



Civic Society News

OCTOBER 2025



Next Speakers Meeting
Thursday 23rd October
In the Memorial Hall 7.30pm

Non-Members welcome £3 admission

This Month we are delighted to welcome Mark Gregory
Wedding Celebrant, Live Vocalist, Event Host, Quizmaster, Poet



Local Celebrant Mark Gregory discusses how weddings and funerals share far more in common than most people realise, and why it's time to shake up stale traditions. He argues that funerals should reflect the individuality, passions, and humour of the deceased, just as weddings now celebrate the personality of couples. With examples ranging from tractor processions to Eurovision send-offs, Mark challenges audiences to rethink funerals as deeply personal, meaningful, and memorable life events rather than formulaic rituals.

Dear Members,

First of all, there is a **change of title for our October Speaker meeting**. We will now be welcoming Mark Gregory, celebrant, singer and host. This will be Mark's first visit to our speaker calendar and I'm very much looking forward to it.

Mark was also the chief organiser and host of the resurrected Village Quiz back in September. It was great fun and ran in the style of University Challenge. Our team members had to get used to the tin can buzzer system and needed to be jolly quick off the mark. Unfortunately, we weren't quite quick enough, but up against knowledgeable and quick opposition we came a respectable fifth out of eight. Well done team and specially well done to The Swan who were the winning team. Here they are collecting the trophy.



I also need to draw to your attention the **change of date for our charity auction**.

The team putting together the auction have done a fantastic job and it has grown into an event in its own right, so we have booked the Memorial Hall for the evening of **November 6th** for our Martin House Children's Hospice Auction. We have a wonderful array of items to be auctioned. The full list can be seen in this newsletter or [here](#) on our website.

The **Autumn Fair** will be upon us soon on Saturday October 25th. We are going with a Christmas and Gifts theme. So, a few requests....

- **Bric-a-brac** is focussed on items suitable as Christmas decorations or gifts
- Our **book stall** this time is **Fiction only**
- Your **cakes** do extraordinarily well so yes please lots of cakes
- At the spring fair we were asked for more **preserves and jams**, could you donate some?
- And the **tombola** is always popular so anything you could donate as a prize



THANK YOU

And finally, back in July we featured an article by Beck Steward, Maire O'Donnell in which she gave us a flavour of what the Beck Stewards get up to. Maire has written the next chapter. Many thanks to the Beck Stewards Team for keeping a watchful eye on the village becks.

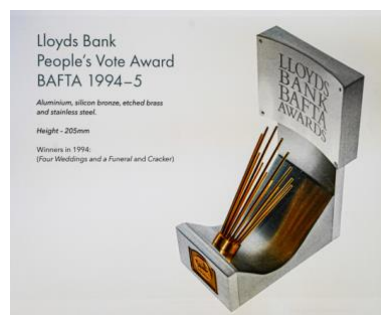
All best wishes

Gill

Silversmith Extraordinaire

Our penultimate City of Culture 2025 event was held in the Memorial Hall on Friday 19th September. Huge thanks to, member, Don Porritt for an inspiring presentation. Don, now retired, is an internationally renowned silversmith with examples of his work to be seen around the globe.

The skill and imagination behind Don's work is second to none. He gave the audience some of the background to working with silver and the processes involved in design, including a short film of Don at work in his studio. After the break he shared with the audience the stories behind some of his commissions such as a Lloyds TV BAFTA and an AXA Cricket award. A catalogue from one of his exhibitions can be seen in The Hub.



ADDINGHAM FOOTPATH PHOTOS

All these photos show Addingham footpaths within the village. If you are reasonably able but not athletically fit, they can be found quite easily!

Can you identify these bridges?



1



2



3



4



5



6



7



8

And now these steps?



9



10



11

And these gates/stiles?

12



13



14



15



And finally, these paths?

I wish you luck, in the hope that you will at least have some success!

Answers (no, not on the back of a postcard!) will be revealed elsewhere in this newsletter, including those of the two photos featured in the September issue.

Jonathan White

✿ Become a Trustee with Addingham Civic Society ✿

Do you care about Addingham and want to help shape its future? We're looking for new trustees to join our friendly and welcoming team.

We'd especially love to hear from you if you have experience in **legal matters, administration, or IT**—but most of all, we're after people with enthusiasm, ideas, and a genuine interest in the village.

As a trustee, you'll play an important role in supporting the Society's projects, events, and community work, while enjoying the chance to meet like-minded people and give something back to the place we all call home.

If you'd like to get involved or just find out more, please get in touch—we'd be delighted to hear from you! chairman@addinghamcivicsociety.co.uk

The Diary of a Beck Steward **by Maire O'Donnell**

Back in July we ran an article by Maire about her role as a Beck Steward. In June Maire and Sylvia had carried out their June Beck Inspection. Here is their Report. For the full details and illustrations click on this link:
<https://www.addinghamenvironmentgroup.org.uk/about/join-us>

Back Beck (Section BB1) June 30th, 2025

Sylvia and I carried out an inspection of the upper part of our section of Back Beck on June 30th 2025. We started at 10 am from below the wall between Rob Walker's land and that of Mrs Haggas, where it is called Heathness Gill. We viewed the upper area, between the wall and the woodland to the west and above the culvert under the bypass, from a vantage point below the wall.

The pool at the foot of the culvert and both beck sides of that part appeared to be free of litter, and, from our limited view, so was the woodland immediately above the culvert.

The beck seemed to be flowing freely despite the low water level. It was at that point that we saw our first Himalayan Balsam plant in the uncovered bed of the beck at the pool just below the wall.

The steep riparian land on both sides above the beck were overgrown with nettles and high grasses. We scanned both areas as we walked alongside, but did not see anything else of concern. Due to trees and bushes growing over the beck it was, and often is, difficult to access the last part of Heathness Gill, so we will approach that from golf course, under the bridge, at a later date, when we inspect the next part of the beck downstream. Watch this space...



Notes

Himalayan balsam

This was the first time we have found Himalayan balsam in any part of Heathness Gill. Four plants were pulled out at four different places on the edge of the banks very near the water which, due to the lack of rain over the last few months, was at a low level.

An increase in nettles throughout the area, along beck sides and surrounding woodlands was noted.

Bird sounds

We heard wrens, chaffinch and coal tit

Butterflies

We saw whites, small browns among the trees each side of the beck, and as we exited the beck, on the higher land nearer the house, we saw a number of pairs of meadow brown butterflies.

Flora

Harts tongue fern, other ferns (common) which were difficult to name.

A fungus on a rotten tree in the beck, various names were suggested, possibly a turkey tail fungus.

Black and round fungus, possible King Alfred's cakes

Self-heal, yellow pimpernel, vetch (purple), water figwort, brooklime.



Insects

Many in flight but not identifiable. Water insects, mainly pond skaters.

King Alfred's cakes fungus

Trees

Due to age, there seem to be more fallen trees along the beck side. The log piles noted previously were rotting nicely into the landscape as were the fallen trees. We intend to identify these at a later date

Litter

Surprisingly little, a few small pieces of plastic and one large plastic 'pop' bottle

Acknowledgements

Thank you to Mrs Haggas for her support and allowing us to walk over her land and into Heathness Gill, Rob Walker for permission to walk through parts of the golf course to access parts of Back Beck, and also to Sylvia for her friendship and support, especially with the photographs and computer prowess.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Addingham Civic Society **AUTUMN FAIR**

Addingham Memorial Hall
Saturday 25th October
10.00 – 12.00
Free admission



Raffle Tombola Jigsaws Fiction

Cakes Preserves Heritage

Gifts Nearly New for Christmas

Hone Win a bottle Toys

Order your Christmas Cards

Stock up with some early Christmas Presents

**Call in for some Refreshments
and a Chat**



OCTOBER 3-4

ADDINGHAM BEER FESTIVAL

2025

ADDINGHAM MEMORIAL HALL
TICKETS £12.50

Includes first drink free, glass, programme

Tickets available from The Swan, The Co-op, via the QR code and online at www.addinghambeerfest.co.uk

Addingham Beer Festival Presents...

SATURDAY 4TH OCTOBER

ADDINGHAM BEER FEST QUIZ

1PM-5PM (QUIZ STARTS AT 2PM)

TICKETS £12.50

Includes first drink free, glass, programme

Tickets available from The Swan, The Co-op, via the QR code and online at www.addinghambeerfest.co.uk

Addingham Drama Group
presents

Key for Two

A comedy by John Chapman and Dave Freeman

Addingham Memorial Hall
7.30pm

Tues 14th, Weds 15th, Thurs 16th, Fri 17th and Sat 18th Oct 2025

Addingham Drama Group
1d · 📍

🎭 Rehearsals are flying along for our October play, Key For Two!

📖 Expect infidelity, mistaken identities and lost memories in this hilarious farce by John Chapman and Dave Freeman.

📅 October 14th - 18th, 7.30pm Addingham Memorial Hall.

🎫 www.ticketsource.co.uk/adg or 07849 450489

Film Nights

Memorial Hall
£4 Entrance

Films start at 7.30 pm
All Welcome

Friday 10th October 2025

The Ballad of Wallis Island (12)

Folk singer Herb agrees to reunite with his former bandmate and ex-girlfriend Nell to play a private gig for a wealthy fan who lives on a remote island. Can they put the past behind them and get the band together for just one night?

Friday 7th November 2025

The Bookshop (PG)

When widow Florence Green decides to open a bookshop in a sleepy 1950s seaside town, she soon finds that not all members of the community are supportive of her venture – not least the local “grande dame”, Violet Gamart, who has plans of her own....

Future Dates

Saturday 10th January 2026
Friday 27th February 2026
Friday 13th March 2026



Details subject to change. see "local events diary" on Addingham village website

Clarke Foley Vouchers

This autumn there will be a distribution of vouchers to the senior citizens of Addingham for men aged 65 and over and women aged 60 and over.

Collect your vouchers in

Addingham Memorial Hall

on

Tuesday November 18th

**between 10.00am and 12.00 noon
and 1.00pm to 3.00pm.**

You will need to bring evidence to prove current residence in Addingham.

Notices will be going up on the village notice boards prior to the event.

COME ALONG AND SUPPORT MARTIN HOUSE



Auction of Promises.

Thursday, 6th November at 7pm

Addingham Memorial Hall
Main Street, Addingham, Ilkley. LS29 0LZ

Entrance by donation Wine & Hot Drinks available

Advance Bids: Steve Noblett
Email: stevesgn6956@gmail.com
Tel: 07436 457702

Event conducted by Addingham Civic Society as a fundraiser for Martin House
Children's Hospice



Event enquiries and Promises 07828 804633
jaynehood@gmail.com



Photo Opportunity
Have your photo taken with our late Queen Elizabeth 11
Intrigued?? Only available at the Auction of Promises

Items you can Bid for in Advance or on the Evening Treat Yourself or Someone Else

1. Cow Hide Rug donated by J Woods Leathers Valued at £180
2. 5 Tickets for Keighley & Worth Valley Railway. Valued at 103.50
3. Course of 4 Pilates lessons for Men Donated by Liz Walker valued at £42 each
 4. Swatch Watch Donated by Phillips Jewellers. Valued at £55
 5. Family Combi Ticket for Kilmsey Park Fishing. Valued at £36
 6. Luxury Hamper from Great Yorkshire Hampers. Valued at £80
 7. Round of Golf for Four at Bracken Ghyll Golf Club Valued at £145
8. 60-minute Sports Massage by Rhiannon Oliver of William Human Performance. Valued at £55
 9. Course of 6 Art Classes (in group). Donated by Sue Ross Valued at £48
 10. Cinema Tickets from Ilkley Cinema valued at £30
11. Blue Plaque Village Group Walk (8 Max) Donated by Addingham Heritage Group £10 Per person
12. Choice of framed Village Photos donated by Addingham Heritage Group. Valued £20
13. 2-night Holiday Cottage Stay donated by Addingham Cottages. Valued at £210
14. Nail Bar Voucher donated by Naked Nails of Ilkley. Value £40
15. Sunday Lunch for 2 with drink at Skipton Golf Club donated by Jonathan White Value £50
 16. 'Fox' A painting in acrylics by Linda Davies. Donated by Alan Davies Valued at £40
 17. 'A Lady' in pastels by Linda Davies. Donated by Alan Davies Valued at £150
18. Collector's item -David Brown collection 1936-1980 Framed poster. Donated by Richard Scargill. Valued at £100
 19. Meal Voucher for J Reserve, Ilkley. Donated by Plan-It Earth Tile Shop. Value £30
 20. Beauty Voucher: hair/nails/products. Donated by Claire Wareham. Value £30
 21. Aesthetic Skin Boosting Injections Donated by Soliderma of Cleckheaton. Value £250
 22. Gift hamper of toiletries. Donated by Moss and Moor. Valued at £100
 23. Personalised Birthday balloon donated by Balloon World. Value £25
 24. Beauty Voucher for hair/nails/products donated by Fuzzys. Value £35
 25. Meal voucher for The Fleece. Donated by DGL Doors and Windows. Value £50
 26. Ladies Cut & Blow Dry by Faith of Silsden. Value £39
 27. Round of Golf for Four at Ilkley Golf Club. Value £232
 28. LED light Skin Therapy session Donated by Soliderma of Cleckheaton. Value £40
 29. £50 Meal Voucher donated by Bistro Pierre of Ilkley. Value £50
 30. Christmas Cake. Donated by Jane Welby & Margaret Young. Value £30
 31. Family Ticket for Embsay & Bolton Abbey Steam Railway. Valued at £39
 32. Yorkshire Lavender Gift Set. Value £20
 33. Christmas Ribbon Wreath Making Class (3/4 people) Value £25 per person
 34. Course of 4 Pilates lessons for Women. Donated by Liz Walker. Value £42
35. Sparkle Package Spa for 2. prosecco lunch & 30 min treatment at The Devonshire Arms, Bolton Abbey. Value £170
 36. 2 x VIP Bonfire tickets at Ilkley Tennis Club. Value £40
 37. Classical Facial donated by Soliderma of Cleckheaton. Valued at £65
38. Wedding Dress Experience at Cinderella's of Skipton. Dress up extravaganza Value £110
39. Children's Soft Play Party for 10 children (under 4). Donated by Little Blossoms of Addingham. Value £170
 40. Dog Bed and Feed Bowls donated by The Dog House. Valued at £35
 41. Prosecco Afternoon Tea for 2 at The Craigland's Hotel, Ilkley. Valued at £42
 42. Christmas Afternoon Tea. Donated by Kathy Gilbert. Valued at £30
 43. Voucher from Lishman's Ilkley. Value £10
44. Personalised Christmas Baubles. Donated by The Precision Ball Company. Valued at £32
 45. Fish and Chips from Bizzy Lizzy's Skipton. Value £20
46. Chefs Outfit: Jacket & Checked trousers. Size M Donated by Jayne Hood. Valued at £309
 47. Luxury Gift Set. Donated by H & J Adams. Value £20
 48. One Hour's Ironing. Donated by Chris Ensor. Valued at £20
 49. Selection of Products. Donated by Rowlands Pharmacy. Valued at £40
 50. 6 Stay Fit Lessons. Donated by Sue Ross. Valued at £48
 51. Christmas Table Decoration. Donated by Alexis McCowan. Valued at £30
 52. Family Ticket for Bonfire Night. Donated by the Cricket Club. Valued at £20
53. Hand Crafted Traditional Hexagon Patchwork Quilt. Size approx. 60"x55" Donated by Nicky Vernon Valued at £40

Check the website weekly for updates and new donations

** Advance Bids: Steve Noblett –Email stevesgn6956@gmail.com or Tel: 07436 457702 **

Exploring AI Tools for our Civic Society

Over the past few weeks, we have been exploring how artificial intelligence (AI) can support our work and reduce the workload for our secretary and volunteer groups. With so many meetings and projects, we wanted to see if AI could help us keep accurate records and produce engaging communications more efficiently.



AI for Note Taking and Minutes

One of our main trials is in the area of note taking and minute writing. To date we have tested three platforms — OtterAI, ChatGPT, and Fireflies — to see how well they could capture our discussions. The results have been encouraging. Provided we follow a few simple practices all three tools produced accurate notes and draft minutes which only required checking and light editing before circulation. This has the potential to save a significant amount of time.

AI for Newsletters

We are also beginning to explore how AI might support the production of newsletters. Several tools look promising, including EditGPT, Piktochart, Copilot, and PoppyAI. While we have not yet trialled these, they offer potential for streamlining tasks such as drafting articles, designing layouts, and presenting information in an attractive and accessible way. Over the coming months, we plan to experiment further and report back on our findings.

Security

AI security is another essential piece of work on our agenda, and we are currently reviewing and assessing potential security issues.

Benefits and Next Steps

Our early experience suggests that AI can be a valuable assistant, but it is not a replacement for human oversight. Drafts still need checking, and personal judgement remains essential. However, the time savings are already clear, and we see real potential to use AI as a tool to support, rather than replace, the work of our members and officers.

As we continue testing, we will share updates. The aim is to make the Society's administration more efficient, without losing the personal touch.

It's a peep into the future.....

Jonathan White - Answers to Footpath Photos:

September newsletter – (1) Towards bypass from side of Stockinger Lane/Mount Pleasant allotments and (2) down to riverbank from east end of Bark Lane (Dales Way).

This newsletter:

1. From outlet to Sawmill Pond
2. From North Street entry to Church Field
3. From path across Town Beck to Bolton Road at Aynholme Bridge
4. From Church Field towards Low Mill Lane
5. From Low Mill Village to Low Mill Lane
6. From High Mill Lane to field north of Bark Lane
7. From path round school to Back Beck Lane
8. From Church Field to Low Mill Lane
9. From path round school into field towards Winebeck and Springfield Mt
10. From Bark Lane field to riverbank path towards east end of Bark Lane
11. From Big Meadow Drive into field leading towards village centre
12. From path by river alongside High Mill caravan park
13. On school path (north side)
14. From riverside path dropping down towards High Mill
15. From path between Silsden Road allotments towards Silsden Road

Get them all right? Honestly?! Treat yourself!!

2025 – 2026 Membership Year

Subs remain at £11 per person.

You can renew your membership in the usual ways, via the website, at a speaker meeting, BACs or standing order, cheque or cash to No 9 Main St.

Here are the details:

Account Name: Addingham Civic Society

Account Number: 34995727

Sort Code: 050530

Reference: The first 3 letters of your surname and the last 3 digits of your postcode.

Thank You to all our Speakers, Members, Volunteers and Subscribers to the Newsletter. Please send entries for the October Newsletter to

secretary@addinghamcivicsociety.co.uk

before Saturday 25th October.