



Cragg Vale Community Association

Members' Bulletin No. 1 March 2008

Dear Members

The first Cragg Vale Community Newsletter was sent out in December, and the second will be ready very soon. However, with 3 months in between newsletters you may have been wondering whether anything is happening on your behalf! So we've decided to try sending out regular bulletins (possibly monthly?) just to members - as most have email this is not too difficult to arrange. These will usually be a brief (unlike this first one!) precis of any meetings, to keep you up to date.

Since it's inception in August 2007 the whole Steering Group has met twice in September, 9th & 31st October, 11th November, 6th December, 17th January 2008, 12th & 20th February and 4th March, with sub-groups meeting at other times as necessary to enable us to cover more ground.

In the autumn we looked at the results of the September Open Day survey of members' "hopes and fears" for Cragg Vale, and agreed to start the ball rolling on the most urgent and achievable projects:

- Christmas Tree in Cragg Vale; mince pies and mulled wine following the Christingle Service
- 1st Newsletter (sent out in December)
- Notice Board
- Improvements to the Children's Play Park
- History of Cragg Vale
- Environmental Improvements
- Grant applications for improvements to the Park and surrounding area including a community noticeboard
- The Countryside Service has been approached to help with the reinstatement of the Castle Gate Dam and it is hoped that volunteers from the community can be drawn in to help.

In the new year sub-groups moved ahead with the Park enhancement plan and the development of a History Group (see the next newsletter!)

The website is now up and running, but lots more to add! Visit www.craggvalecommunity.co.uk

Many members had expressed their concerns about the possible loss of the Sunday School for present and future generations of Cragg Vale. Consequently, in January, three of the group met with representatives of the Parochial Church Council to discuss possible options for the purchase of St John's Sunday School, and we are now looking into the feasibility of funding for this (again, more details in the newsletter).

The Parochial Church Council has also recently invited all the committee to meet with them to discuss working together to meet the needs of Cragg Vale - we are looking forward to this meeting, proposed for the middle of this month.

An Easter Event has been considered, but it was eventually agreed that we didn't have enough time this year to plan and organize an event that would successfully compete with all the other local long-established activities. However there will be a children's drawing/painting competition over the Easter holiday (details in the newsletter) - no prizes for guessing what the prize will be!!

Suggestions for future discussions are more improvements to footpaths, a woodland audit to ensure preservation of trees and woodlands and look at raising funds to pay for "day-to-day housekeeping" as opposed to funding specific projects.

As members you have a voice in the Cragg Vale Community Association. If you wish to contribute with comments, suggestions or in any other way please get in touch with info@craggvalecommunity.co.uk. This would be much appreciated.