

Civic Society News



April 2026



Speaker Meeting

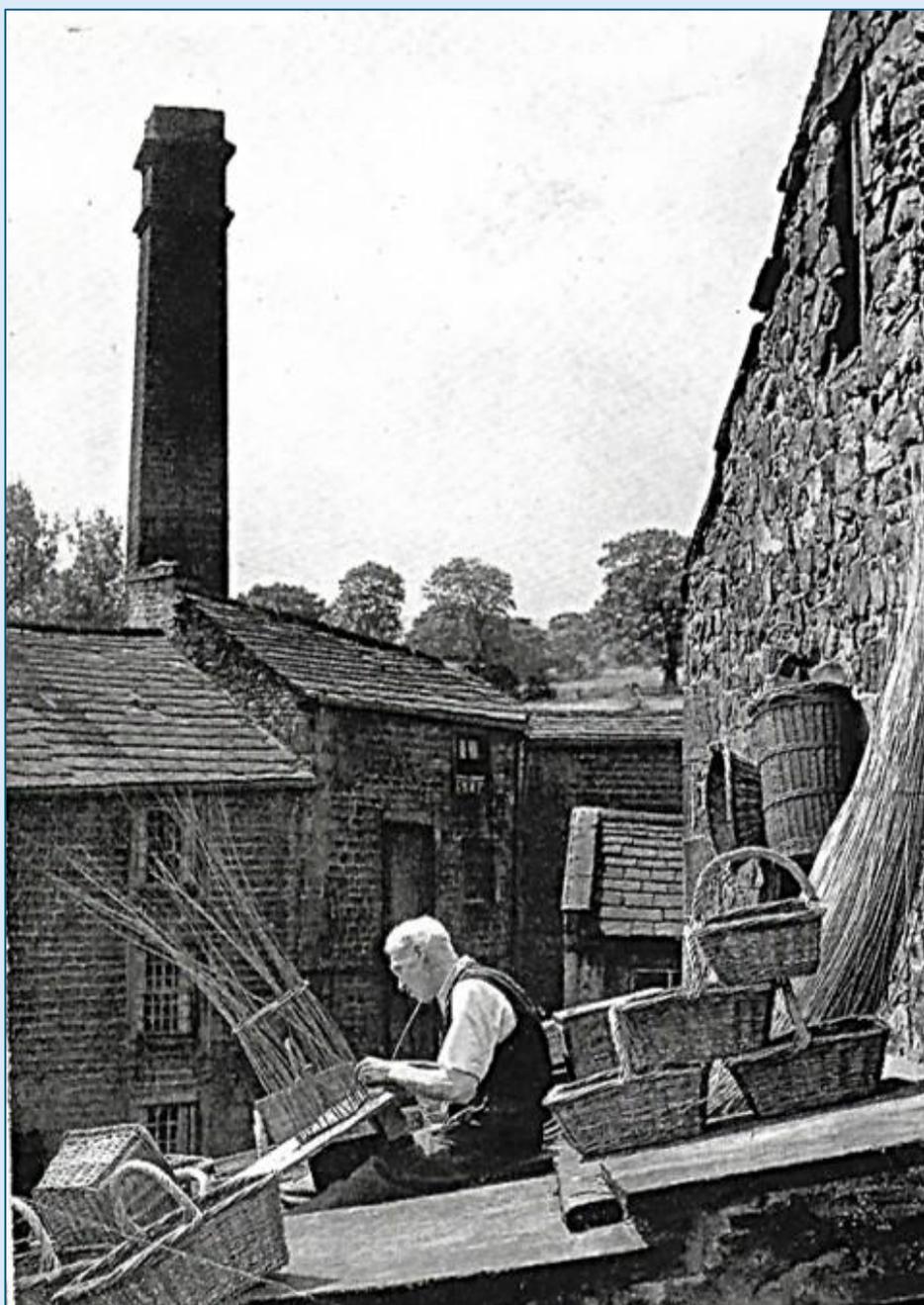
Thursday 16th April

7.30 pm in the Memorial Hall

Free entry for members, guests £3



This Photo by Unknown Author is licensed under [CC BY-NC](https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc/4.0/)



Architecture in the Village

with
our guest
speaker

Malcolm
Birdsall

**Come and hear
the stories our
historic buildings
have to tell!**

Dear Members, **This month our Speaker Meeting focusses on our village architecture.** We are incredibly lucky to have a huge wealth of interesting buildings and sites which illustrate the long history of Addingham. **Welcome to our speaker, Malcolm Birdsall.** We are delighted that Malcolm returned to Addingham after living in the Midlands for a few years! He is a long-time member of the Society taking on various roles including that of Chair. **He is a great historian** and has an extensive knowledge of vernacular architecture. In the 1990s he worked closely with Kate Mason and Arnold Pacey on some of our early publications. This presentation will focus on some of the village's historic buildings, some you may recognise, some may be new to you. And what has he to say about this photograph I wonder? **Really looking forward to this presentation,** hope you'll be able to join us!



With all best wishes for a restful and peaceful Easter.
Gill

Not to be missed! The Victoria String Quartet concert Saturday 25th April 2.30pm

This renowned quartet and friends are giving a free concert in St Peter's Church, Addingham (no ticket required but first come, first seated!) in memory of Margaret, nee Lister, whose family lived in the village for many generations running Addingham Post Office for over one hundred years! The concert will feature works by Schubert, Mozart, Ravel and more.



Margaret's family were great needlewomen, and three embroidered coverlets created by them over at least two

centuries will be on display in the church then too. The coverlets, which are of great interest, will feature further in June's Newsletter, and later, in October, in The Hub, for The Heritage Group's exhibition. Textilians will not be disappointed!

This embroidery features the Tree of Life



Pam Birdsall, Heritage Group



Yorkshire's annual gathering of heritage organisations, hosted by Barnsley Civic this year, was the biggest yet in terms of attendees. Themed **"Our Yorkshire Heritage, Our Yorkshire Future"** it was an opportunity for Yorkshire's regional, local heritage and voluntary organisations to network and exchange ideas. Thank you to Heritage Group members, Jonathan White and Chris Coble for representing us!



ADDINGHAM'S MILLSTONES by **CHRIS COBLEY MA MBA**

Long before railways, canals or even toll roads, every village had to grow its own corn to survive. Even on hillsides in the Dales terracing can be sometimes seen where the land was flattened to grow corn. And where corn was grown there had to be a mill and a miller to grind it into flour. Almost every village had its own corn mill. It was either a windmill or a watermill. Addingham had the River Wharfe, so in Addingham it was a watermill. And that mill was High Mill.

Every corn mill had two millstones: a bedstone beneath and a running stone to turn on top to grind the corn. And the surfaces of both stones had deep grooves called 'furrows' dividing the flat areas known as 'lands'. Fanning out from the 'grooves' were finer lines known as 'fathering' or 'cracking'. The whole pattern was known as a 'harp' and every stone had either 6, 8 or 10 'harps' depending upon its size. At High Mill two such stones can still be seen. Set vertically into the garden wall of 7 High Mill is a lightly convex running stone measuring five feet in diameter with a depth of three inches at its circumference rising to six inches at its centre. Set horizontally on a base opposite the entrance to the Dawson-Crossley field carpark is a bedstone measuring four feet in diameter and five or six inches in depth.



Addingham was lucky. It had the right stone to make millstones. And high up on Addingham Moorside the millstones were made. These supplied not only the West Riding, but also the many villages in the flat lands of the East Riding. There was no stone. All the buildings are of brick and pantiles made from the clay to be found ubiquitously there. Only the bridges and churches are made to stone, and that stone came from elsewhere, sometimes by sail from as far away as France.

The Civic Society's recent publication "Addingham Geology Trail" shows exactly where the village's millstone quarry is to be found. And remarkably, there can be found several complete millstones, as shown. Indeed, one is propped up as though advertising the quarry's wares. Kate Mason suggested that the quarry was most active from 1650 to 1800. In the 1680s John Wainman paid an annual rent of £6 to make 16 pairs of millstones. So, during the period of the quarry's activity, it produced as many as 5000 millstones, possibly more.

Millstones were a major Addingham industry, of value throughout Yorkshire, until millstones were manufactured not of stone, but of steel from the nineteenth century onwards. It is fascinating to imagine that high up on Addingham Moorside stands a millstone, possibly from the seventeenth century, claiming in effect "Millstones R Us" to any passing miller or villager with a mill. The Trail is well worth walking one fine summer's day. The author of the Trail claims to have found as many of forty complete or damaged millstones. Get up there and see how many you can find..!



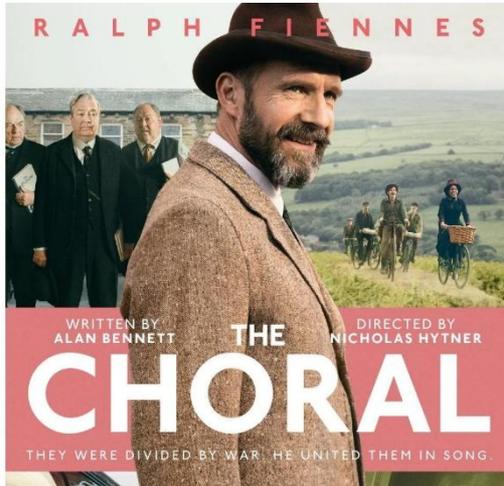
Heartfelt thanks from The Yorkshire Air Ambulance

🙌 Helen Murray Sharpe, a volunteer from the YAA, extends their gratitude for the £213.00 raised at our recent March Speaker Meeting. *We are an independent charity, receiving no direct government funding, meaning we rely on the generosity of people like you. Our new, 3rd helicopter helps us help more people in need, c.5 missions a day in Yorkshire. Thankyou!*



ADDINGHAM FILM CLUB FRIDAY APRIL 10TH MEMORIAL HALL

DOORS OPEN AT 7PM, FILM STARTS AT 7.30 PM
ALL SEATS ONLY £4 , *what a bargain!*
BYO REFRESHMENTS



Set in 1916 and as war rages on the Western Front, the Choral Society in Ramsden, Yorkshire has lost most of its men to the army. The Choral's ambitious committee embarks on a recruitment drive. As conscription papers start to arrive, the whole community discovers that the best response to the chaos that is laying waste to their lives is to make music together.

*Film Club Note: Don't miss it!
A moving story, wonderful music AND many
recognisable Yorkshire locations, with
Saltaire featuring throughout.*

Addingham Environmental Aspirations towards 2036



At the packed February Speaker Meeting our Environment Group (AEG) launched their 10th Anniversary with a review of their achievements and a look to our future ten years.

Hedgehogs were the focus of the Environment Group's very first project so it seemed fitting that the introductory talk was on "Hedgehog rescue", given by Diane Cook from Prickly Pigs, Otley.

Jan Hindle and Peter Haigh followed up with a thought-provoking presentation about AEG's activities and proposed **priorities for the future.**

In groups, we then invited everyone to evaluate, and vote on, which **village environmental objectives** they thought most important, and discussed what we as a group and as a village should be most concerned about in the future.

Charlotte Simons of Yorkshire Dales Rivers Trust kindly facilitated the event. Thanks Charlotte!



Food for thought: please find the presentation on the AEG website here: addinghamenvironmentgroup.org.uk/ACSSpeakerMeeting2026.pdf and other information on the CAA website here: climateactionaddingham.info/objectiveshere

The most votes were for:

- 22 Reducing plastic and eliminating single-use plastic
- 19 Improving water quality in our rivers & becks
- 15 Using public transport more
- 14 Creating wildlife friendly gardens and allotments
- 10 Managing floodwater
- 9 Eliminating use of plant and animal poisons



The fewest votes were for

- 0 Switching to electric cars
- 0 Moving towards a plant-based diet
- 1 Sequestering organic carbon
- 2 Flying less
- 2 Using less tap water
- 2 Creating wildlife ponds

Our AEG 10th Anniversary Celebratory Concert was a sell out and proved to be a hugely enjoyable way to celebrate our 10th birthday *and* raise funds for our Old Station Way project. **Special thanks to Skipton Brass**, their conductor Adrian Austin and ecologist and band member Gordon Haycock for crafting such a varied, interesting and appropriately nature-themed programme. Thanks to our village Beer Festival team for the bar, our front of house and kitchen staff, to all those who donated raffle prizes, including Ilkley Lawn Tennis Club, and everyone for coming. Here's to our next 10 years!

Huge thanks to Rick Battarbee for 10 years' worth of leadership, inspiration and determination



Addingham Civic Society
SPRING FAIR
 Addingham Memorial Hall
Saturday 18th April
 10.00 – 12.00
 Free admission

Raffle Tombola Jigsaws Books
 Win the Easter Bunny Preserves
 Heritage Cakes Environment Bric-a-brac
 CraftShed Local businesses

Refreshments

Yes, the Spring Fair will be here in two weeks' time. All monies raised go towards Addingham village resources and events.

****DONATIONS PLEASE****

As ever, we will be really grateful for your donations for the tombola, fiction books, jigsaws, good quality bric-a-brac and of course **CAKES...**!

Drop off your goodies to us the night before or on the morning: we'll be at the Mem Hall on Fri eve (April 17th) **7 – 9 pm** & setting up Sat morning **8.30 – 9.30 am.**

We look forward to seeing you all at the Fair!



CALLING ALL QUIZZERS

This year's Village Quiz is Sept 5th Last year's event was a hoot so do put it in your diary. Pictured, the 2025 winning team – **The Swan**. Think you can help us beat them? Join our team! secretary @addinghamcivicsociety.co.uk



Spring Social at The Craven Heifer, Addingham

Many thanks to trustee Jayne Hood for organising our first social of the year. A great little get together with good food and good company to brighten up the darker days.

Addingham Civic Society Nomination Form 2026

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

PRESIDENT <input style="width: 40px; height: 30px; margin-left: 10px;" type="checkbox"/>	VICE PRESIDENT <input style="width: 40px; height: 30px; margin-left: 10px;" type="checkbox"/>			
CHAIR <input style="width: 30px; height: 25px; margin-left: 5px;" type="checkbox"/>	VICE CHAIR <input style="width: 30px; height: 25px; margin-left: 5px;" type="checkbox"/>	HON. SECRETARY <input style="width: 30px; height: 25px; margin-left: 5px;" type="checkbox"/>	HON. TREASURER <input style="width: 30px; height: 25px; margin-left: 5px;" type="checkbox"/>	TRUSTEE <input style="width: 30px; height: 25px; margin-left: 5px;" type="checkbox"/>
Nominee's name: Please Print	Nominee's signature: Date:			
Proposer's name: Please Print	Proposer's signature: Date:			
Secunder's name: Please Print	Secunder's signature: Date:			

- One form is required for each nomination. Wendy at The Hub has more forms.
- Nominees require a Proposer and a Secunder, both of whom shall be members of the Society
- Completed forms must be returned by Friday 24th April.
- Return to: ACS Chairman, 9 Main Street, Addingham. LS29 0PD