

ACS Chairman's Report AGM May 2024

This time last year Richard Walton gave the Chairman's report and in it he referred to "a new Captain and a host of new recruits to the lower decks"....

Well, with guidance from the "old hands" we've managed to steer through generally fair weather, with some choppy water and one risk of becoming becalmed when we really thought we might not find a treasurer, but the sun came out, the breeze picked up and we now have not one but two treasurers. More of that later. So, to sum up this year's journey.

Membership numbers

As of the 31st March 2024 the Society had 397 members representing 273 households. Many thanks to Margaret Keating for her work as Membership Secretary. Margaret manages a complex database and liaises with the Treasurer to ensure our records are up to date and accurate.

Activities completed this year

- Nine Speaker Meeting. Huge thanks to Trustee Jayne Hood and member Debs Griffiths our Speaker finders. It's not easy putting together the annual programme, but they excelled themselves this year with a super range of speakers.
- Two Social Meals, and again thanks to Jayne for organising those.
- The Summer and Christmas Parties and the Spring and Autumn Fairs. Thanks to member Kathy Gilbert who has been getting to grips with the organisation of these events with lots of help and support from Diana Keeble who has overseen the fairs for many years. The two fairs raised just short of £2000 and this income funds many of our projects.
- Thanks to Jane Welby for producing 12 super newsletters and updating our New Members Leaflet.
- Our website guru, Gary Copping has kept our websites up to date, and when we were gifted the Addingham.info website he gave it a new look and reviewed all the content.
- For the last few years, we have organised a social evening for new members, thanks to Cricket Club for hosting.
- And behind the scenes we organised First Aid for trustees (thanks to The Fleece for the venue), DBS certificates (Debaring Service), PAT testing for our electrical equipment thanks to member Lisle Richardson and most recently a new audio system and headset.

Just to remind you of our four themes: Community, Planning, Heritage, and Environment. The Planning, Heritage and Environment Groups have their own sub-committees of volunteers, and our thanks need to go out to them all. At a rough count we can call on, in the region of, 50 – 100 volunteers for activities and events.

Community

We took opportunities to promote ourselves and support the village at events such as the Gala, Christmas Market, and one-off events such as the Coronation celebration. Through our Award scheme we made donations to the Scouts and Garden Friends. We presented the Civic Pride Award 2023 to Jim Robinson for his huge contribution to the Society and the Village during his 13 years as Society Chairman. And, in partnership with the Parish Council we produced the two Village Newsletters.

We contributed a number of speakers to the Primary School enrichment programme, and we worked with and supported as many village groups as we could, a great example was when we joined forces with AGAA for the 2023 Christmas Speaker Meeting and AGAA Christmas Social.

There were two particular opportunities to promote the village. We hosted a day visit by the Lytham St Annes Civic Society and a day visit for the AGM of the Friends of the Dales (who are coming again this year).

We are also a partner in the planning for the Addingham version of Bradford City of Culture.

Planning

Planning is a key element of the work of the Society. Many thanks to Malcolm Keeble who stepped down from the Vice Chairmanship last year but agreed to stay on to Chair the Planning Group.

This is work that is constantly taking place in the background. In the last year Malcolm and his team reviewed (with reference to the Neighbourhood Plan) in the region of 40 Addingham planning applications and where relevant made recommendations to the trustees.

The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) was updated in December and the next stage of Bradford's Local Plan, with detailed housing allocation proposals, is due to be published this summer. One of their most significant pieces of work this year was the Horn Crag Quarry Appeal. As a Rule 6 Party Malcolm and Rick spent many hours in preparation and attendance.

Heritage Group

For many years our President, Don Barrett, had been the unofficial "keeper" of Addingham heritage and had built up a huge archive of material and knowledge. He oversaw the growth of the Heritage Group and donated his collections to the Society. This year Don stood down as Chair of the Heritage Group and handed over to Ian Cameron. A huge thank you to Don and welcome to Ian as Chair.

It is a thriving group and has a wide range of projects underway. To name just a few:

- Enhancing the Photo Archive and its 1685 project and prints for sale.
- Preparation of a Heritage Information board for Low Mill
- Publication of a revised Blue Plaque Trail Booklet with QR codes linking every plaque to further information.
- Created criteria for Blue plaque nominations with all the details on the website.
- Launched a project to photograph the Addingham Listed Structures.
- Launched a project to record the Covid experience in Addingham.
- Creating displays at the Hub and particular occasions. Their latest will be D Day in June.
- Running enrichment sessions in the primary school about the Photo Archive
- And most recently they had a display at the Yorkshire Heritage Summit in Hull Minster.

You'll be able to hear more from them at their Speaker Meeting in July.

Environment Group (AEG)

This is chaired by Rick Battarbee and has a steering committee of seven.

With the help of an army of volunteers (thank you) they manage a range of ongoing biodiversity and climate change projects such as the wildflower meadows, bee and butterfly transect, bird counts, management of invasive species, jumble trail, tree, and hedge planting, checking energy efficiency in homes and keeping an eye on water quality in the becks.

- In September the Pop-up Refill Shop was launched and is now a monthly regular at the Mount Hermon Coffee Pot.
- During 2023 and 2024 their major focus has been on Climate Action Addingham (CAA). This initiative is led by the Parish Council and Civic Society and 2023 was its second year. It now has 16 village organisations committed to mitigating the effects of climate change and biodiversity loss in any way they can. CAA held its second annual village meeting in November and have held the first of four CAA focus weeks – Zero Waste in March. These focus weeks replace Environment Weekends and aim to reach wider audiences.
- Working with residents, partner organisations and nearby communities the group has managed and contributed to projects on Craven Crescent Green, iWharfe with Sheffield University and Denton Hall Estate.
- The junior branch of AEG, The Saplings, met eleven times and enjoyed a range of activities. They welcomed three visitors, had one trip to Curlew Day in Malham and took numerous walks exploring Addingham.

And so to the trustees

ACS is fortunate indeed to have a such a great team. This year's report gives a flavour of their effort and commitment.

In January we wished Treasurer, Mike Williams, “bon voyage” as he started his travels. Enormous thanks to Mike for his work as treasurer. He ushered us into a new era of standing orders, card readers and clever spreadsheets as well as keeping us on the financial straight and narrow.

We are now delighted to welcome not one but two to manage our finances. Member, Seamus Bloomer, was co-opted at our March trustees’ meeting and is standing for election as Treasurer. Seamus will be our cash treasurer responsible for handling money, paying the bills etc. Resident and fully qualified bookkeeper, Mike Enever, has taken over all the spreadsheet management behind the scenes. So, we have a really strong team – thank you.

At the AGM trustee, Steve Lloyd, will be stepping down and we will be thanking him for the 9 years during which he has been responsible for managing our publications. He has managed the stock, taken every opportunity to sell, reported sales at every trustee’s meeting and made sure virtually every Addingham resident has a complete set of our publications. Our thanks Steve, your input over the years has been much appreciated.

In March member, Chris Ensor, was co-opted. Chris has offered to take over the publications and lend a hand with our admin, welcome Chris.

And finally THANK YOU - all our members for your support it is much appreciated.

Gill Battarbee
April 2024