

Cragg Vale Community Newsletter No 15

September 2011

Cragg Vale Community
Carbon Conscious Cragg Vale

Cragg Vale Community Association

would like to invite you
to the official opening of the new

Cragg Vale Park

on Saturday 10th September 2011
2.00—4.00pm



CommunitySpaces



Hello.

We're all very excited about getting the park revamped and creating a new sensory garden. We have an official opening on the 10th September. We hope you can all make it come rain or shine.



Cakes and beverages are on offer and the kids will have a brilliant time as we have Peanut the Clown coming as well as a bouncy castle. The mayor and fellow resident, Scott Trickett will officially be opening the park. Here's a rough idea of what we have planned:

- 14:00 - Kick off and official welcome
- 14:30 - Penalty shoot out competition
- 15:00 - Children's Races
- 15:30 - Fancy dress judging and announcement
- 16:00 - Event thank you's and close down.



Come and join the fun and check out our new park. All ages welcome 😊

Read on to find out more about the history of the park and the work that's gone in to revamping it. Thank you to all involved who have made this happen and for everyone living around the park who have put up with the disruption.

We hope you enjoy this newsletter - thanks to our sponsors for their continued support. It's much appreciated 😊. Our next newsletter is due out in December, contributions welcome (mid October deadline).

Take Care.

PS - here's our new logo ->



A BRIEF HISTORY OF THE CRAGG VALE PLEASURE GROUND

After the end of the First World War there was a move to create parks and recreation areas in local communities as a focal point for people to meet and for youngsters to play.

By the early 1920s Mytholmroyd Urban District Council, which at that time included Cragg Vale already had two recreation grounds, at White Lee and Brearley.

The Mytholmroyd Urban District Council Garden and Recreation Grounds Committee at their meeting on 21 April 1926 resolved that the Committee should enquire as to a field to be used as a playground at Cragg Vale.

Nothing came of this resolution and the issue was raised again on 6 February 1929 when the Committee again resolved to find suitable land at Cragg Vale.



Again there was no response until 17

June 1931 when the question of a pleasure ground in Cragg Vale was again raised. This time it was resolved that it be dealt with as a matter of urgency and Councillors Sager, Jackson, Lindley and Kershaw were appointed to meet with representatives of the late Mrs Hinchliffe of Woodlands as to the price at which they would be willing to sell the tennis court and land down the main road adjoining Twist Clough.

On the 18 July 1931 the Council approved the purchase of the tennis court and land near Twist Clough for £150.

By 11 May 1932 the Pleasure Ground was open, the Surveyor reported that work to form an entrance and to put in a drain was completed. Additionally the Committee resolved to write to local resident Mr Mayers to request him to prevent his hens from trespassing onto the Pleasure Ground.

In August 1932 it was decided to erect a notice with a copy of the Council's regulations relating to Pleasure Grounds.

In June 1934 the Surveyor was ordered to tar dress the paths in the Pleasure Ground.

In July 1934 the Council requested the Surveyor to prepare a scheme for the improvement of Cragg Vale Pleasure Ground. It was also reported that Messrs Thornber Bros had agreed to provide a shelter to be placed in a position to be arranged. Messrs Thornber Bros to be heartily thanked.

April 1935 -it was agreed that a Qualcast Model E Mowing Machine be purchased for use at the Cragg Vale Pleasure Ground.

A notice was to be erected saying "This ground not to be used for playing by persons over 16". (There was no definition as to what constituted playing!) A letter was to be sent to the Playing Fields Association to ask for a grant for Playing Appliances.



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May 1935 - The Council agreed that a scheme be drawn up for playing appliances at a cost not to exceed £40. Cragg Vale and Mytholmroyd Band were given permission to play at Cragg Vale Pleasure Ground on selected dates.

July 1935 - A tender of £59 for the provision of swings and a slide was accepted.

March 1936 - Slide and swings were erected and the Council agreed to 1 years free insurance of the equipment by the manufacturers.

So almost exactly 10 years after the question of a playground for Cragg Vale being raised at the Mytholmroyd Urban District Council, a "Pleasure Ground" complete with Shelter, Swings, Slide, Tarmac paths, Lawnmower and Notices was in existence along with occasional Brass Band concerts.



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It would be interesting to find out from residents down the years what other "pleasures" have been enjoyed there!

The Park Revamp - How it began...

The CVCA Committee started work on the Park project following a consultation meeting held with local residents in late 2007. This meeting asked people what their priorities were for improvements to the environment in Cragg Vale, and better facilities for children, specifically the refurbishment of the Park, was in the top three suggestions.

Funding

Securing the funding has been the biggest challenge. A grant of £3,000 was provided by Hebden Royd Town Council, and Calderdale Council promised up to £10,000 if we were able to get further grants to at least match that amount. In May 2010 we applied to Community Spaces (see Note 1. below for more information) for a grant of £50,000, and our breakthrough came in May this year when we were told we had been successful and had been awarded the full amount. In total, we therefore had a budget of £63,000 for our Park project!

Creating the new Park

The first priority was to improve the drainage on the site as the grass tended to get very soggy in wet weather - not unusual in Cragg Vale! This work was completed early in the year by a local contractor and we are already seeing the benefit.

We have worked closely with Mick Wilby and Kate Willis at Calderdale Council to choose the new equipment and improve the access to the park by creating a new ramped pathway. We have consulted with the children from the three Cragg Vale schools on their ideas and preferences, and have built these into the scheme wherever possible. The new equipment has been chosen to be bright, safe and long lasting, with a soft ground covering to protect against the inevitable falls and tumbles.

To ensure we provided some benefit to people of all ages, we also decided to give the garden area to the side of the main play space a makeover with a new sensory garden of herbs and flowers, and refurbishment of the benches.

Over twenty new bird and bat boxes have been installed, together with smaller homes for insects and bugs, scattered amongst the planting.



Many people have commented that the Park is one of the best kept secrets in Cragg Vale, and some residents didn't know it even existed when we asked them about it! We are therefore making it much more visible from the road, with a large stone monolith soon to be installed near the entrance gate, and newly installed wooden animals acting as another 'signpost' of the Park's existence.

Future plans

There are three further specific activities planned:

- **Replacement of the shelter.** The existing shelter is in very poor condition and fast becoming dangerous. A new shelter, built of green oak with a shingle roof is currently being built by Calderdale craftsmen and will be installed later this year.
- **Tree sculpture.** The very large ash tree on the edge of the Park has honey fungus and was potentially dangerous, so it's been felled, leaving a large bare trunk. We have some remaining funds to commission a specialist wood carver to create a sculpture in the trunk, and are going to be consulting with local children and the wider community on ideas for the subject.

- **Volunteers.** A team of 25 people from Lloyds Banking Group in Halifax have volunteered to help us clean up and prepare for the Launch event on the 10 September. They will be on site on Thursday the 8th September - other volunteers are most welcome!

We are also developing a 'sustainability' plan - a range of activities designed to make the very best use of the Park and provide interest and enjoyment to the whole community.

We very much appreciate that the work to re-furbish the Park has caused disruption and inconvenience to a number of local residents, particularly those living adjacent to the Park.

The CVCA Committee, the team from Calderdale Council and the contractors would all like to take this opportunity

to say a big **thank you** to

these residents for their patience and co-operation during the works.

1. Community Spaces is a £57.5 million open grants programme funded by the Big Lottery Fund. The programme helps community groups in England create or improve green, open spaces to enhance people's quality of life.


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Quarterly Recipe

Ingredients

- 100 g (4 oz) softened butter
- 100 g (4 oz) caster sugar
- 2 large eggs
- 100 g (4 oz) self-raising flour
- 1 level tsp baking powder



For the icing:

- 225 g (8 oz) sifted icing sugar
- 2-3tbsp warm water
- Sweets, to decorate

Preparation:

1. Pre-heat the oven to 200°C fan/180°C/gas mark 6. Place fairy cake cases into a 12-hole bun tin, to keep a good even shape as they bake.
2. Measure all the ingredients into a large bowl and beat for 2-3 mins until the mixture is well blended and smooth. Fill each paper case with the mixture.
3. Bake in the pre-heated oven for about 15-20 minutes until the cakes are well risen and golden brown. Lift the paper cases out of the bun tin and cool the cakes on a wire rack.
4. Put the icing sugar in a bowl and gradually blend in the warm water until you have a fairly stiff icing. Spoon over the top of the cakes and decorate with sweets.

Why not bake this or another favourite recipe and donate this to the kids for the Park opening!

Enjoy. Please send us your favourite recipes for our next issue
info@craggvalecommunity.co.uk

WELL DONE CRAGG VALE TENNIS CLUB.

The Cragg Vale Men's A team has won the Division 1, Calderdale League. Well done to Josh Stenhouse, Alasdair Whiteley, Alex Stenhouse and Jonathan Cooper (pictured ->).



Also well done to the ladies & mixed teams too, no trophies this year but ever hopeful for next year.

If you want to know more about the tennis club then contact Emma at emma.parkin@brigmil.co.uk



- 1.) What do you call a pig that does karate
- 2.) What does the needle say to the balloon at the party?
- 3.) If you have 3 apples and 5 oranges in one hand and 6 apples and 6 oranges in the other, what do you have?

Check out the back page for the punch lines.

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Broadhead Clough YWT reserve -

September update

During the summer we have enjoyed sunny work days in the four fields which are part of the reserve. These have now been approved by Natural England as part of the Higher Level Stewardship scheme with the aim to restore the meadow habitat and take hay crops each summer. One field has some bilberry and may regenerate as heath but our preparation work has been the same.



We've hand pulled the small margin of bracken that was beginning to invade the dry-stone walls, to weaken and prevent its spread. Areas of tumbled wall have been rebuilt and any stones lying inside the wall which might cause damage when hay making have been dug out and relocated. Rushes growing along the natural drainage lines have been left, but isolated clumps spreading out of these damper areas have been cut and raked off the land. This should reduce the nitrogen content and help the wild flowers preferring poorer soil to compete. By cutting several times this year we might start to see some results by next summer's hay crop.

Despite the very dry spring the scrub clearance in the top mire seems to have helped the spotted orchids. We had over a hundred flowering in shades of almost white to deep purple and they could all be seen from the footpath skirting the edge of Bell Hole. Four had even migrated up onto the edge of the moor itself.

As summer turns to autumn we will be back in the woods again. If you haven't been when the trees are in their autumn splendour do take a walk up here on a sunny day. The brilliant colours can be spectacular and the harvest of acorns attracts lots of wildlife which you might see. Jays carry off beakfuls to bury beneath the decaying leaf litter. Grey squirrels dart up and down, eating some and stashing others for the

winter. At night short tailed voles venture out to eat the acorns but have to beware of the tawny owl in case they become a meal in themselves.

Autumn workdays, focussing on scrub control and habitat management are planned for:

Tuesday 6th and Wednesday 28th September

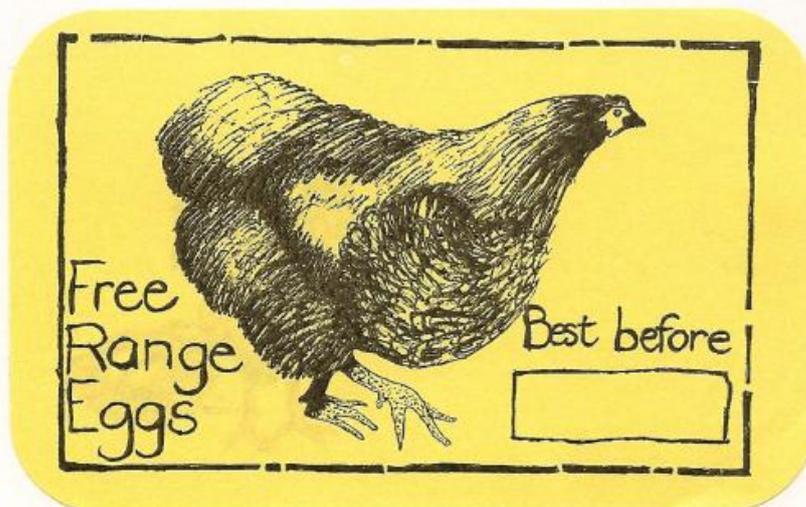
Wednesday 12 October

Wednesday 2 November

We meet at the entrance to the reserve at 10am and aim to finish mid-afternoon. Everyone is welcome for as long as they wish to stay: bring a drink, or pack a lunch. Tools are provided, stout footwear and gloves advised, and remember your waterproof- even if its only to sit on.

Helen Pedley, 886195

Contact for Broadhead Clough Supporters Group



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Cragg Fell Race raises over £600!!

On the last Wednesday in June, Cragg church played host to over 100 fell runners and their families plus nearly 40 Junior runners.

104 runners started beside Cragg Church, running along the side of Cragg Brook, up onto the side of Erringden Moor, along Dick's Lane and back down through Sunderland Pasture to the old Cragg Gatehouse: a mere 4 miles! The big crowd at the finish didn't last long, as the midges descended en masse, driving everyone back into Cragg church where scrumptious refreshments provided by a team from church, Cragg Vale Bitter [Little Valley Brewery sponsored the race] and stalls kept everyone happy. This race is a real village effort with Cragg residents

marshalling, flagging, running, registering and organising the refreshments. It all makes for a great social event too.

The top 6 places of the adult race were clogged with U16 and U18 runners - the boys literally swept the field with U18 Jack Ross travelling all the way from Stoke on Trent to claim victory in 27.24. An outstanding run!

Anne Johnson of Calder valley Fell Runners, showing a great return to form, finished 1st lady in 34.55. *Incidentally, if anyone wants to join CVFR, then come along to Mytholmroyd Community Centre on Tues nights 7pm [check the website] and we'll find a group for you to run with.*

Our 2 church wardens, Geraint Harris and Ed Talbot both

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completed the race. In fact they have completed many Cragg Fell races over the last 8 years and we are really proud of them!

Just before the main race, the children's races through the woods, beside Cragg Brook attracted 37 runners from U8 to U 14.

Congratulations to tom parkin (U8's winner), Logan Hargreaves-Medhas (U10 winner), Martin Howard (U12 winner). The biggest category was the U8s, so that bodes well for the future. Gemma Johnson from Midgley, first girl in the U12s, was invited to start the adult race and received a huge round of applause from the assembled runners on Church Bank.

The ritual of finding the oldest female/male runners [prizes sponsored by our local Gamekeeper, Jack Fearn] proved amusing again, but well done Margi White LV50 and Peter White V70! Should anyone want to sponsor a prize next year I would love to hear from you. Similarly if you feel able to marshal a stile or gate, do get in touch. Maggie Smallwood helps every year by manning the gate by Upper Lumb barn, where she lives. Nick Murphy, of Shireburn, usually flags the route and my husband and 3

teenagers do a whole variety of jobs on the day, from registration upstairs in church to organising the finish, marshalling/flagging the junior race, collecting flags, working out result/prizes and more.

Thanks go also to all the landowners including Doug and Lucy of Marsh Grove for the junior races and the Daniel family for allowing us to run over your land.

The whole race is a big undertaking and the organisation starts again in October, when I have to apply for permission from Yorkshire Water/ English Nature to hold the race in 2012 and register the race with the Fell Running Association [includes insurance etc] by Oct 31st!

Jackie Scarf

PS Thanks to every one in Cragg for putting up with all the runners swarming around, cars parked on Cragg road, a slight delay in travel times etc. I realise

it's not everyone's cup of tea. Please remember it's only for a few hours, once a year and a lot of hard work, by a large number of Cragg folk, has gone into making it one of our church's biggest fundraisers.



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Do you fancy helping with the Park Launch on the 10th September? We need cakes, raffle prizes, support on stalls - let Liz know 881182 or email info@craggvalecommunity.co.uk

Mytholmroyd Gala Success

Well done to everyone who helped out and support Mytholmroyd Gala. Despite the wet weather the CVCA tombola stall made a profit of £111 pounds. Thanks for your support on the day.



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CVCA AGM Coming Soon

Watch out for the details and date in posters around Cragg Vale. If you would like to volunteer to support the community by volunteering your services, time etc by joining the committee please let us know via our email address

info@craggvalecommunity.co.uk as we are always looking for new members and new ideas.



At the Park Launch event in September we will be asking you what else you would like us to do in Cragg Vale - your opinion counts so please take a moment to fill out the questionnaire and let us know what next we can focus our energy on.



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Cragg Residents PROFILES 2011!

Julie and Geraint Harris

Julie moved to Cragg in 1970 with her mum and dad, Nora and Gordon Nelson and brother, John. She attended Cragg School until 1975 and was a Sixer in Cragg Vale Brownies, proud to be the first Cragg Brownie to get the Highway Award and the Gardener badge! Julie has great memories of the Cragg Youth Club, run by parent volunteers first at New

Cragg Hall over the Harrison's garage and then in the Sunday School. She was also a member of St. John's junior choir and became Head Chorister until going to Hull University to do a degree in Biology, then Bangor, North Wales to do a Masters degree in Ecology, while studying for this degree, she did a research project on the Heath Spotted Orchid population at Broad Clough Nature Reserve and still takes an interest in what goes on there. Geraint was on the same course (studying Magpies) and the rest as they say is history!



They were married at St. John's in 1987, Geraint moving to Yorkshire from Essex (where his parents were living at the time - he's a Welshman really!). Although living in Cottonstones, they stayed in touch with Cragg, attending St. John's and supporting village functions. In 1992 with their one year old son, Will, they left the UK to spend (supposedly!) 2 years in Botswana where Geraint had secured a post as a science teacher at Moeding College, a state run secondary boarding school. Six years later they returned to Cragg with Will, Sam and Amy! After a few months living with Gordon and Nora, they moved to Mytholmroyd but kept very close links with Cragg, attending St. John's regularly and William (followed by Sam then Amy) attending Cragg School.

The whole family have been involved in many pantomimes and other productions, Geraint often donning a frock (he and Phil Scarf made fantastic ugly sisters!). Julie became involved as a governor at Cragg School some years ago and still has that role. She has also done some teaching there which she says seemed quite surreal after being a pupil there all those years ago! Geraint and Amy seem to have become

honorary violinists for the schools maypole celebrations and enjoy still having that connection with school.

Julie is a Cub leader and Geraint is a Scout leader, both at Mytholmroyd Scout Group which means they often see Cragg children at their meetings on Tuesdays and Fridays respectively.

More recently, Geraint has become a churchwarden at St. John's and does his best to carry out his wardens duties in and amongst his busy schedule of work (with North West Ambulance Service), family Scouts and being in Calder Valley Search and Rescue Team! Geraint says it's quite an exciting time at the moment as the process of reordering of the inside of the church is getting underway.

Geraint and Julie have both seen different parts of the community coming together more over the last couple of years and hope that this will continue. They hope that perhaps in the (not too distant) future, we will be able to provide more for all sections of the community especially our youth (youth club, cubs and brownies?) and our older people.



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Charlie Greenwood

Charlie's lived at Fairview [on hillside just above Robin Hood Pub] for over 43 years. Before that [since 1947], he lived at Stocks Springs [he's some black and white photos of the farm], Twist Clough and in the row of cottages behind the



Charlie pictured in the middle with his sons Bob and John

Robin, which he once owned. He can remember when the first water mains were installed in the valley, coming up from Mytholmroyd, about 1960. Previously everyone was on Spring Water [and many still are!] When he first lived in Cragg there were lots more food/bread shops: the Coop, Four gates End, Church Bank [also a cobblers], Bottoms, and even the fish and chip shop opposite the old toilets by school. He remembers the old Sportsman Pub at the top of Church Bank and the Working men's club nearby that Simpson Heathcliffe gave to Cragg. Charlie said everyone knew everyone then and you'd be surprised if you saw more than a dozen cars a day on Cragg Rd. People worked locally and folk were surprised to find one worker who commuted from Littleborough to the dye works in Midgehole, HB. It was unheard of!

Although he grew up in Hebden, being educated at Central St Primary School and the Grammar School [now Riverside Junior], he has only left the Calder Valley to do his National Service in Trieste, Italy the 1950s. If you want to find Charlie, then look for the Garage cum spare parts/scrap yard just below the main road. He's often there, lending a hand to his 2 sons [all 3 sons live locally]. Landrovers get special

treatment and the prices are very reasonable! The turbines for Redman's sewing shop used to be down there [at night the spare electricity was used to feed Glen House]. Charlie worked for 25 years at Frank Helliwell's on George St, in Mytholmroyd, as a coach builder/wheelwright, so he knows all about vehicles, especially old ones, which he loves best!

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2. Barbie dumped Ken after 43 years for a brief relationship with which Australian surfer?
3. What kind of flowers, painted by Vincent Van Gough, are worth more than his world famous painting 'fifteen sunflowers'?
4. Name the four most populated cities in the world that end with the letter 's'



See answers on the second to last page. Good Luck

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So many parishioners give up their time to organise dinners, pantos, Open Gardens, fell race, barbecues etc but they are all random events and Geoffrey is never sure how much they will raise. You don't have to be a regular visitor to church to help; just someone who wants to know our church will always be there for them.

A Standing Order is simple to set up and can be for any amount. Just think £10+ a month, [plus if you are a taxpayer, an extra £2.50 from the government], would be a really good way of helping our church to manage a secure and regular income.

Thank You

What's on Guide Winter.



Thursday 8th Sept - Cragg Vale Park Volunteer Day - all welcome from 10am until about 16:00 at the Park

Saturday 10th Sept - Cragg Vale Park Launch 2- 4pm - Cragg Park

Saturday 10th September - Walk and Ride festival - Mytholmroyd Walkers Association - Coiners Walk - meet at the Mytholmroyd Library at 10am. It's an 11 mile walk, graded hard. Finish time expected 3pm.

Monday 12th Sept - Yorkshire Countrywomen's Association Harvest Super.

Thursday 15th Sept - History Group - Fares Please, Geoff Budd

Tuesday 6th Sept - Broadhead Clough Working Day, 10am at the entrance to the park

Wednesday 28th Sept - Broadhead Clough Working Day, 10am at the entrance to the park

Wednesday 12th Oct - Broadhead Clough Working Day, 10am at the entrance to the park

Thursday 20th Oct - History Group - The Things We Do for Luck - John Billingsley

Wednesday 2nd Nov - Broadhead Clough Working Day, 10am at the entrance to the park

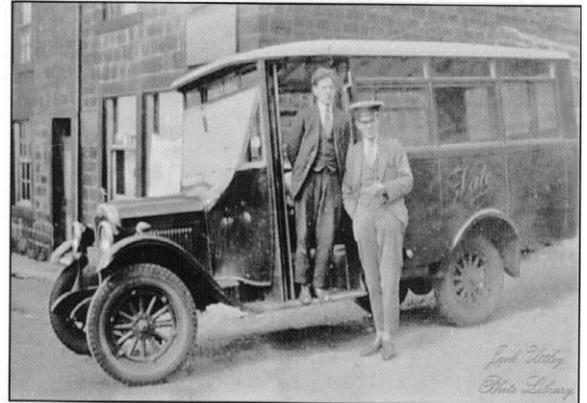
Thursday 17th Nov - History Group, Withens Reservoir, Shirley Daniel

Cragg Vale Local History Group

After a break for the summer meetings begin again on 15th September! Details of the programme are below - please note that September and October topics are now reversed, as Geoff Budd had to make an unavoidable change to his plans - luckily John Billingsley was able switch dates.

n2801U-JU

Later Pictures - Mytholmroyd



Picture from The Jack Uttlev Photo Library

15 th September	Fares Please	Geoff Budd
20 th October	The Things We Do for Luck	John Billingsley
17 th November	Withens Reservoir	Shirley Daniel
15 th December	Christmas Crackers!	

2012

19 th January	Photo Memories	Frank Woolrych & Ann Kilby
16 th February	An evening with Ian Dewhurst	
15 th March	Water Wheel to email	Alan Stuttard

See posters each month in the noticeboard, St John's Church and the Robin Hood Inn

All welcome to the meetings: Visitors £2, subscriptions £10 for CVCA members, £12 non CVCA members, seniors and students £5

If there is a subject you'd like to see covered, or you'd like to be more involved in the group, please get in touch at

info@craggvalecommunity.co.uk

Reminder to members wanting to renew - subscriptions 2011-2012 were due 1st April!



Trivia Answers:

1. *Anne Boleyn and Catherine Howard*
2. *Blaine*
3. *Irises*
4. *Buenos Aries, Lagos, Los Angeles and Paris*



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Joke answers:

- 1.) porkchop
- 2.) *do you want some pop*
- 3.) *really big hands!*



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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.