



# Civic Society News

April 2025



**Next Speakers Meeting**  
**Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> April**  
**In the Memorial Hall 7.30pm**

**Non-Members welcome £3 admission**



## The Fewston Assemblage Project

**Welcome to Sally Robinson**  
**who will be telling us about this project**



This is a collaboration of commercial archaeologists and academics from the Universities of Durham and York and volunteers from the Washburn Heritage Centre.

The project began in 2009 when graves had to be moved for the building of the Centre.

Sally will share with you some of the interesting findings of the project.



Dear Members,

Another busy month coming up.... read on

It's very early this year - **The Spring Fair on Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> of April.**

As ever we will be delighted to receive donations for our fair.

- Cakes, buns, biscuits and preserves
- GOOD bric-a-brac
- Books
- Tombola prizes
- Bottles of anything, ketchup, shampoo, cordial, wine .....

We'll be at the Memorial Hall setting up between 7pm – 9pm on Friday 4<sup>th</sup> April and from 8.30am on the 5<sup>th</sup>.

Thank you in advance.

Before I sign off, I'd like to thank to **Nick Bailey and his team from Denton Hall** for their presentation in March. What an interesting evening. Those of you who attended will know it was a packed house, and not only did we hear an update on progress at the Hall, but we were also invited to give our views and opinions about their plans for the future. Again, thank you all for taking part. We were the guinea pigs for their community involvement presentation, and they were bowled over by your interest and feedback.



I know some of our members volunteer at the Hall and coincidentally our Environment Group had their final session last week of a two-year project in which they have been recording the quality of the water in the streams on Denton Estate. So in a small way we can say we have a stake in this amazing project.

Lots to enjoy coming up in April

Best wishes

Gill

### Parking Restrictions in the Village

A number of Bradford Council notices have been posted round the village with details of revised parking restrictions in areas including Addingham. The new restriction is for “No waiting at any time” on sections of the following roads:

Church Street, West Croft, Green Lane, Old Station Way, Main Street, and Ridleys Fold

Whether you are in favour or not, you might like to see the detail. If so, click [here](#) to see the rationale, documents, maps and where to respond.

(or go to: <https://bradford.moderngov.co.uk/mgConsultationDisplay.aspx?ID=812> )

If you wish to object you can reply on the same page of the website or if you prefer to write, the address is below.

Any objections must be received no later than 12 noon on 10 April 2025 quoting reference: CORP/PCD/MW/418081

Interim Director of Legal and Governance  
Legal and Democratic Services  
City of Bradford Metropolitan District Council  
City Hall  
Bradford. BD1 1HY



## Spring Tree Planting by AEG

The spring tree planting season is almost over, and our Environment Group has planted in excess of 1500 saplings and hedge plants in various village and moor side locations. We are delighted to have been able to support the requests both from Addingham residents and organisations.

Three weekends saw the planting of 1200 trees and hedges for a resident on the Moorside, and weren't they lucky – cold but without rain.... More recently there was a job to stabilize the banks of Town Beck, move a Hawthorn which had outgrown its home and most recently our volunteers worked with experienced rock climbers from Ilkley who were able to safely plant into St Peters owned land which slopes steeply down to the river ensuring its stability into the future.



## Our Church Street Kiosk Bookswap

So sad, for the first time this year (and I hope the last) our kiosk has been vandalised with graffiti. Huge thanks to our friends, Carole, Malcolm and Jacqui who reported the incident and managed to clean off the paint. We had hoped it might have been caught on camera, but unfortunately not. It has been reported to PCSO Janette Bolton and we have a crime number. If anyone sees this sort of thing or actually sees it happening do let me know.

We had a wave of vandalism in the summer of '23 and we really don't want a repeat. Carole, Malcolm and Jacqui keep the kiosk looking smart and well stocked and we do appreciate it.



## Annual General Meeting

### Trusteeships



- Our 2025 AGM will be held at the beginning of the May Speaker Meeting on May 15th.
- If you would like to be a trustee or know someone who is interested, do get in touch for more information about the role at: [chairman@addinghamcivicsociety.co.uk](mailto:chairman@addinghamcivicsociety.co.uk)
- You will find a Nomination Form at the end of this newsletter.

**Thank you to all our Speakers, Members, Volunteers  
and Subscribers to the Newsletter.**

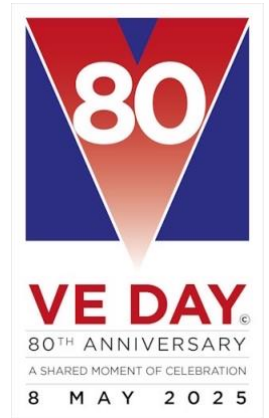
**Please send entries for the May Newsletter to**

**[secretary@addinghamcivicsociety.co.uk](mailto:secretary@addinghamcivicsociety.co.uk) before Friday 25<sup>th</sup> April.**

Chris Cobley MA MBA writes for the Heritage Group:

## Victory in Europe Day on 8 May: Addingham men who died during its liberation

In 2024 we celebrated D-Day and the four men who fought then, two of whom died, Geoffrey Oddy and Hubert Wall, as well as the two who survived, Les Chamberlain and George Houston. Four others fought and died during the North African campaign, George Foster and John Melville both at El Alamein, William Thompson near Tobruk and Thomas Perkins in Tunisia. But it was another four who fought and were killed in Europe itself, Eustace Brace in Belgium in 1940 before Dunkirk, and three others after D-Day elsewhere in Europe: one in Italy in 1944 and two others in Germany in 1945 during the closing months of WW2. Their stories follow this month and next:



### EUSTACE FRANK FEILDEN BRACE

Eustace was educated at Eton and Sandhurst, passing out second on the list for commissions. In July 1939 he joined the 15/19 King's Royal Hussars, as a second lieutenant, a regiment his father had commanded from 1930-1934. Though he was born in London in 1920, his mother later lived at High House on Moorside Lane, Addingham.

On 10 May 1940 he was sent to patrol the Pecq Bridge over the river Escaut in Belgium, but found no enemy activity. However, on 18 May he was sent to patrol the main road into the village of Wolvertham near Ghent and Antwerp. It was here that his unit was attacked by German tanks and Eustace was instantly killed by their fire. He was the first officer casualty of WW2 in North West Europe and the fourth man to be killed in the 15/19 Hussars.

**Eustace is buried with 237 identified British soldiers and 32 unidentified in the ADEGEM (Canadian) Military Cemetery in Belgium between Brugge and Ghent.**

### JACK STAPLETON

Jack and his twin brother George served together during WW2, though George survived. They were both born in July 1919 on Wesley Place. Jack played football for Addingham and was an active member of the local Gymnastics Club and Wharfedale Cycling Club. He was an apprentice loomer and twister at Townhead Mill, until, aged 20, they were both called up in 1939 to join the West Yorkshire Regiment. Transferred in 1940 to the newly-formed 8<sup>th</sup> Battalion of the King's Own Royal Regiment, this was instructed to defend the Dunkirk beaches. The brothers were among the last to return from those beaches.

In July 1941, the brothers sailed from Glasgow on the cruiser HMS Manchester for Malta in a convoy which included HMS Ark Royal, another cruiser, HMS Arethusa, and the battleships, HMS Nelson and HMS Renown. Manchester was torpedoed by heavy Italian bombers between Gibraltar and Malta, returning to Gibraltar having buried 60 dead at sea. Finally the brothers made it to Malta to defend the island, before moving on North Africa and Palestine.

In March 1944 the battalion landed at Taranto on the heel of Italy and began to fight their way north up Italy and what Churchill had described as the "soft-underbelly" of Europe. There was, however, some very stiff fighting in very difficult terrain. Jack was now the platoon's wireless operator and had been sent to the front to observe and report on enemy activity. While Jack was returning he was hit by machine gun fire and died in his brother George's company on his way to a Field Hospital. He was 25.

**Jack is buried in Grave 1.B 21 Forli War Cemetery in Italy.**

(With thanks to Richard Thackrah, Beryl Falkingham and Don Barrett and the Civic Society's "Addingham in World War Two")

## Bradford City of Culture is well under way

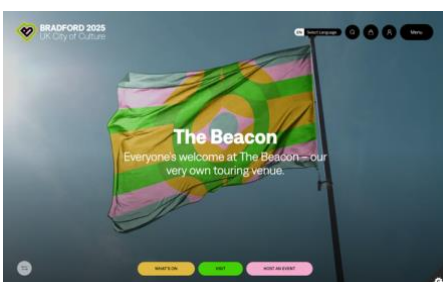


Look out for the **Village Newsletter**, it should be with you soon.

In it you will see some of the ways that **City of Culture is going to be celebrated here in Addingham**, alternatively just click [here](#).

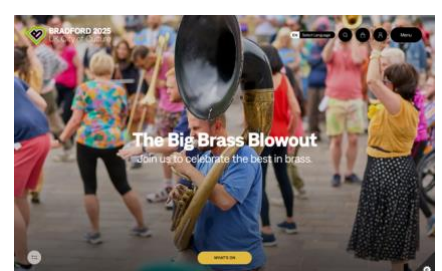
If you fancy going further afield click [here](#) and find out what's going on in and around Bradford. Or you could just go their website using this address:

<https://bradford2025.co.uk/whats-on/>



Here are just two that caught my eye.

Are you into brass bands or do you fancy catching up with their touring venue The Beacon?



**Derek Law and the Church Orchard**

The great majority of Addingham residents will know about the **“Church Orchard”** the wonderful site by the stream in Church Field and created by Derek Law.

In 2019 our Environment Group approached Derek to ask if we could tell the story of The Orchard at our Environment Weekend. He was a quiet, rather private man and it took a bit of gentle persuasion to let us tell his story.



In order to do this, Derek allowed us to borrow some of his diaries. This was a revelation. We are not just talking about quickly jotted notes in a notebook, we found ourselves looking at meticulously scripted, daily records, fully illustrated with photographs and sketches. And not just the history of the orchard, but diaries covering the daily life in Town Beck, species and planting notes for every plant in the orchard, the day-by-day restoration of the property that he and his wife undertook and more.

With his small band of volunteers, the time and effort put into the creation and maintenance of the Orchard was inestimable. But it continues as St Peters, who own the land, are keen to see the orchard continue to thrive and

our Environment Group is pleased to assist with the ongoing maintenance.



Now, some of you will know that sadly Derek died earlier this year and in true Derek style he had prepared his funeral years ago down to the last detail. What a man!

Since Derek’s death we have found that his diaries will come into the ownership of the Civic Society, and we are delighted. Although of no commercial value these provide a wonderful historical record to be added to the Village Archive. It’s now time for a serious look at how we curate our artifacts and documents. Watch this space....

Thank you Derek.

**ACS Civic Pride Awards**

One of the great characteristics of Addingham is its strength of community spirit. Back in 2012 the Society was looking for a way in which it could celebrate this. So, in July 2012 the first Civic Pride Award was presented as a way to thank residents and or organisations for their outstanding commitment to the village. Since then, we have made 18 awards to individuals, groups, families and organisations.

Here are a couple of our most recent awards,



Mark Preston,  
Post Master  
extraordinaire

Andrea & Abi Parker, residents extraordinaire  
who prevented mayhem on Main Street following a  
closure of the bypass.



Thank you to those who have already submitted suggestions for 2025 and if anyone else would like to nominate a resident or an organisation please put a few words together describing the reason for your nomination and get in touch with us at [secretary@addinghamcivicsociety.co.uk](mailto:secretary@addinghamcivicsociety.co.uk) or 01943 839792.

# Events for your Diary

## Are you a Quizzer????

The Annual Village Quiz is being reinstated on

the afternoon on Saturday  
September 6<sup>th</sup>

We have entered a team along with 15 more village organisations.

If you are a member of ACS, you like quizzing and would like some more information do get in touch:

[secretary@addinghamcivicsociety.co.uk](mailto:secretary@addinghamcivicsociety.co.uk)



## Addingham Civic Society

# SPRING FAIR

Addingham Memorial Hall

Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> April

10.00 – 12.00

Free admission



Raffle Tombola Jigsaws Books

Win the Easter Bunny Bottles Preserves

Heritage Cakes Environment Bric-a-brac

CraftShed Local businesses



Refreshments



ADDINGHAM  
MEDICAL CENTRE 

**Improving the mental and physical wellbeing of young people**

**Tuesday 29<sup>th</sup> April 2025**

**Addingham Memorial Hall, Addingham**

**6.30 pm – Refreshments**

**7.00pm – Presentations**

**Guest Speakers:**

**A talk by Jonathan Storton and the team from Kidfit Ltd on improving the wellbeing of young people in the Addingham area.**

**Lucy Owens from GR8 Minds (Children's Mental Health Service).**

**Free Admission - All Welcome  
(including non-Addingham Medical Centre patients)**

An update on the range of services that the Addingham Medical Centre can provide for all ages.



## Addingham Civic Society Nomination Form 2025

We nominate the following member of the society for the post of (PLEASE TICK)



CHAIR <input type="checkbox"/>	VICE CHAIR <input type="checkbox"/>	HON SECRETARY <input type="checkbox"/>	HON TREASURER <input type="checkbox"/>	TRUSTEE <input type="checkbox"/>
Nominee's name: Please Print	Nominee's signature:  Date:			
Proposer's name: Please Print	Proposer's signature:  Date:			
Seconder's name: Please Print	Seconder's signature:  Date:			

- Nominees require a Proposer and a Seconder, both of whom shall be members of the Addingham Civic Society
- Completed forms must be returned by Friday 25<sup>th</sup> April.
- Return to: ACS Chairman, 9 Main Street, Addingham. LS29 0PD