

ACS Chairman's Annual Report May 2026

I'll begin by thanking you, our members. Your membership is the backbone of the Society whether or not you are able to come along to meetings and events we really appreciate your support. Many thanks to every one of you.

We have had a really enjoyable, busy year with far too many events to mention individually, but hopefully you will have read about them in our monthly newsletters. But against the background of our regular events, meetings and newsletters I'd like to highlight some of the extras that made the year special.

- For much of the year I was tempted to rebrand Bradford City of Culture - Addingham Village of Culture as our Heritage, Environment and Community Groups took a central part in organising a range of events to celebrate the wealth of culture and heritage in Addingham.
- The dawning of 2026 saw in the 10th anniversary of our Environment Group, launched with an environmentally themed musical evening courtesy of Skipton Brass, many thanks for a sell-out occasion.
- For our Heritage Group, as just part of their detailed work programme it's been the year of publications with two new books written by Chris Cobley and the creation of two moving exhibitions highlighting VE and VJ Day.
- And another highlight, in the autumn of 2025 trustee Jayne Hood and her team rallied businesses and individuals alike in support of a tremendous auction which raised a fabulous £3000+ for Martin House.
- In July ACS hosted the quarterly meeting of YHACs, the regional Civic Society organisation. We hosted over 60 guests from all over Yorkshire. Huge thanks to our trustees and volunteers who provided the visitors with a great day and a great impression of Addingham.
- There of course other projects that have been in our sights for a while - 2026 will be the year!

We currently have a team of 12 trustees Everyone has a role and it's their time, effort, good humour and commitment that underpins all we do. Thank you.

Behind the Society there is an army of wonderful volunteers. When we complete our annual Charity Commission return we can honestly say that we benefit enormously from the commitment of about 100+ volunteers. Events, admin, exhibitions, refreshments, environment projects, publications, deliveries and so the list goes on. You know who you are – Thank you all

Membership

We ended the year with 374 members and since then we have welcomed a few more. Margaret Keating is our Membership Secretary. Thank you Margaret for managing the process so well and welcoming our new members.

Community

We aim to support village organisations and events. So this has, as ever, been a busy year. Here are some of the ways in which we have worked to support the community.

- We had tables at the Gala and the Christmas Market.
- The Environment Group provided a session for each class during National Science Week.
- We took part in the Village Quiz – and we're going to take part this year, wish us luck.
- We co-manage the Spring and Autumn Village Newsletters with the Parish Council.
- We supported the City of Culture events, we helped with some financial support and funded a lithophone in Church Orchard.
- The Environment Group and Parish Council jointly organised the 2025 How Green is Our Village meeting.
- Our November Speaker Meeting was shared with Addingham Allotments and Gardens.
- We are proud to represent the Civic Society at the Remembrance Sunday service.
- Two Community funding Awards were presented, one to the Table Tennis Club towards the cost of the relocation of their club and one towards the cost of a lithophone for the Primary School.
- From the surplus funds of our Autumn Fair we donated £500 to Sarcoma Research supporting residents, Rowan and Ryan.

We benefit enormously from our collaboration with the other groups in the village – our thanks to all.

Planning

Many thanks to the Planning group, led by Malcolm Keeble, they have been kept busy.

During the year they have reviewed 29 Planning Applications, carried out a Review of the Landscape Character Assessment, met several times with Bradford Planning Department, examined housing development applications, kept abreast of the Yorkshire Water developments at Low Mill and are currently involved in a review of the Neighbourhood Plan.

Heritage

At the beginning of the year the Heritage Group, led by Trustee Ian Cameron set to work on their ambitious 2025 – 2026 Work Programme. Here are some of the things they have been working on.

- Cataloguing of the Photo Archive digitised slides continues
- There has been an emphasis on publications this year with two new books, a new Walk, several articles and further publications underway.
- Hub exhibitions were presented commemorating VE and VJ Days.
- Research has been carried out on some embroidered coverlets and its display is planned for the Hub.
- Articles have been provided for all the ACS newsletters and Village Newsletters
- The Group led the September Speaker Meeting
- A representative has provided feedback to the Planning Group regarding the Neighbourhood Plan Review.
- The Group represented ACS at the 2025 Yorkshire Heritage Summit
- The group designed a pull-up banner which is now in use
- Thank you Jim, our Grade II Kiosk book swap has been repainted.
- One member now represents the Group on the Farfield Quaker Meeting House Volunteer Group.

Environment

Rick Battarbee, Jan Hindle and the AEG Steering Committee lead this group. Here are some 2025 highlights.

- **Themed Weeks** Working with the Parish Council four themed weeks were organised, Zero Carbon, Water, Wildlife and Zero Waste which included the Village Jumble trail.
- **Voluntrees** met most Saturday mornings working on the management of invasive species, maintenance of the wild flower areas and allotments and tree/hedge planting for Moorside residents.
- **A Bat Group** has begun monitoring the Addingham bats.
- **Birds, Bees, Butterflies and Bats** all have focus groups which carry out regular monitoring.
- **Publications** Many reports were published on the website charting projects on the becks, monitoring of various species and updating the fight against invasive species.
- **A City of Culture legacy** was installed on Old Station Way in the shape of a marble butterfly.
- **Presentations** AEG led a speaker meeting to gather opinions about environmental priorities, hosted a number of presentations for other groups, led walks and hosted Friends of the Dales AGM
- **Low Mill** AEG has continued to monitor the work of Yorkshire Water at Low Mill.
- **Saplings** The children's group met eleven times during the year finding out about Addingham and nature.
- **AEG launched their 10th Anniversary with** a Brass Band sell-out concert courtesy of Skipton Brass.

Fond Farewells

- **President Don Barrett.** After a long involvement with the Society Don decided last Christmas that it was time for him to step down. Don has held many roles in the society, most notably as Chair, Vice President and President. It was Don who first led the Heritage Group and pioneered the creation of the Village Photo Archive securing his huge collection of heritage images and documents for the future. As President Don was just the person to rely on for support and guidance, thank you Don and we are so pleased that you remain active and involved in the Society.
- **Secretary Jane Welby.** At Christmas we were so sorry to say goodbye to Jane, off to enjoy other things. But in true Jane style she left everything secretarial spick and span – thank you. During the spring we hadn't replaced Jane, but we shared out the jobs and left AI to do the heavy lifting.
- **Trustee Richard Walton.** After 9 years and at the end of this third term of office Richard has decided to hang up his trustee lanyard. What a star. Richard has been invaluable, with his knowledge of all things practical, he represented ACS at Climate Action Addingham and attended Parish Council meeting on our behalf. His familiarity with the village, his knowledgeable, common sense contribution to the work of the trustees and Planning Group are really going to be missed. But thoughtful as ever, he will be staying around in the background to do a gradual handover. And huge thanks have to go to Fiona for the loan of Richard for the last 9 years, we really appreciate your support. So, Laddie might be going on even longer walks and Richard might be tempted to expand his already encyclopaedic knowledge of all things Railway. Thank you Richard.

Finally thank you to all our trustees and members for your continued support

Gill Battarbee