

Cragg News

ISSUE 14
WINTER
2016

www.craggvalecommunity.co.uk



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by Hebden Royd
Town Council

2017 CRAGG VALE CALENDAR

The Cragg Vale Heritage Trail Calendar for 2017 produced by Cragg Vale Community Association is now on sale for £6 at: Craggies, The Robin Hood, Little Valley Brewery, Cragg Vale J&I School, The Ark, The Steiner School, Mytholmroyd Post Office, and Hebden Bridge Visitor Centre – or get in touch with CVCA (tel 01422 885224) or email calendar@craggvalecommunity.co.uk



WINTER

December

Friday 2nd December Broadhead Clough
Volunteers needed: meet 10am by reserve signboard, contact Helen Pedley YWT for information:01422 886195

Saturday 3rd December Christmas Fair
11am – 2pm Cragg Vale School with Father Christmas, hog roast, real ale, mulled wine, mince pies, face-painting, kids crafts, & games

Sunday 4th December 'Festival of Lights'
3.30pm meet in Cragg Vale Park, bring a lantern and join in the singing. Mulled wine, hot chocolate, soft drinks, cakes - FREE event for all ages

Sunday 11th December Christingle, 11am St Michael's Church Hall Mytholmroyd Joint with St Michael's as both churches are 'out of action'!

Thursday 15th December 'Christmas Extravaganza'
History Group event, 7.30pm in the Steiner School

Friday 16th December 'A Touch of Christmas' Soiree
6.30pm, Castle Hall Barn, Cragg Road. Tickets £6 includes hot supper and mulled wine. Contact Vicky (882717), Ed (884435) or Julie (885183)

Saturday 24th December Christmas Eve at the Robin Hood book now

Saturday 31st December New Year's Eve Robin Hood:
Live music, sandwiches & nibbles - FREE

January

Friday 6th January Broadhead Clough
Volunteers needed: meet 10am by reserve signboard, contact Helen Pedley YWT for information:01422 886195

Wednesday 4th January Mummers Play
8pm Hinchliffe Arms, music and merriment!

Saturday 28th January 'Burn's Night', The Robin Hood
Get out your tartan, take a wee dram and join the celebration! Bookings now being taken

February

Friday 3rd February Broadhead Clough
Volunteers needed: meet 10am by reserve signboard, contact Helen Pedley YWT for information:01422 886195

Thursday 9th February CVCA Annual General Meeting 7.15pm, Robin Hood
Everyone invited, free refreshments, followed by **Cragg Vale Quiz with Jon Emberton, at 8pm**

For more news and information see our website www.craggvalecommunity.co.uk



CRAGG VALE SCHOOL

Cragg Vale School Hall 11am till 2pm

Father Christmas Fabulous Food
Mulled Wine Craft Stalls
Facepainting Hog Roast Tombola

SATURDAY 3RD DECEMBER

New Park Entrance

At last, thanks to help and support from Calderdale Council, Hebden Royd Town Council, local residents Soo and Steve Watson, and OBL Contracts, no-one will get their boots or pushchairs stuck in the mud when going to our Community Park and Garden! The entrance is now properly accessible with the installation of drainage and a good quality level surface - just in time for our 'Festival of Lights' on 4th December. In the not-too-distant future we hope to get a gate put in place to help protect children from running out onto the roadway.



FESTIVAL OF LIGHTS

Special Community Event
Lantern Procession & Singing

Once again we invite everyone, of any age, to come and join us in the Park for our very own Festival of Lights. As the light fades children lead a lantern procession and the singing will start. Song sheets will be provided. Bring a lantern, there will be 'goodies' for each child with a lantern!

SUNDAY 4th DECEMBER 2016
3.30PM – 5PM, Cragg Vale Park & Community Garden

FREE REFRESHMENTS
Mulled wine, hot chocolate, cakes

Meet in the Park at 3.30pm

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News From The Ark



Yorkshire
Wildlife Trust

Heuristic and sensory play is play involving natural materials and items you can find around the home. Introducing a "treasure basket" of sensory and heuristic items can help stimulate babies' senses and help to develop hand eye coordination. Playing with a range of different material and objects provides opportunities for babies to explore. This play also strengthens the muscles used to sit and squat and enables children to explore the concepts of shape, size and texture.



Treasure Baskets for Babies

Touch and taste are the key ways babies process information. For babies who can sit up you can include wooden spoons, wooden egg cups, pieces of shaped smooth wood, wooden egg shapes, wooden bangles, wooden curtain rings with any metal removed, pieces of furry material, and squares of smooth shiny material.



Other objects, such as a make-up mirror, a plunger, loofah, a large flat pebble can be put into a low basket so babies can easily reach into it. Heuristic play is guided by your baby, let your child choose what they want to play with and enjoy watching as new experiences are explored.

CROWS in Cragg Vale



Community Rights Of Way Service (CROWS) volunteers have been working hard in Cragg Vale. They've been busy repairing and tidying our local public footpaths. Particular attention is being paid to the Calderdale Way. At the end of October, CROWS Linda and Ruth were spotted cutting back the laurel hedge at the bottom of the Calderdale way, near the main road. The hedge had become so overgrown that only half the footpath was viable!

If you know of any footpaths that are in need of attention contact crows via their website or crows-coop@outlook.com.

Cragg Vale Hill Climb

Blazing Saddles up at The Craggs Country Business Park challenged local cyclists to race up the famous 8k Cragg Vale hill climb on a Brompton (folding commuter bike). Daft clothes were encouraged. In return for a £5 charity donation you got your name on the 'Top Gear' -style leaderboard, a free water bottle and voucher for a drink at Craggies cafe.

The mad cyclists in the photo took 32 + 28 mins, enjoying all the comments and stares from drivers and locals on the race to the top!



Broadhead Clough December 2016 update

As I write the trees are still holding on to their leaves which are really vibrant this year. The reds, oranges and yellows are a temporary tropical colour scheme in vivid contrast to our usual "green and pleasant land". Perhaps that's why we relish TV programmes like Life on Earth showing us blue sea and pink flamingo so different from the Yorkshire coast where even its colourful puffins are understated compared with a toucan. As winter draws in our landscape becomes even more muted and reflects the colours of its geology. The Pennines have brown peat tinted moors with bracken and bilberry whilst the Dales are grey/green limestone with moss and grass. Many animals use camouflage as defence, and birdwatchers struggle to tell the difference between similar sized LBJ's (jargon for "little brown jobs"). When things look similar you have to notice subtle differences in the detail. The eskimos have done this with snow. They need to have many more words to convey its risk -will there be an avalanche risk? Will this build an igloo?

In the UK our obsession with weather means although our forecasts use scientific scales there is a rich descriptive dialect for how a day feels. Strong winds are "biting" and poor visibility could be fog, drizzle, or in Scotland "dreich". So it is with wildlife - we have the Linnaean classification but still talk about bluebells and honey bees because of a link we make in their looks or behaviour and the effect it has on us. When people foraged, the fruits of edible or deadly plants were named to make us notice the detail of what we were about to eat. Try rosehips or sweet chestnut: avoid stinkhorns and death cap! This year there was a campaign to restore words like acorn and buttercup to the Oxford Junior Dictionary. People were astonished that they had been removed as being no longer relevant to many children. They were replaced by blog or voice mail which had more frequent use. Perhaps this is a warning that we should notice and properly celebrate the diversity we enjoy here in the UK.

If you have an hour to spare during 28-30 January try the RSPB Big garden birdwatch and recognise if it's a wren or a dunnock outside your window!

Workdays are planned on the first Friday of the month: Dec 2th and in 2017 Jan 6th, Feb 3rd, and March 3th. We meet at 10a.m. by the reserve signboard

Helen Pedley, 886195

www.ywt.org.uk

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GET READY FOR XMAS

Education In Cragg Vale

The Children's Act of 1844 meant all children had to be given part-time education.



The first school in Cragg Vale was in the Sunday school building next to the Church. Half of the children would work mornings and go to school in the afternoons, the others went to school in the morning and worked in the afternoons. Ragged schools were set up for the poor and orphaned children and Dame schools for the very young, not old enough to work.

Cragg Vale school log book begins in 1862. The school was run by a head teacher, an assistant teacher, a seamstress, and a pupil teacher - one of the pupils about 13 years old who showed an aptitude in teaching. However, it is recorded in 1864 that *'the pupil teacher behaved very badly and later that year had broken a window with a ball, he was also found encouraging pupils to play during reading lessons.'*

The lessons consisted of arithmetic, composition, dictation, spelling, reading, sewing and singing.

The present school building was built in 1887, the children were given a week's holiday before moving in to the new premises. The school was able to accommodate about 200 pupils but attendance was affected at haymaking time, bilberrying time, and also by the closure of any of the mills.

The lessons consisted of arithmetic, composition, dictation, spelling, reading, sewing and singing. The work was mostly carried out on slates which the children

had to buy. The log book in 1911 says *'a lesson on filling in the census paper was given to the school'*. Sadly, it also recorded that *'pupils died and a talk was given to the school as a warning of the uncertainty of death.'*

sensation was caused as the pupils were given both a swing and marbles as a treat

Play time was known as *'all out'*. On one day in the 1800's, *'children were marched around the school, as the day was very cold and not fit for all out'*. In 1864 the log book says *'a sensation was caused as the pupils were given both a swing and marbles as a treat.'*

Lunch time in 1869 is only mentioned once when a boy was sent home after spilling his dinner (milk). School meals did not start until 1941 but school milk began in the 1920s via a local farmer with a pail, it was warmed and served in school mugs. 1939 saw the introduction of milk in bottles. I remember in summer, the birds would have pecked at the silver tops and it would be warm from the sun, in the winter ice would have pushed the top almost off the bottle.

Education is still a great part of Cragg Vale village life. The school building*, now approaching its 130th anniversary, has educated many generations of local families.

Yvonne Broadbent

*As we go to press, formal consultation is taking place on the recommendation to amalgamate Cragg Vale J&I with Calder High. See 'Update on Cragg School'

Cragg Vale LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

We've had two well attended meetings since our summer break, both 'The Cragg Coiners' and 'The Story of the Yorkshire and Lancashire Railway' have been well received (nuggets of interest for all - even 'non-train spotters!'). News of the start of the church refurbishment is very welcome. Whilst we much appreciate the Steiner School letting us have use of their premises it will be a relief to get back to "adult-sized" chairs!! - hopefully in late Spring.

We meet at 7.30pm on the third Thursday at the Steiner School, everyone one is welcome to join us. We provide tea and coffee, the charge for visitors is £3 - but why not become a member? For information, contact Jane Frechette - mobile 07733326866.

UPCOMING EVENTS

December 15th 'Christmas Extravaganza' - an informal evening with 'Christmas Fayre', mulled wine, and a chance for all of us to get together before Christmas.

January 19th John Billingsley speaking on 'Curious Carvings of Calderdale'

February 16th David Glover speaking on 'Some Forgotten Calderdale Women'

March 16th we welcome back Ian Dewhirst who will be speaking about whatever he chooses!

April 20th is our AGM (all welcome and no-one is asked to volunteer for anything) with a welcome back to Maria Glott and her talk 'Shopping in Saltaire'



Update on Cragg School

OFSTED has just confirmed Cragg School is officially a 'good' school!

Following the pre-consultation, covered in the last newsletter, Calderdale Council have approved the recommendation to amalgamate Cragg Vale J&I School with Calder High to create an all through school (4-18 years) on the Calder High site.

The plan is for Cragg Vale J&I to move to the current 6th form block in September 2017. There is now a 6-week formal consultation on this plan with a final recommendation to go to Cabinet on 12th December 2016. The Council website is open for comments, search for: Consultation on Cragg Vale Junior and Infant School. Following the outcome of the consultation there will be a further 4 week period for representations before the final decision is made on 30/1/17.

Community Bonfire



A big 'Thank You' to all who attended and helped with the bonfire and firework display at 'Springfield' on November 4th. Despite a downpour at 6pm we had a field full of people by 6.30! The fire (topped by the four Guys made by the children at Cragg School) burned well and everyone enjoyed the spectacular firework display. Over £300 was raised for church funds.

CVCA AGM & Cragg Vale Quiz

Cragg Vale Community Association's Annual General Meeting is at 7.15pm on Thursday 9th February 2017 in the Robin Hood. We would love to welcome new members or volunteers. We keep formal meetings to a minimum, usually in the Robin Hood for a couple of hours every three months. Come and find out what we've been doing over the last year and to let us know about your priorities. In the spirit of keeping formalities to a minimum, after the formal part of our AGM we are holding a 'Cragg Vale Quiz', hosted by Jonathan Emberton, at 8pm. Come and join us for the Quiz, you don't have to be there for the AGM business if you don't want to – but we would really love to hear your priorities for our work in 2017. FREE FOOD!!

The Ollie Collinge Climb - 2/7/17

Next summer may be a long way off for most of us, but local community group Cragg15 is firmly focused on July 2nd 2017 as they put the final touches to an application for a road closure in order to run a series of events on the longest continuous climb in England. Various running and cycling activities will feature as elements of the 'Ollie Collinge Climb' - a memorial event for Cragg Vale's Oliver Collinge who sadly passed away this year.

The day was originally inspired by the community reaction to both Tour de France and Tour de Yorkshire, but this time around there'll be no such distractions! In addition to the main running and cycling events, Cragg15 are inviting ideas from residents and businesses on 'what we'd like to do if the road's closed'. So, whether you'd like to have a 'street party zone' or a space for 'Cragg's got Talent', just send your ideas to The.Secretary@Cragg15.uk. There will be leafleting and a comprehensive consultation before plans are finalised, so watch out for further information in the local press, pubs and other community centres.

Update From St John's

So many responded to the call for help tidying St John's graveyard it was totally transformed! Every grave can now be reached easily; pathways have all been scraped and lots of shrubs and trees chopped back. Hopefully fallen leaves will have been cleared when you read this and any further gardening put on hold until spring 2017. Thank you to everyone who helped!



The reordering of St John's is underway. The church has been emptied, the balcony and vestry have been removed and the stone floor has been lifted ready for a new wood floor and under floor heating to be installed. Once that's done a new upstairs room, kitchen, toilets, and improved access will be created giving us a fantastic community resource at the heart of the village! We continue to hold our Sunday services in the Steiner School to which all are welcome. We will keep you up to date with developments! Julie Harris Churchwarden



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