

Cragg Vale Community Newsletter No 11

Autumn 2010

Cragg Vale Community
Carbon Conscious Cragg Vale



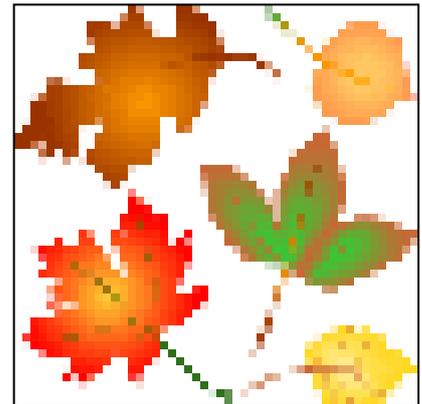
Hello.

Here's hoping you have all had a restful summer and enjoyed spending time with the kids or away from the office.

The Summer has been a productive one with progress with the Park project, more Balsam bashing and some busy photographers snapping away around Cragg - read on for more information.

We also have our *AGM* coming up in October (Friday 22nd). All are welcome to come and learn more about the community association and suggest further improvements we can target for next year. Please join us on *Friday, 22nd October, 7.30pm*, upstairs room in the Robin Hood.

We hope you enjoy this newsletter - thanks to our sponsors for their continued support. Without them this would not be possible 😊. Please let us know if you would like to see any other information, email us at info@craggvalecommunity.co.uk or telephone Liz 881182.



Wishing you all a great Autumn and hopefully some crisp, dry days to enjoy some lovely walks in and around Cragg Vale.

Take Care.
CVCA team.

PS We are still collecting the last few subscriptions, please pass on your donation/membership fee to one of the committee. £5 per household / £1 for households ages over 60. Thanks

Cragg Vale 2011 Calendar.

Back by popular demand this year's 2011 Cragg Vale Calendar is 'Flora and Fauna'. We are delighted to announce that we have again had a great response to the competition and have had the difficult task choosing the winning shots.

Final arrangements are being made for the Cragg Vale Calendar.

Please watch the notice boards, pubs and usual outlets for further details



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Quarterly Recipe

BREAD PUDDING (Serves 6 to 12 portions)

Ingredients:

340g stale bread, 2x15ml (2tbsp) plain flour, 100g melted margarine (I use butter), 50g caster sugar, 330g mixed fruit, 1x15ml (1 tbsp) mixed spice, 1 egg, Demerara sugar

Instructions:

1. Soak bread in warm water for about 1/2 hour.(It can be left overnight when the bread's rock hard)
2. Remove excess water and mash well
3. Add all other ingredients except Demerara sugar and thoroughly mix
4. Place mixture in a suitable tin c. 10cmx18cm and cook for about an hour in a pre-heated oven at 180°C
5. When cooked sprinkle with Demerara sugar



On a cold winter's night, pour hot custard over it - just delicious

Enjoy. Please send us your favourite recipes for our next issue info@craggvale

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Autumn update on our local Yorkshire Wildlife Trust Reserve

Well what a dry summer it's been - anyone coming to look at Broadhead Clough reserve would have been unlucky to need their waterproof and would most likely be dry shod all the way up the paths.



During the summer the tree surgeon has been out to ensure the old gnarled trees round the entrance to the reserve have been "beheaded" before the autumn winds cause falling branches. We've left the trunks standing for the woodpeckers to use, and the canopies at the side of the paths for minibeasts to do their recycling work. The steps have now been completed, and we spent some time in the four fields. Whilst one group took soil samples from the meadows to determine the conditions in the pasture, another emptied one of the settling tanks of stones and silt to improve the flow of drinking water to the cattle troughs.

The dry and warm weather also brought a rare visitor. In late June I spotted what at first sight was an enormous wasp about to land on

my sock, but on closer inspection it turned out to be a female Broad-bodied chaser, (*Libellula depressa*). This dragonfly is usually only found in Southern England and Wales but there have been a few other sightings in West and North Yorkshire, along with Emperor



Dragonflies which have also moved north of their normal range. We've also seen Golden ringed dragonflies ([Cordulegaster boltonii](#) - see picture) during August. Have you seen anything unusual this summer? There are plenty of websites to help identification and you can do your bit by reporting sightings to the British Dragonfly Society, RSPB, or BBC's Springwatch.

After a break over the holiday season, workdays start again on **Tuesday 21st September and Tuesday 12th October.** We'll probably be removing scrub from the wetlands to improve the habitat in the wood. If anyone is interested we meet at the entrance to the reserve at 10am.

ATTENTION ALL READERS!

If you have any suggestions about content you would like to see in our newsletter or fancy writing a column for us then please get in touch with Liz on 881182 or via email info@craggvalecommunity.co.uk

PLACE YOUR ADVERT HERE!

If you would like to advertise in the Cragg Vale Newsletter, for a small fee, please get in touch with Liz on 881182 or via email info@craggvalecommunity.co.uk. We print and deliver 500 newsletters received by all residents and businesses in Cragg.



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Hen and duck eggs £1.30 per half dozen.

Phone Susan on 01422 881062

CVCA Park Project Boost

When the CVCA was first established, we carried out a survey to find out what the community wanted to see happening in the area. One of the top suggestions was to have improved amenities for children of all ages.

We've just received the great news that our request for funding from Community Spaces to improve the Park on Cragg Road has passed through the first stage. We are aiming to carry out a number of improvements, with new play equipment and safety surfaces, improved access and drainage to the site, and better signage.

We are working with Calderdale Council to go out to tender for the works, and will be consulting with Cragg Vale schools to get feedback from local children. Our Stage Two grant application (the final Stage), will be submitted later this year when we have finalised all the details and costs. We'll keep you updated via this Newsletter, but if you have any specific questions or suggestions, please contact any member of the CVCA Committee.



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News from the Spa.

On a very wet Saturday morning in August several of us gathered to pull up this year's crop of Himalayan Balsam - this is certainly much easier now to keep at bay around the Spa, if we tackle it regularly. We are hoping to plant up the immediate area around the pathways and steps with mainly native plants - heather, bilberries, ferns, bluebells have been suggested so far. Please let us have your ideas for easy to manage and control plants, also if you want to help with planting and occasional upkeep. Thank you to Mrs Redman for the contribution of perennial geraniums!

Cragg Vale Regional suppliers meet global buyers.

Over 200 regional suppliers have registered to attend the event where they will be matched to potential buyers through business-to-business matchmaking arranged by Yorkshire Forward.

Companies such as It's Nuts Free, Shepherd Purse Cheeses Ltd, Claro Precision Engineering, Delicious Alchemy Ltd, EKSPAN Ltd and JRI Ltd, Arco Ltd, Nisa International and Engage Now Ltd are just some of the hundreds of regional companies signed-up to attend the Going Global - Meet the Buyer event.

Since attending last years event, our own Little Valley Brewery have participated in various masterclasses to help them prepare for exporting.

Sue Cooper, joint owner of the brewery commented, "We have had fantastic support from trade advisor Elsa Fairbanks, who is UKTI's food and drink specialist in the region. She helped us apply for TESS funding to offset our travel and accommodation costs and if we have any questions we just give her a call.

We have had very positive feedback in each of the countries and have come away with an importer in each case."

It is not just

companies new to export who are attending the event. Several of the region's companies who are planning to attend are already trading overseas. Aztek International Freight Ltd are freight agents with specialist markets trading for over 20 years and currently trade overseas in the Far East and European markets. Zeina Foods Ltd located near Wakefield, trade with China, Algeria,

Poland, Sweden, and Scandinavia; Bradford based Thermo Flexible Elements Ltd, a construction based industry, exports flexible heating cable to Asia, Europe, Africa and USA.

With many overseas markets showing positive GDP growth and with the weakness of sterling against major currencies, the *Going Global* event offers real opportunities for businesses located within the Yorkshire and Humber region to expand internationally.



Cragg Vale Community Association Autumn Social and Annual General Meeting - 'Jacob's Join'

- celebration of local food, please bring something to share!

Friday, 22nd October, 7.30pm, upstairs room in the Robin Hood

New members are needed to join the Committee - can you spare a couple of hours a month?

All Cragg Vale residents are invited to come and join us for some food and a discussion about priorities for Cragg Vale

The Committee is asking members to approve a Special resolution to amend our Articles because our expenditure falls below the threshold for needing a full audit. We want to change Article 47 to delete the current wording and replace it with:
"The Organisation's accounts shall be externally examined annually in line with current regulations. The Committee shall propose the organisation to act as Auditors or Examiners for approval by members at the Annual General Meeting"

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CRAGG VALE TALENT CONTEST

Are you a talented Cragger?

We would like you to show off/demonstrate your talent during our Open Church & Exhibition of Talents Weekend, part of the Treasures Revealed Festival Week.

Where: St. John the Baptist in the Wilderness, Cragg
Vale

Date: 18th & 19th September

Time: 10am - 4pm

If you have a talent you'd like to share - gardening, embroidery, photography, painting.....etc. then get in touch with Julie or Geraint on 01422 885183
gjwsa@btinternet.com Or Doris on 01422 882509

See you all there.

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Jokes Corner

Joke 1

Autumn is a season for big decisions - like whether or not it's too late to start spring cleaning.



Joke 2

Q: What jumps up and down in front of a car ?

Joke 3

Q: Why did the teacher wear sunglasses ?

Check out the back page for the punch lines.

Call to action

CVCA AGM - We are looking for new members to join the committee, please join us at our AGM if you are interested in supporting your local community.



Reminder

Dog Owners - just a reminder that any dog waste can be put into normal litter bins.

Cragg Vale Carbon Neutral meet second Wednesday every month at 7.30pm in the Robin Hood Inn. All welcome.

Letter from our Readers:

Hello,

I am a beekeeper living in Cragg Vale. I have just read your article on Himalayan Balsam in the Summer Community Newsletter.



The balsam regularly gets a bad press with 'Balsam Bashing Partys' being up and down the country including Calderdale. Whilst I fully accept that there is a problem caused by this invasive alien plant I would ask you give a moments thought to its lesser known attributes.

1. The plant is not poisonous
2. It does not cause skin rashes - it actually used to treat rashes caused by poison ivy
3. It is 100% edible - the leaves, stem, roots and seed are used to make bread and coffee
4. The Wildlife & Countryside Act 1981 forbids the uprooting of all British wild flowers (although I am not sure whether its has been classified as 'British' yet)

As far as beekeeping is concerned the balsam, which flowers from July to October, sometimes as late as November, gives bees a valuable source of pollen and nectar. Pollen is used to feed bee larvae and the nectar is converted into honey to feed the bees over the winter and to help them survive until the following spring. Surplus honey is sold to the public as a natural sweetener.



Giving the current and well documented plight of the honey bee we need to give it as much help to survive. All that I, and other Cragg Vale beekeepers ask, is that you leave a little balsam for our bees. The bees produce a delicious, light-coloured and delicate honey from the balsam. It keeps

the bees fed late into the Autumn when there is little forage about and the honey is then a true product of the Calderdale Valley and an example of the flora that it produces.

If you don't believe me then come and sample the honey - no charge!

Phil Gee

Gees Bees, Woodland View, Cragg Vale, (next to the Lodge House & Arch).

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PS - If any resident of Cragg Vale wants to know more about beekeeping or indeed visit the apiary I am more than happy to oblige however the bees are getting ready to bed down for winter so contact me and we can work out a most suitable time to visit.

Phil sells his my honey from home and sells it as Calder Valley Honey as the bees collect nectar from a range of 3 miles from the apiary.

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Key Honey Fact:

Honey has no sell by date and therefore freshness is not an issue (honey is still being discovered in pyramids and is still edible).



Cragg's Parent and Toddler Group

Just to let you know that Cragg has a very popular Parent and Toddler group hosted by Cragg Vale's Junior and Infant School.



It's an extremely popular community group welcome to all those of pre school age. They meet on a Friday morning 9:30 until 11:30am during the school term. Come along if you fancy some fun!

Thanks to all those who posed so beautifully for our photo above.

What's on Guide Autumn.

Yoga Classes - Every Monday evening at the Sunday School Hall, St Johns Church (above the Steiner Nursery. Gentle Yoga Based Exercise - 6.15 to 7.15 pm - £6.00 / £3.50 unwaged per class, drop in. Ashtanga Yoga - 7.30 to 9.00pm - £7.00 / £4.00 unwaged per class, drop in. First class free of charge. Call Jacquie 07810816869



Thurs 16th September - CV History Group - Local photos

Sat 18th September 10am - 4pm & Sun 19th September 10.30 - 4pm - Open Church and Exhibition of Cragg Talents! Come and find out about the history and future of St John the Baptist in church and the talents of people who live in the village around it! Refreshments available.

Sun 19th September - 7pm at St John's Church - Palm Court Evening - An evening of Music and Song with Sherry Reception. Tickets - £5, contact Doris Hirst for Palm Court Tickets - 01422 882509

Sun 10th October - Church's gift day, it's 195th Birthday in Cragg

Thurs 21st October - CV History Group - "Edgar Wood, Arts and Crafts Architect in Cragg Vale and beyond"

Fri 22nd October - CVCA Autumn Social and Annual General Meeting - 'Jacob's Join' - celebration of local food, please bring something to share! From 7.30pm, upstairs room in the Robin Hood

Fri 5th Nov - Parish Bonfire at Springfield, Cragg Road

Thurs 18th Nov - CV History Group - "National Farm Survey 1940-1941"

Fri 3rd December - Christingle and Xmas lights (to be confirmed)

Fri 24th December - Children's Crib service at St John's

Cragg Vale Local History Group

The History Group has put together a very diverse and interesting programme of meetings for the Autumn / Winter seasons.

The group meet on Thursdays once a month at 7.30 pm in the Community Room above the Robin Hood Inn, Cragg Vale, visitors as well as members are very welcome. Look for posters in the Robin and on Cragg Vale noticeboard.



On **Thursday 16th September** we are asking people to come along with any interesting old photos that they may have. We are hoping that these photos will add to our knowledge of how the people and the environment of the local area have changed over the years. Photos from all periods up to the present day - school photos, agriculture, transport, buildings, working life, sports and pastimes, are all of interest. Any unusual photos or unidentified people are welcomed - who knows we may find out where and who they are!

Frank Woolrych and Ann Kilbey from the Hebden Bridge Literary and Scientific Society will be present and bringing equipment to make a digital record of your photos. Frank is the keeper of the Alice Longstaff collection, and is experienced in identifying photos. Ann is also an experienced local historian.

Thursday 21st October: "Edgar Wood, Arts and Crafts Architect in Cragg Vale and beyond" - a talk about the local work of this eminent 19C designer, illustrated with examples of his work in Yorkshire and Lancashire - some familiar, others less so.



Thursday 18th November "National Farm Survey 1940-1941": When the Second World War began in September 1939, Britain was faced with an urgent need to increase home food production, as imports of food and fertilisers were drastically cut. Between June 1940 and the early months

of 1941 some 85% of the country's agricultural area was surveyed, and these records are a rich source of information for local historians - Ian Bailey brings them to life with many details of local farming and families.



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December - Christmas visit -
details to be announced later

19th January -

Withens Reservoir/All mod cons

17th February -

An Informal History of the 20th
Century - Ian Dewhurst

17th March -

Education in Cragg Vale - Yvonne
Broadbent

Joke answers:

2. A. Froglights !
3. A. Because his class was so bright !



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More support required, so if you too would like to advertise for a small fee - please get in touch with Liz - see details below.

info@craggvalecommunity.co.uk or 881182

Thanks to all our volunteers who help us to deliver the newsletter to you all. If you would like to help us with deliveries (only 4 times a year) please get in touch with Liz.