

ACS Chairman's Report AGM May 2023

After 13 years at the Helm of our Civic Society Jim Robinson abandoned ship and embarked on a round of holidays instead, leaving us all bereft. With no immediate willing successor we set sail again with a colourful coalition of amateur helmsmen from the lower decks and have managed, at least, to bring our ship into the safe harbour of our AGM where we hope to take on a new Captain and a host of new recruits to the lower decks.

We must give Jim a huge thank you for the time and effort he, and Lynda, gave to the Society and for the stability his long stint endowed on us, and we thanked him both at our very successful Christmas Party and also at a more personal dinner the trustees hosted at the Golf Club.

We did manage to complete a full year of activities which include 9 or 10 speaker meetings with a variety of interesting speakers sourced principally by Jayne and Debs to whom we offer our thanks. As usual we staged our Spring and Autumn Fairs which once again attracted many visitors, raised quite a handsome sum of money and we gave the whole sum raised at the Spring Fair to assist with relief in Ukraine. We thank Diana and her team for their efforts for both of these Fairs. Also, as we had not been able to organise our Summer Trip for a few years, we added a Summer Party with local band, to our very popular Christmas Party with local band, and – surprise - it was just as popular. We do like a good party.

As you all know we have two large associated Groups in the Civic Society the newest of which is the Heritage Group. The group now has quite a number of active and enthusiastic helpers and hosted several Photo archive Displays in the Hub, at our Fairs and during the village Jubilee and Coronation Celebrations. In addition they have produced and erected a new and attractive Display Board at High Mill to highlight the mill's history and were very grateful to receive a grant to scan nearly 2000 slides to add them to the photo archive. Two members attended the Yorkshire Heritage Summit in Saltire today and earlier in the year also won 2nd place in YHACS competition for projects.

Our Environment Group goes from strength to strength as its 'fame' spreads and gains more and more like minded helpers and volunteers, without which none of the projects could proceed, particularly the significant tree planting projects that are ongoing. We thank Wharfedale Naturalists who have provided grants for several of these projects and also InCommunities who have sponsored and helped residents in Craven Crescent with their wild life garden. We have finally established is Climate Action Addingham which will work alongside the Parish Council to help achieve our objectives in Carbon reduction etc. Don't forget the very successful Jumble Trail and Environment Weekend which will be repeated shortly.

Between all this partying etc we managed to continue with our Civic Pride Awards and Community Awards. We helped out with a lot of the organising, proof reading and delivery of two village newsletters in addition to preparing our own

monthly newsletter for which we thank our new editor, Jane Welby, for stepping into the position left by our departing Chairman.

Of course, all of these meetings, Fairs, Parties and Events seem to encourage new members which does give us an excuse to have another 'get together' to introduce them to the Trustees. We generally host these at the Cricket Club and try to entice them to join in, help where they can, etc – this years was particularly successful as one of those recent new members is nominated to the Committee tonight.

Ever mindful that the world does move on we have purchased two card readers so we can now take electronic payments for all our services, including books, cards and membership. So those of you who could never find their chequebook or wallet now only need a bankcard. Technology – you can't beat it. And, for those of you who like to see a good hardcopy, we have just taken delivery of a very nice notice board which will be put up on the side of the Hub, to match the Parish Council one.

As well as all this we also contribute speakers to the Primary School Enrichment programme.

This is a very worthwhile project and has provided a rich variety of topics for the pupils.

Finally, and we know it is 18 months away, Bradford City Of Culture 2025 is on its way.

Shanaz Gulzar, Creative Director for Bradford CoC 2025, came and spoke to trustees along with representatives from the

Parish Council. She explained that this would embrace not just the City but all its boroughs as well and that each 'borough' would get its own 'artiste' to coordinate local projects. This is ongoing as we speak but we will keep everyone up to date and hopefully provide another excuse for a Village Celebration – we love those.

Another finally. In addition to Jim for Chairing for half the year, Gill for the huge amount of time spent keeping us all in line, the colourful coalition of Steve, Roger and Richard for stepping up and playing at being chairman and all the rest of the trustees and co-opted members for tolerating us we must thank our members – that's you lot! - for helping where you can, attending when you can and buying all those things you don't really need. It's what keeps us going.