



# Civic Society News

January 2024



**Next Speaker Meeting  
Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> January  
In the Memorial Hall 7.30pm**

**Non-Members welcome £3 admission**

COLIN SPEAKMAN

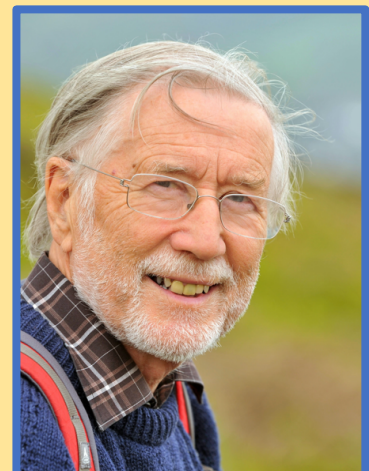
## YORKSHIRE *Ancient Nation, Future Province*



At our Speaker Meeting on the 18<sup>th</sup> we will be welcoming

### **Colin Speakman**

Colin is a walker, environmentalist, poet and writer, best known as being one of the co-founders of both the Dales Way and the Yorkshire Dales Society – now Friends of the Dales. In this talk, based on his recent popular book **Yorkshire Ancient Nation, Future Province**, Colin will talk about the origins and nature of the idea of Yorkshire, its rich landscape and cultural heritage, and its relevance as a proud Region of England in the 21<sup>st</sup> century.



Dear Members

Welcome to your Civic Society 2024. I do hope you had an enjoyable Christmas, more wet than white, but hey, I got to road test my new wellies.

Thank you all for renewing your membership, we really appreciate it. It's great to see members at our events but even if that's not "your thing" your membership provides support for all our work around the village.

We will be kicking off in 2024 with our Speaker Meeting on the 18<sup>th</sup> and we are very much looking forward to hearing from Colin Speakman. Colin is often referred to in relation to the creation of the Dales Way – wonderful - but he has so many more strings to his bow. On the 18<sup>th</sup> he will be reminding us of "Yorkshire's unique history in which Addingham played a small, but not insignificant part".

Colin will be bringing with him one or two of his publications for sale. These will include the book which is the subject of his talk **Yorkshire Ancient Nation, Future Province** and his recent collection of poems **The Lost Chronicles of York** which also deals with Yorkshire themes.

An update I can bring you is our role in Addingham's contribution to **Bradford City of Culture 2025**, which will be here before we know it. One of the themes for the year will be Local Walks. We have some great walks around the village, Don Barrett's book of walks, our Blue Plaque Trail and a range of walks designed by the Environment Group. The Heritage Group will be putting some ideas together for this theme.

The next village meeting to discuss "the Addingham Plan" for City of Culture will be held in the Memorial Hall at 18.00 on Monday 15<sup>th</sup> January. The overall idea is to have a range of activities and events covering the arts, culture and heritage which run throughout the year and involve as many groups, societies and individuals as possible. If you or someone you know might be interested in being involved do let tell them about the meeting. If they can't attend they can contact me for more information.

It looks like it's going to be another busy year with lots to look forward to.

With all best wishes for 2024

Gill

### Our final event of 2023



### The Christmas Party



### A Sell Out



Lovely to see a full house on the 14<sup>th</sup> and Time Warp knew how to get folk on their feet for a bit of dancing.

Thank you to all to all trustees and members who helped with the organisation, set up, decorations, clear up, tickets, planning, raffle.....



### Social Get Together at The Craven Heifer - **Advance Notice**

The society will be hosting a social get together on Thursday February 1st. The time is 6.30 for 7pm.

At The Craven Heifer we will be enjoying a two or three course meal. There will be a good choice at each course.

The cost is £23 for two courses or £28 for three courses. (Menu choices will be pre-booked).

If you are interested please contact Jayne Hood for the menus via [jaynehood@gmail.com](mailto:jaynehood@gmail.com) OR text 07828 804633.

**BOOKINGS OPEN ON 5th JANUARY** There are limited places so first come, first served.





## In Memory of Alison Armstrong

We were sad to learn this week of the death of Alison Armstrong. Some of you will remember Alison. She lived in and around Addingham in the 1980s and 90s.

She had studied geology at Newcastle and Leicester Universities and brought with her to Addingham not only her knowledge about geology but also her enthusiasm for recording vernacular architecture. Alison was the author of our first Civic Society publication, "Country Walks Around Addingham". She continued to collaborate with Arnold Pacey, Kate Mason and Jonathan White in producing more of our memorable village histories.

The photograph shows Alison leading a field trip on the banks of Wharfe in Addingham.

She had moved to Yorkshire to take up the position as Keeper of Natural Sciences at Cliffe Castle Museum in Keighley. During her 31 years working there she created two of the most prominent exhibitions in the museum, "The Airedale Gallery" illustrating the physical formation and geology of the local area and "The Molecules to Minerals" display which has one of the largest collections of crystals in the UK.

In 2006 she retired after 31 years at Cliffe Castle and subsequently moved to Settle, but her name lives on here in our Addingham publications.



## The Need for an Addingham Bypass by Jonathan White, ACS Heritage Group

Don Barrett our President wrote an excellent article, with photos, for the January 2023 newsletter. My intention is to look more closely, in instalments, at the 1972 commitment, and how it developed, to building a bypass.

In 1970 Addingham was expanding to cater for commuters able to travel daily to the Leeds/Bradford conurbation, and its population has continued to increase to nearly 3,800 today. Village mill closures and the mechanisation of agricultural practices saw the availability of locally based employment dwindle whereas commuter and heavy goods vehicle traffic became more frequent, often clogging up narrow trunk roads twisting through village environments. The A65 passed through the middle of Addingham and its conservation area, with links to Bolton Abbey on the B6160 and Silsden and Airedale on the A6034. There was clearly a need for traffic management measures to be taken.



To this end, preliminary investigations suggested five alternative routes for a bypass. Public consultation in November 1978 saw overwhelming support for the route which now exists. But the scheme was put on hold in October 1980 — overall costs and other bypass schemes were also in the pipeline — and not reintroduced until 1983, the preferred purple route, albeit modified, being adopted for detailed design. Draft Orders were published in February 1986 and a public exhibition held. Following the bypass of Otley and the proposed bypasses of Burley and Draughton this represented improved conditions along the A65 which provided an important link between the West Yorkshire conurbation and Kendal, the M6 into Cumbria and further north, and the Lake District.

**Next time — a more detailed comment on the five suggested routes.**

## Addingham Best Kept Village

Now here is a test for you — have you noticed that our beautifully restored Best Kept Village sign has been returned to its home at the bottom of Old Station Way?

We had spotted that some of its new gold leaf was peeling off and so it has been re-restored, free of charge and using a different, and I hope, long lasting process. It does look rather fine.

For those of you don't know the background — in 1997 Addingham won "Best Kept Village Competition". Sadly, the competition folded that year but as a result Addingham was left with the original highly decorated sign as well as a rather plain replica. Normally after one year the winner would have kept the replica and the original would be moved to the next winning village. Addingham has both!

So, once the weather is a little more clement the replica, which lives on the Green at the west end of Green Lane, will be the next in line for a bit of TLC.



## Climate Change Questionnaire

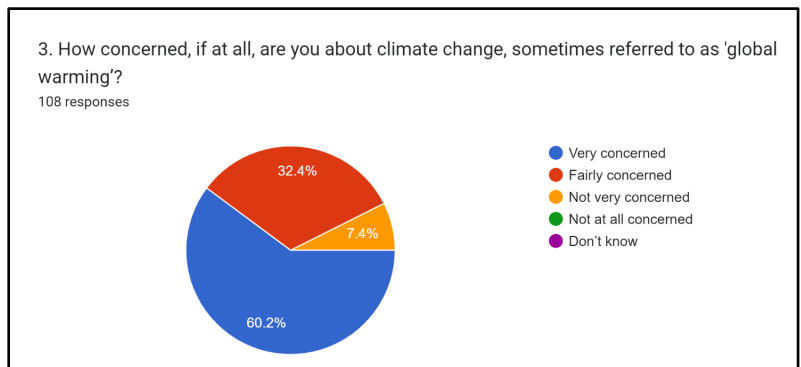
Rick Battarbee writes:

Following the formation of Climate Action Addingham in 2022 one of our first actions was to carry out a village survey about climate change. We used the Addingham property register provided by Bradford Council to randomly select 200 households in the village and designed a questionnaire to be distributed by volunteers to those households.

Of the 200 households targeted 36 were “no-shows” in that no-one answered the door, despite repeated visits, 30 declined to take part, leaving 134 where we had positive responses, i.e., the householders expressed a willingness to complete the questionnaire. Of these, 108 actually did so by our deadline. A copy of the questionnaire can be seen on the CAA website [https://www.climateactionaddingham.info/CAA\\_CCQ\\_V6.pdf](https://www.climateactionaddingham.info/CAA_CCQ_V6.pdf). It included questions about climate change knowledge and concern, measures already being taken by respondents to reduce their carbon footprint, degree of trust in different information sources and attitudes about responsibility for finding solutions.

Here are some of the key findings.

- 95% of respondents believed that climate change is due to human activity.
- 93% were concerned or very concerned about climate change.
- Over 98% of households surveyed are recycling household waste.
- Over 90% are attempting to minimise energy consumption.
- Over 65% consider energy efficiency when buying electrical appliances.
- Over 65% minimise tap water consumption; but
- Less than 43% consider walking and cycling rather than using a car.
- Less than 33% consider using public transport rather than using a car.
- Only 33% of respondents fly less, and
- Only 5% own an electric car.



On the question of trust, respondents trusted scientists (91%) and scientific organisations (89%) a great deal for accurate information about climate change but had little or no trust in social media (30%), and government (50%). When asked about whether individuals could make a difference an overwhelming majority of respondents agreed that everyone could contribute to the solutions by making changes to their lifestyles, but there was concern that some of the information needed for the public to make decisions was unclear.

Overall, these are very positive results and indicate that the local initiatives proposed by CAA to reduce our carbon footprints individually and as a community are likely to find support amongst the majority of village residents. The challenge, however, will be bridging the gap between good intentions, implicit in the survey results, and the practical actions needed to make a difference.

With thanks to Malcolm Secrett for the design of the survey and analysis of the responses and to our indefatigable volunteers, especially those from outside the parish.

A full report will be published on the CAA website in due course.

## The 2023 Photo Competition Winners

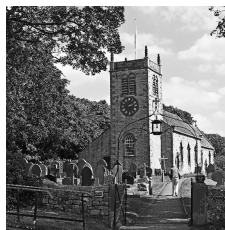
As promised, here are the photos and worthy winners from the **Black and White** category judged by Mark Waddington

1<sup>st</sup> Don Barrett



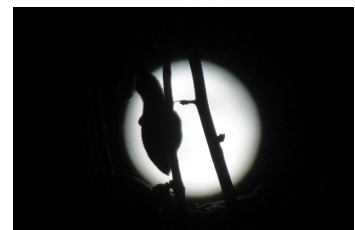
'Lest we Forget'

2<sup>nd</sup> Don Barrett



'St Peters'

3<sup>rd</sup> Fiona Mann



'Moon View'



## Bradford Ward Boundary Review Consultation

### Trustee Richard Walton

The Boundary Commission is charged with periodically checking that housing development hasn't significantly changed the number of voters in each of the Wards. The last time this was carried out by the Bradford District Metropolitan Council (BDMC) was 2003 so the Commission decided nearly 20 years came well within their heading of 'from time to time' and require Bradford to carry out a Ward Boundary Review. Using the Boundary Commission criteria for review Bradford has put forward its draft proposal and this document is now out for public consultation with a date for final comments of Feb 5<sup>th</sup> 2024.

**For background, the Boundary Commission purpose and aims are as follows:**

- *Achieve electoral equality so that within an authority each councillor represents a similar number of electors.*
- *Reflect local communities and interests.*
- *Create boundaries that are appropriate and reflect community ties and identities.*
- *Respond to local views.*
- *Deliver reviews informed by local needs, views and circumstances.*

The basis of the document starts off as a purely mathematical exercise and shows that our present wards, which, like all others, supports three ward councillors, is some 15% higher than the average. To rebalance the numbers of voters Bradford's suggestion is to remove Addingham from the Craven Ward (Addingham, Silsden and Steeton) and add it to the Ilkley Ward.

Well, I've asked our ward councillors and people more knowledgeable than myself, I've read a lot of the documents – some over 50 pages long – and conclude that the pros and cons depend on who you are, your political views and, often, precisely whereabouts you live in relation to the existing and proposed ward boundaries.

Bradford's Review of the proposed changes that affect our ward reports that the Green Party and Labour Party councillors support the changes, but the Conservative Party councillors wish the current boundaries to remain. I suppose that this is where voters are advantaged or disadvantaged depending upon whether the new boundaries change the political scenery.

Currently the political scene is as follows:

- Craven Ward is represented by two Green Councillors and one Conservative
- Ilkley Ward is represented by two Conservative Councillors and one Independent.

The Green Party councillors for our present ward have commented that, as their boundaries will change some voters who have become their friends and working colleagues will no longer be in their Ward. Locally I think that is a very relevant point of view as we ourselves get used to working with our Ward Councillors in our various local groups, clubs and societies. But of course, this could all change in the 2026 Local Elections.

The consultation is particularly focussed on gathering views and opinions as to whether the "new" boundaries provide balance across the area considering:

- Local needs and circumstances
- Transport, local facilities, shops, leisure, access to education etc.
- Which areas do you identify as your local community?
- Do you agree with the ward names?
- Potential changes to the political scene
- Reasons for your comments and suggestions

The Civic Society Trustees realise everyone will have different views and are not proposing a Society opinion or position, but we do hope that you will delve into the following links and judge whether or not you feel the need to comment. If so, remember you need to **comment by February 5<sup>th</sup> 2024** and those details are within Bradford's Review of the proposed changes.

### **BDMC Documents:-**

Bradford's Review of the proposed changes and consultation registration (Have your say).  
<https://www.lgbce.org.uk/all-reviews/bradford>



## Boundary Commission documents:-

Draft Recommendations Report. [\(bradford\\_full\\_report.pdf \(lgbce.org.uk\)\)](http://bradford_full_report.pdf(lgbce.org.uk)) (Key pages 9-11.)

Draft Recommendations Map. [\(bradford\\_d\\_so.pdf \(lgbce.org.uk\)\)](http://bradford_d_so.pdf(lgbce.org.uk))

Summary of Draft Recommendations. [\(bradford - dr - summary.pdf \(lgbce.org.uk\)\)](http://bradford_-_dr_-_summary.pdf(lgbce.org.uk))

Website for The Local Government Boundary Commission for England - Changing wards

<https://www.lgbce.org.uk/changing-wards-number-councillors-council-has>

If you have looked at these links you will now know why I cannot explain it in only a few words but you will now be in a position to make up your own mind and most certainly know about the potential changes to come.

## Planning with Bradford - Gill Battarbee writes:

For those members who are interested in the Planning process, we are pleased that Bradford has invited representatives from local Civic Societies to meet quarterly with members of the Bradford planning team. I should make it clear that this will not be a route to deal with individual planning issues but a way in which we can discuss the broader and more strategic planning issues, be kept up to date with policy and process and raise general queries or areas of concern. We are hoping that this development will provide further support and information for our own Planning, Heritage, and Environment Groups. To date our Society has attended the first introductory meeting at which we had a résumé of the roles of the various planning officers and some updates, one of which related to the Local Plan. So the latest news on that - It is hoped that the Bradford Local Plan formal consultation will be held in the summer 2024. We'll keep you in the loop as things progress.

**Horn Cragg** Many of you will be aware that the latest planning application to re-open Horn Cragg Quarry, off Fishbeck Lane in Silsden was turned down in the summer by Bradford Council. The applicant has gone to appeal and the case will now be determined by the Planning Inspector at a hearing in February. As with the earlier applications, the Society has objected to the application with reference to issues regarding biodiversity loss and hydrogeology.

## Thanks to our Treasurer Mike Williams

We'd like to say a huge **Thank you** to Mike who has kept our finances straight and in good health over the last three years. Not only that, he has steered us into the 21<sup>st</sup> century world with the introduction of standing orders, card readers and PayPal, who'd have thought it!

Mike and Judi are leaving us to go on their travels round the world. Hope you have a wonderful time and thank you from all of us. Don't forget to send us a postcard.

Our new treasurer is lined up and ready to go and we'll be introducing him to you in February.

## Reminders

- The Refill Pop up Stall at Mount Hermon on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday of each month, 10.00 -11.30. Don't forget your empty bottles to refill
- Framed and unframed images from the Photo Archive for sale throughout the year.  
<https://www.addinghamcivicsociety.org.uk/acs/index.php/heritage/buy-photo-prints>

## Dates for your diary

Pop up stall 11<sup>th</sup> January and 8<sup>th</sup> February

Speaker meetings

Craven Heifer Meal 1<sup>st</sup> Feb.

Spring Fair 13<sup>th</sup> April

Bradford City of Culture Village Meeting at the Memorial Hall January 15<sup>th</sup> at 18.00.

## And finally....

**A Huge thank you to all our speakers, contributors to the newsletter, volunteers, and subscribers. If you would like to include anything in our next newsletter, please ensure that you send it to me before Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> January.**

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