

Addingham Allotment and Garden Association

**AGM Thursday 5th March 2026
Mount Hermon**

Attendees present

1. Welcome by Chair, Stewart Taylor

Stewart thanked everyone for coming and outlined the plan for the evening

2. Apologies

Dawn and George Emsley, Jane Greenfield, Jane Bould, Geoff Mills, Liz Powell, Sue Appleyard, Wendy Palmer, Marion Goodwyn, David and Cherry Bartlett

3. Minutes of meeting Monday 6th March 2025

Proposed by Jeff Walbank

Seconded by Laureen Fawcett

Minutes approved.

4. Chairs Report

I reported last year that 2024 was a busy year for our Association. Well, last year got even busier!

We held 15 events in total. We got off to a flying start in February with our first ever Snowdrop Tea, the brainchild of our committee colleagues Gill and Jeff, we had 7 speaker events across a wide variety of topics, we staged our Spring and Annual Shows, we held our plant sale/coffee morning in May, we had a members visit on a very hot afternoon in July to a lovely garden just down the road in Bradley, we held the third edition of PumpkinFest in partnership with the Primary School, our joint event with the Civic Society took place towards the end of the year, and of course we had the little matter of Open Gardens weekend in June to celebrate Bradford City of Culture.

The success of all our events this year has been really encouraging. As I said, we kicked off on the first Saturday morning in February with a brand-new event – Snowdrop Tea. We were somewhat taken aback by the turnout from our community, and it felt like that set the standard and gave us the momentum and the motivation to crack on with the rest of the calendar.

Our annual Coffee Morning & Plant Sale in May was very well supported, and our thanks in particular go to those who brought along surplus plants for onward sale/swop, much appreciated!

Two focal events every year are our Spring and Annual Shows. Last year we were absolutely delighted with just how well they were both supported, and the outstanding quality of so many of the entries in both Shows. Entries in the Spring Show were 35% up on the previous year and we far exceeded our target of 400 entries in the Annual – 485 was the final tally! Great credit to Show Sec Peter and we'll see how much higher we can raise that bar this year! I was speaking recently to a couple who relocated from Devon to Addingham last year, both keen gardeners. They attended our Annual Show in August, and they were telling me how sad it was that so many local village Shows in Devon were no longer taking place, and how wonderful it was therefore to visit our Show and to see so many high-quality entries and so well attended by the local community. Lovely to hear, but at the same time a gentle reminder not to rest on our laurels!

Our final event of the year was the third edition of PumpkinFest, put together as ever by our creative genius Melissa. We refer to it amongst ourselves as a low-key event, but we run it in partnership with the Primary School, which I think is really important as part of our stated constitutional aim to collaborate and build strong relationships with other community groups in the village.

Our speakers at our Thursday evening meetings over the course of the year have been knowledgeable and entertaining with a varied range of topics, and again we've been really pleased with the attendances and audience engagement with the speakers. Particular thanks must go to our events impresario Jane; the impressive speaker line up is a testament to the time she puts into background research, we've got another exciting line up confirmed for this year and I know that she's already well down the road with our 2027 programme.

And let's not forget OPEN GARDENS, the most wonderful weekend back in June, an event which showcased the range of private and public green spaces across our village along with so much creative talent that we have on our doorstep. When we first met as a small sub-group (in the back room at the Swan I think Peter?). I just could not have imagined that we'd have 24 gardens and green spaces taking part, that we'd have Melissa and her merry gang of knitters and crocheters creating a garden-inspired work of art to top the post box outside the Ginger Plum, that we'd have local artists exhibiting their work in their gardens and at the Mem Hall, that we'd have a lithophone in the church orchard, that we'd have our Garden Friends group showing off the magnificent Hen Pen in all its glory, that we'd have our Environment Group running craft activities for children and educating us about bumblebees, and that we'd have memorable live music performances from the Addingham Singers and our very own Jazzy Jeff! I'm pleased to say that, courtesy of grants from the City of Culture team, Bradford Council's Local Community Chest Fund, the Co-op and Addingham Beer Festival the event was completely self-funding. A never to be forgotten weekend, and the lasting memory for me is the power of community, never to be underestimated, so many folk coming together to give up their time voluntarily and offer their assistance in making the event happen and staging it so spectacularly, both in the weeks and months leading up and over the weekend itself. The gardeners and allotmenters and their magnificent green spaces, without whom no event, the artists, musicians and singers who added so much entertainment, and everyone who attended and donated so generously, with the result that we collectively raised an incredible £9,100 for Sue Ryder Manorlands Hospice.

It's been an overwhelmingly positive time with lots going on, well attended meetings and a membership which has increased significantly and has now passed the 100 mark! I'll close by placing on record my thanks to my committee colleagues, to our associate committee members and to our volunteers, all of whom have contributed significantly to such a successful year.

Our Association is ours and what we make it. Your committee is keen to ensure that our events evolve to meet your preferences and expectations and that we create an environment in which like-minded folk can meet, relax, maybe learn a thing or two, and above all enjoy and have a bit of fun. We thank you sincerely for all your support, feedback and encouragement throughout the year and we hope that we'll give you lots to look forward to in 2026 and beyond!

5. Financial Statement

Peter outlined the accounts for the previous year. There were no questions and this was Proposed by Ramon Porter, Seconded by Jeff Walbank

6. Re-Election of Officers and Committee

All existing committee members are willing to stand for re-election in following posts:

Chair Stewart Taylor

Communication Stewart Taylor/Melissa Ware

Secretary Anne Robertson

Show Secretary Peter Cooke

Membership Secretary Melissa Ware **Events Co-Ordinator** Jane Snee

General Member Margaret Johnson, Gill and Jeff Walbank,

No objections noted Proposer Margaret Porter, Seconded Lorraine Dunn

7. Upcoming Event

A programme of events for 2026 is available and has been distributed.

8. Any Other Business

None

Q & A

Are we doing open gardens this year? Not this year but hopefully in 2027

Would it be possible to have a table of Senior Craft Hut wares at Spring/summer show.
Yes

Would it be possible to host an event to bring cooked and prepared produce on the allotment site. Yes

The NHS container, what is it and what are we going to do with it. This is part of the village emergency response, hopefully water will be harvested from this at some point and will be disguised hopefully to blend in better.

Any view to reopen the hut? No plans at present.

Meeting ended 8.21pm