



# Civic Society News

June 2025



**Next Speakers Meeting**  
**Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> June**  
**In the Memorial Hall 7.30pm**

**Non-Members welcome £3 admission**

## **DICKENSIAN ADDINGHAM**

Charles Dickens visited Yorkshire many times, on his famous speaking tours and to visit his brother. In fact, many of his most infamous characters, including Wackford Squeers in *Nicholas Nickleby*, were inspired by Yorkshire folk. Join **Gillian Waters** to discover more about 19th century Yorkshire through Dickens' eyes and the journeys that he made through the county.



Dear Members,

Summer has arrived and if you're not away on holiday, have a good look at what your Society has in store.

Did you see the excellent VE Day display in the Hub by our Heritage Group during May? It provided much interest to young and old and gave rise to some very favourable comments.

The week of June 14<sup>th</sup> to 22<sup>nd</sup> will be busy. Look out for the many Wildlife Week activities organised by our Environment Group: some fascinating walks for all, plus activities for children and, of course, more balsam-bashing as we continue to fight off the invader! There's also the AEG's display in the Hub, throughout the month.

The ever-popular Open Gardens weekend returns on Sat 21<sup>st</sup> and Sun 22<sup>nd</sup>, organised by the Allotments and Gardens group.

If you're wanting even more outdoor activity, don't forget that the petanque court (by the bowling green) is always open to all and you can borrow everything you need from the Fleece. You will need to leave them a small refundable deposit.

What the Dickens is happening on Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> June, I hear you ask. Come and find out from the speaker at our members' meeting (see page 1).

Roger, vice-chair (in the absence of Gill on her well-deserved holiday)

### Reminder of what happened in May



#### VE Day in Addingham

Ian Cameron, Chair of the Heritage Group writes:

There were plenty of activities to celebrate the 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary of VE Day. The Heritage Group held an exhibition at the Hub with an excellent contribution from the Primary School. Bradford Council kindly loaned a display case. On VE Day itself, the WI provided welcome tea and biscuits with the Home Guard plus jeeps having a presence on Main Street. A memorial service with songs and poems from the pupils at the Primary School, plus a Film Club/Heritage Group showing of the film "A Royal Night Out", helped round off the celebrations.



### Bradford City of Culture Heritage Walk

Ian Cameron

Our Civic Society Heritage Group held the first village event to celebrate Bradford City of Culture. As you can see from the photographs it was a beautiful sunny day on the 11<sup>th</sup> of May, just the weather to show off some of the village blue plaques.

Many thanks to Heritage Group members Rob Smith and Paul Harris for designing and organising the afternoon.

If you would like a copy of the Blue Plaque Trail leaflet, contact Chris Ensor at [christineensor1@gmail.com](mailto:christineensor1@gmail.com)



### Yorkshire Heritage Summit May 13<sup>th</sup>



This year's Yorkshire Heritage Summit was held at Skipton Town Hall. Ian Cameron and Chris Cobley attended from the Heritage Group, and as always there were opportunities to learn from others. Good weather and the near location meant there were a steady stream of people interested in our display and our work. The Blue Plaque Trail received a lot of attention and hopefully, will encourage more visitors to the village.



## Climate Action Addingham

### Zero Waste Week - *The Jumble Trail*



What a great way to reuse some of our unwanted goods.



Thanks to Rachael Sharples who did a magnificent job running the show, and thanks to all the helpers and stall holders. It's the first time that The Saplings (children's environment group) have had their own stall and they raised £32.50 for the Prickly Pigs Hedgehog Rescue. At 10p an item that's a lot of items sold, well done Saplings.

There were 40 stalls and over half of the 40 stall holders have been good enough to send us some feedback. From that we can see £1,900 was raised by them - Wow. So, from all the stalls the amount raised for charities might be closer to £3000. Congratulations All.



## Climate Action Addingham

### Village Litter Pick



Well, weren't we lucky with the weather on Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> May. With over 30 people working in 6 teams as well as individual residents checking their own patch, the village had a good tidy up. All followed by some refreshments in the Hub.

Thanks to the AEG Litter Picking Teams, residents, Scouts and Cubs, our Green Ward Councillors, Bradford Council and of course the Parish Council.







# Wildlife Week events

**Sat 14th to Sun 22nd June 2025**

*For the month of June the display in The Hub will tell the story of the development of Craven Crescent Green as a space for nature & people, plus gardening for wildlife tips.*

**Sat 14th 10.00 to 12 pm** - join the **Environment Group balsam bashers** for our regular Saturday morning work party. We will be working on **Addingham Moorside**, to help bring this troublesome invasive plant under control. Meet us in the **Memorial Hall Car Park** to lift share. Wear long trousers and sleeves, stout boots or wellies, and bring good strong gloves.

To celebrate **Bradford City of Culture**, the **Environment Group** has created a new self-guided walk: **'Moorside Connections: exploring nature on Addingham Moorside'** from the village to the moor top, highlighting local wildlife sites and nature restoration. Available to download from the **AEG Website** after 15th June.



On **Sun 15th**, setting off at 2.30 pm from the **Memorial Hall Car Park**, **The Moorside Connections Walk** will be launched with a guided walk up to **Beck House Farm**, where we will stop for a picnic, returning via **Cuckoo's Nest**. **Numbers limited - please email: aeg@addingham.info for more information & to reserve a place.** Suitable for adults & older children (10+). The walk will last around 3.5 hours, on good footpaths, but with uneven ground, steep slopes and stone stiles, livestock in fields. Sturdy shoes or walking boots needed.

**Mon 16th** Addingham Brownies, Guides & Scouts will be balsam bashing with AEG.

**Tues 17th 7.00 pm** - join **Addingham Environment Group & Wharfedale Naturalists** for a nature walk from the village to **The Street, Stegholes and Lumb Ghyll Woods**. Meet in the **Memorial Hall Car Park**, the walk will last around 2 hours, some uneven ground, and steep slopes. Sturdy shoes or walking boots needed.

**Wed 18th 9.30 pm** - an informal late evening stroll to look for bats along **Back Beck Lane** and by the **River Wharfe**. Try out AEG's bat recorders. Meet front of **Primary School**.



**Sat 21st 1 to 5 pm** - children's nature crafts, wildflower growing & bumblebees at the **Old Station Way Wildflower Meadow**, as part of **ADDINGHAM OPEN GARDENS** Sat 21st & Sun 22nd June.

**Nature in crisis... What can we all do to make a difference?**

Visit <https://www.climateactionaddingham.info/>

for lots of ideas and further information or scan the QR code.





# ADDINGHAM 2025

# **OPEN** Gardens

In aid of Sue Ryder Manorlands Hospice

Saturday 21st & Sunday 22nd June  
1pm - 5pm

Join us for a weekend of gardens, art and music  
Admission tickets, tea & cake available  
at the Memorial Hall from 12 noon both days

**£6 per person, under 12s free**

[addinghamopengardens@gmail.com](mailto:addinghamopengardens@gmail.com)

[www.addinghamaga.org.uk](http://www.addinghamaga.org.uk)







## Why so many?

By Don Barrett, Heritage Group

Visitors to Addingham often comment on the many colourful gardens in the village but why so many and why are they there?

During the 1960s, Skipton Rural Council (which then covered Addingham), had a policy of 'slum clearance' – any properties considered unfit for human habitation were knocked down rather than being considered for renovation. When the village became part of the Bradford area in 1974 there was a more enlightened planning officer and these demolitions ceased but by then there were a number of gaps, like missing teeth, along village streets. Fortunately, many of these gaps have been kept for the village as gardens, rather than being sold for development, and they are now very well maintained by the volunteers of Garden Friends group.

1. Starting at the top of Main Street there is a small garden opposite Plan-it-Earth. This was originally the site of some small cottages which were demolished, and the area was used for parking until 2001 when the owners, Frank Lambert and Jim Murray, sold it to the village for £1 and the APC had the stone raised beds built, designed by a local garden designer.



2. Above the Lord Addingham pub is a larger garden and a wild area. There was a row of farmworkers(?) cottages (photo) against the tall retaining wall and their privies were in the wild area, the waste being emptied into the beck, of course! This is on the sharp bend, still called Sailor Corner, which was the site of many road accidents as a result of vehicles careering down Skipton Road ('Addingham Bank') too fast. One of these was carrying a load of sweets – much to the delight of the village youngsters!



3. On the other side of the road, opposite the car park, the garden recently renovated is on the site of four rather larger cottages – the roofline can be clearly seen on the end house and the arches in the back wall would have been of partly-recessed sculleries or storerooms.



4. The fountain garden beside the library is different – the paved area here (paved by the Civic Society, incidentally) was the yard for the Old School when the upper room, which is now The Hub, was the village boys' school. Later, when girls were finally thought worth educating(!), they were taught below in what is now the library (this had previously included the village gaol but they did empty this first).



Our picture from the past goes back a quarter of a century and shows land at Addingham being turned into a public garden in 1980.

5. The Hen Pen Garden area was, surprisingly, never built on but was used (you've guessed it!) as a chicken run owned by Major Ashby who lived above. He later leased it to the village for a peppercorn rent on condition that it became a garden and that the high wall along the road was reduced so that it could be seen.



Demolition of old property on the western side of North Street, Addingham, was taking place in 1961 to make way for road widening and residential development in Beck. Later used as a cow house or the White Park estate.

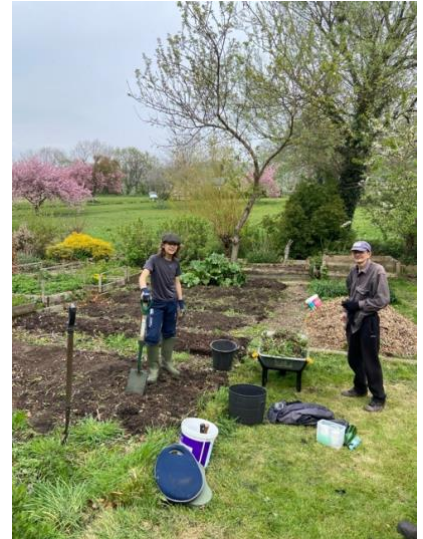
6. The North Street Garden was again, on the site of a row of cottages demolished in the 1960s.

In addition to these gardens there are now flower beds around the Medical Centre and War Memorial and over 20 planters and containers dotted round the village. Addingham really is a floral village and well earned its previous success in the Britain in Bloom competitions.

## The Church Orchard



It's Spring and there is always plenty to do, so our Environment Group has been helping out at the Church Orchard. Do put the Church Orchard on your list of gardens to visit during Open Gardens (21<sup>st</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup> June), it's well worth a visit.



Newsletter  
May 2025

If you are interested in The Wharfedale Greenway click [here](#) to read their latest Newsletter.

**Thank you to all our Speakers, Members, Volunteers  
and Subscribers to the Newsletter.**

**Please send entries for the July Newsletter to  
[secretary@addinghamcivicsociety.co.uk](mailto:secretary@addinghamcivicsociety.co.uk) before**

**Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> June.**