



Civic Society News.

December 2025



Addingham Civic Society

Christmas Party

For Members and friends

Thursday 11th December

7.30 pm

The Memorial Hall



Music and Dancing to

CHILL PILL



Entry by pre-paid ticket:

Members £10

Non-members £12

Bring your own refreshments, drinks, cutlery and crockery and we'll provide the rest

For tickets contact Lorraine:

lorrainecaroldunn@gmail.com

or 07809 681373

To pay:

BACs: Addingham Civic Society, Acc. No. 34995727, Sort code: 050530 Ref: Your surname + Party

Cash & Cheque (to Addingham Civic Society), through the letterbox 2 Parry Barn, Main St.

Dear Members,

Here comes December and we are ready for the annual Christmas Party.

Have you booked your tickets?

We'll be at the Mem Hall on Thursday 11th from 7.30 pm - dancing shoes on.... Here is the latest photo from our band, Chill Pill, looking cool.

It's been a busy year, and I would like to thank all our trustees for their commitment to maintaining the Society as an important part of village life. But we have two particular thanks to make.



Our wonderful **President, Don Barrett**, has decided that it's time to step down. Don has held an official role in the Society since 1997. In my calculation that is 28 years of continuous service, holding a variety of roles including Chairman and most recently President. Don's contribution to the Society and to the village is considerable, not only did he become the "keeper of the village archive" but his steady hand and wise counsel has been much valued by



us all. Not escaping completely, he will still be a central member of our Heritage Group. We said our official thanks to Don during an evening meal with the trustees at The Craven Heifer. We have another Thank You to make. **Jane Welby, our Secretary** is standing down. Jane joined us three years ago just to put together our monthly newsletter..... Well, that job grew didn't it as Jane gradually offered to take on more until she became our reliable, efficient and very patient secretary. Thank you so much Jane, we've loved having you on board and now enjoy your retirement.



Thank you to all our members and friends for your support throughout another year. On behalf of the Trustees, I wish you all a very happy and peaceful Christmas. *Gill*

Climate Action Addingham Annual Village Meeting

Saturday 15th November saw a great turn out for the annual review meeting.

Numerous village groups and organisations met to discuss and share the climate change/biodiversity loss projects they have been involved in during the last year.

With displays, talks and key note speakers it's clear that between us there is an enormous amount of positive action. To mention just a few, St Peter's not only has projects but also reported on steps that individual members of their congregation are taking, the school children provided a fascinating display showing their research identifying all the steps the school has been taking from reducing food waste to the collection of spent batteries. For the "big picture" Kath Clarke outlined the Bradford Climate Action Plan and Alex Evans encouraged us to have climate conversations. And there is more to come, such as the Allotments & Gardens Association in conjunction with the Parish Council are developing a project to harvest water on the allotments.

There is now several years' worth of data and most importantly the next steps will include a look at the trends and progress. Watch this space.



Our Auction in Aid of Martin House



---£3,000---



We held our highly anticipated auction on the 6th of November, with all proceeds going to support the invaluable work of Martin House, a local charity dedicated to providing care and support for children and young people with life-limiting conditions.

Huge thanks to the organising team led by trustee Jayne Hood. The event was a great night of community spirit and generosity as members and residents came together and raised just over £3000 towards the Martin House project "The Build" designed to create their new children's wing. The auction featured a wide array of items up for bidding, ranging from unique collectibles and artwork to gift baskets and experiences generously donated by local businesses and individuals. There was something for everyone and our Auctioneer, Paul Jennings did us proud, hitting just the right balance, making us laugh and part with our money all in the same breath. Well done Team, Jayne, Kathy, Chris, Pat and Steve



Kiosk Book Store

Here is our Church Street kiosk book swap.

Thank you, Jim (Robinson) we know you enjoy painting, and it is looking very smart again.

Long term thanks to Jacquie and Carole who have kept the kiosk clean, well-organised and attractive since we first acquired it. Fantastic job really appreciated.



And we paid £1 for it back in 2017, when it certainly needed a little tlc.

It was surprising how many folk we had to reassure that pink was the undercoat!

HOWEVER

There is another side to the story. Jacquie and Carole have also cleaned up after bouts of vandalism, books thrown over walls, the odd occasion when someone has mistaken the kiosk for a public WC and they have dealt with large boxes full of books and other unwanted items, too many and inappropriate.

So we're asking for your help....

Please help by spreading the word this is a Book Swap, **swap** being the operative word. Thanks



The Village Quiz

Can you help?

We are looking for the partner to this shield.

Many of you will know that Mark Gregory reinstated the Village Quiz in September this year and great fun it was, with The Swan winning the new trophy.

Since then, this trophy has come to light.

It is the Runners' Up shield for the Village Quiz last presented in 2002 to the Civic Society.

We are looking for the Winners' Shield, presumably last presented in 2002.....???

If you can shed any light, we'd be grateful.



Ian Cameron from our Heritage Group writes: Our Georgian confectioners. Part One – introduction



Just over two hundred years ago, George IV was king, and Napoleon had recently died. By now, Addingham was an established industrial textile village with four mills – High Mill, Low Mill, Townend and Fentiman's. These mills were supported by a population of 1,570, which in turn was supported by a variety of shops, goods and services.

In 1822, according to the Baines's Directory, that support included two confectioners – Michael Booker and Zaccheus Steel. Just how did these confectioners operate in Georgian times? What did they sell?

We know confectioners to the king and the nobility produced elaborate banquet displays but a recipe book that includes the creation of an ornamental cake as an elephant, and instructions on how to build an icehouse, hardly seems relevant to day-to-day life in Georgian Addingham. Fortunately, we have recipe books from provincial confectioners of the time that help us better imagine the working lives of Michael and Zaccheus. This would have centred on making and selling - sugar sweets; cakes and biscuits; pies, tarts and puddings; jellies and preserves. We shall explore these further in future articles. As to where Michael and Zaccheus worked in the village, that is unknown. Perhaps the front of their shops looked like that of the world's oldest running sweetshop – that at Pateley Bridge. Started in 1827 by a chemist and druggist, the inside is full of colourful delights.

While the shops of Michael and Zaccheus would also have been colourful, there are sweets that we expect to buy today, that would be conspicuous by their absence. The most obvious is that there would be no chocolate bars nor fondants, toffees, caramels, fudge, liquorice or fruit gums among others – all to come as industrialisation and new techniques develop. Branding of products too, would be for the future.

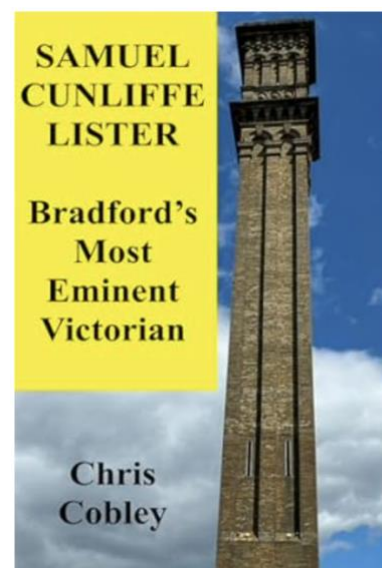
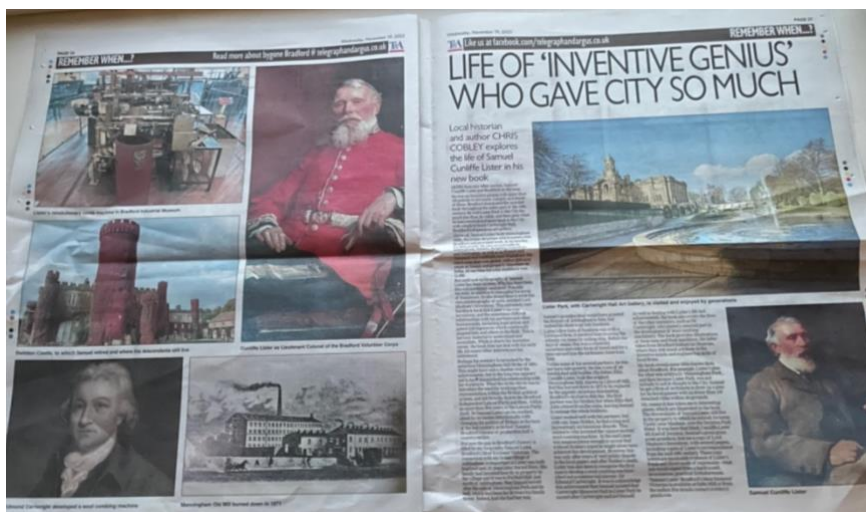
Despite this, as we decide what to buy in either of their shops, we can be confident that Michael Booker and Zaccheus Steel are masters of the art of sugar boiling, flavourings and colourings, in a way that would have seemed like alchemy to the village residents. Next time we will consider that key ingredient, sugar.



Our Latest Publication - Samuel Cunliffe Lister

Chris Cobley, a member of our Heritage Group, has recently published his latest book, about the life of mill owner Samuel Cunliffe Lister. Knowing that, mill owner, Samuel Lister was both baptised and buried in Addingham Chris wanted to know more and was surprised he could find no biography or written record of the life of this creative genius.

You might have seen that his publication has created a wide range of interest with double page spreads in both the Telegraph and Argus and the Gazette.



To find out more, Chris's book can be purchased from us via Chris Ensor at £6 or at £8 from Amazon. (christineensor1@gmail.com)



The Environment Group had a great social evening on the 21st November recounting their 2025 projects

- 11 Saplings children's sessions
- 12 monthly pop-up refill stalls
- Began helping in the Church Orchard
- 54 beck water samples collected and analysed
- 1451 trees and hedge plants planted
- Two AEG Allotments taken care of
- One Jumble Trail – 40 stalls
- 150 mason bee cocoons sorted
- 4 new wildlife cards by Judy Kennedy
- 20 litter pickers at our annual clean up
- Hundreds of wildflower seeds, collected, sown, grown and planted
- Seven wildflower meadows managed
- Several? acres raked
- 25 Balsam bashing sessions
- Two new walks published
- 10 bee and butterfly transects walked monthly for 5 months
- 30 residents sending in bird sightings and transects walked
- 100 Addingham homes surveyed with the thermal imaging camera + visits and information sessions
- Two exhibitions in the Hub
- 2000 leaflets delivered "Managing water wisely"
- 2000 leaflets delivered "Reducing carbon footprints"
- One Speaker Meeting
- One annual CAA review "How Green is our Village" organised
- One new bat group created
- One Bradford City of Culture marble butterfly acquired
- 9 years completed and counting.....



Thanks you to all the Environment Group Volunteers and Supporters



Addingham Methodist Church

Charity

Christmas Cracker Coffee Morning

Saturday 6th December

10.00 – 11.30 am

free entry

Refreshments available

Carol Singing

Various Stalls including

Chocolate Tombola

Cakes & Produce,

Raffle, Crafts

Jigsaws, Books & Games

Guess the weight of the cake

All monies raised in aid of

Keighley Women's Aid

There will also be a collection of foodstuffs for The Salvation Army

Christmas Cracker Coffee Morning

Saturday 6th December 10 – 11.30 am

Collection of goods for The Salvation Army

Selection Boxes

Pasta/Rice/Micro Noodles

Jam/Peanut Butter/Spread

UHT Milk

Chick Peas/Kidney Beans

Tinned Potatoes

Tinned Fruit

Tinned Rice Pudding

Tinned Custard

Tinned Tuna/Sardines/Salmon

Tinned Meals

Tinned Ham/Corned Beef/Luncheon Meat

Pasta Sauce

Dry Rice/Packet Mash

Nappies/Baby Wipes

Shampoo/Shower Gel

Toothpaste/Toothbrushes

Soap/Deodorant

come along for some *
Christmas
 *
Cheer
 * Christmas music
 * old and new
 * with the
 *
fairfax singers
 *
 Musical Director
Martin Baker
 *
7pm,
 *
Tuesday 16 December
 *
St Peter's Church, 
 *
 Free!
 with donations for
Salvation Army
Christmas Appeal *
Addingham
 *

 www.stpetersaddingham.org.uk
 or 01943 830306



ADDINGHAM PROBUS CLUB

Programme 2026

Chairman: Chris Jackson

Secretary: Steve Crossley-Smith

Treasurer: Robin Hargrave
 robin.hargrave@btinternet.com
 07753 715839

We meet on the 1st Thursday of each
 month in Addingham Memorial at
 10am.

Addingham Probud Club has asked us to let you know that their 2026 programme is now available. They have a great array of speakers ranging from "Levelling up in the 12th Century" to "I used to be a football referee but I'm better now!"

Contact details are on the front of their programme card.



And Finally

Thank You to all Our Speakers, Members, Volunteers and Subscribers to the Newsletter.
 If you wish to publish an article of village interest or an event in the next newsletter, please ensure
 that you send it before Friday 28th December to
secretary@addinghamcivicsociety.co.uk



The Chair and Trustees of Addingham Civic Society wish you a peaceful
 Christmas and Best Wishes for the New Year.
 Thank you all for your support, contributions and volunteering
 over this past year.

