Hall Ballroom. For £2.00 per Family, refreshments for adults and healthy snacks for the Children are provided.

Each session offers a choice of Play and Learning activities which helps to promote development through those important early years.

We held a successful Christmas Party with a visit from Santa and his Elf and during the Summer Holidays a couple of Summer Sessions take place.

The Group would like to thank everyone for Donations, Funding, Parents, Grandparents, Carers and their Children for attending and Bentham Town Council for their valued support.

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Stepping Stones Baby & Toddler Group.

# BENTHAM PET RESCUE

Since our foundation back in 1998, Bentham and District Pet Rescue has operated as the simplest form of charity – an unincorporated association whereby our trustees and officials were voted in on a yearly basis. In August last year, we registered a new charity (under the same name) as a CIO – a charitable incorporated organisation in order to put our work onto a more sustainable footing for the future. But whilst our charitable status has changed, our aims have not. We're still here to offer financial help to pensioners faced with unexpected vet bills, such as the cost of amputating a cat's leg after it had been caught in an illegal trap (in Bentham!); we're also still here to help rescue and rehome unwanted, stray and homeless pets in this area – of which we rehomed 75 cats and kittens last year, including kittens left in a cardboard box in a layby, several cats needing new homes when they're previous families had to move to new rental accommodation that wouldn't allow pets, and pets simply abandoned. We're indebted to our supporters and volunteers, especially those who foster cats for us temporarily until we can find them permanent forever homes. Thank you!



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