

Cragg News

Cragg Vale's Tennis Club

For those of you not aware, Cragg has its own Tennis Club and it's a thriving community hub. You'll find it behind The Hinchcliffe Arms, surrounded by outstanding natural beauty. The club creates a wonderful mix between the area's historical past and its modern, fashionable, present.

Cragg Vale Tennis Club has made great strides in the past few years, developing a brilliant new coaching infrastructure which is supported by the new sleek looking website. We now offer a quality coaching programme available to all standards and ages. We offer both Individual lessons and group sessions throughout the year.

For those of you with a more competitive edge, the club also has numerous teams in the local Calderdale League. This offers match play for men, women, and children interested in pitting their



wits against the region's local players. The club is currently in arguably its most historic period having won the men's and mixed division 1 titles.

Membership is required and all options are available on the club's website. We currently have around 100 members, so you won't be short of people to play with.

Please come and check us out at www.clubspark.lta.org.uk/CraggValeTennisClub

AUTUMN

September

Every Tuesday & Sunday Afternoon

3-4pm, St John's Church open for a cuppa and a chat

Friday 1st September Broadhead Clough

Volunteers needed: meet 10am by the signboard as you enter the reserve, contact Helen Pedley YWT for information: 886195

Friday 8th September St John's Church

Pie & pea supper and showing of old Cragg Pantos

Saturday 9th September Cragg Fest

12noon - 12 midnight, on field behind the Robin Hood, food, drinks & music. Free entry

Thursday 21st September History Group with Nigel Smith

'Roots in the Landscape' 7.30pm St. John's Church

Sunday 24th September The Cragg Challenge

8.30am - 3.30pm for more information see www.cragg15.uk

October

Every Tuesday & Sunday Afternoon

3-4pm, St John's Church open for a cuppa and a chat

Friday 6th October Broadhead Clough

Volunteers needed: meet 10am by the signboard as you enter the reserve, contact Helen Pedley YWT for information: 886195

Saturday 7th & Sunday 8th Harvest Weekend

St John's Church. Flower festival, harvest supper, harvest celebration service

Thursday 19th October History Group with Trevor Simpson

'Small Town Saturday Night' 7.30pm St. John's Church

November

Every Tuesday & Sunday afternoon 3-4pm, St John's Church open for a cuppa and a chat

Friday 3rd November Broadhead Clough Volunteers needed: meet 10am by the signboard as you enter the reserve, contact Helen Pedley YWT for information: 886195

Friday 3rd November Cragg Vale Community Bonfire

6pm Field next to 'Springfield', bonfire lit at 6.30pm, fireworks at 7.15pm, refreshments

Thursday 16th November History Group with John Spencer

'Duke of Wellington's Regiment' 7.30pm St. John's Church

December

Every Tuesday & Sunday afternoon 3-4pm, St John's Church open for a cuppa and a chat

Friday 1st December Broadhead Clough

Volunteers needed: meet 10am by the signboard as you enter the reserve, contact Helen Pedley YWT for information: 886195

Friday 8th & Saturday 9th December Cragg Vale Panto

St John's Church

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

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FREE ENTRY

FUNDRAISER FOR CALDER VALLEY SEARCH AND RESCUE

Once again our very own music festival is happening here in Cragg Vale, on the field behind the Robin Hood on Saturday, 9th September. Starting at 12 lunch time and continuing until 12 midnight there will be food (double lamb burgers, pulled pork or pulled minted lamb tea cakes, jacket potatoes with cheese & baked beans) served from 1pm to 10 pm. The bar will be open from 12 noon until 12 midnight serving real ale, lager, wines, soft drinks and there will be bands, with live music to suit everyone, from 1pm till 12 midnight.



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www.craggvalecommunity.co.uk

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The Cragg Challenge: 24th September 2017



Yorkshire
Wildlife Trust

Broadhead Clough Sep 2017 update



'Three generations of the Law family getting ready to take part'

The Cragg Challenge will be a full day of running and cycling events with the added bonus of Cragg Road (the longest incline in England and an iconic challenge for runners and cyclists) being closed to traffic between 8:30am and 3.30pm.

Several keynote events are to take place on the day including a climb for cyclists and 5km, 10km, and 10-mile timed events for runners. There will also be a special relay event for local schools: 'The Collinge Climb', dedicated to the memory of Oliver Collinge, a 26-year-old Cragg Vale local and primary schoolteacher who died last year from a rare and aggressive form of cancer. The Overgate Hospice which cared for Oliver is among the charities that will benefit from fund-raising on the day.

Entries are now open online for the cycle climb, 5K, 10K and 10-mile events, details can be found at www.cragg15.uk Spaces in this first year are limited, so book early to avoid disappointment. Entries for the school relay are being co-ordinated with local schools and places will be allocated once the new term starts at the beginning of September.

The organisers are looking for volunteers who are prepared to give up 2-4 hours on the day to help with marshalling,

administration, clear-up or any of the myriad of jobs that need to be done to make the day a success. If you're on the route but can't donate some time, perhaps you could offer to make a marshal a brew if there's one stationed near you or just make sure that your car isn't parked on the road? (The closure isn't a 'clearway' as for the TdF, so cars don't have to be moved, but it will make a difference if they are, especially around the start/finish area by Royd Ices). As well as the official events taking place, the organisers hope locals and charities will take the opportunity of the road closure to hold their own side-events – street parties, charity stalls etc. on the day. To discuss your ideas or offer help, contact secretary@cragg15.uk

Major sponsors already confirmed are Craggs Business Parks, VBA, and the Unite Union. Other sponsors include The Co-Op, The Robin Hood and The Shoulder of Mutton. There are more businesses to be added over the coming weeks and we shouldn't forget the growing number of individuals who are also supporting the event by sponsoring a length of road (£1 per metre) – a big "thank you" to everyone. If you would like to support the event, please email treasurer@cragg15.uk and we will be in touch.

Whether you stayed in Yorkshire, visited other counties in UK or travelled abroad you probably spent more time outdoors during summer than you do in the rest of the year. As a visitor being away from what we know breaks all the patterns we are used to. Travel may "broaden the mind" as we marvel at the unexpected but it can be seeing the familiar in a strange landscape that really catches our attention. Could that happen at home too?



I've seen sunflowers in all sorts of places – at Cragg Vale School as science experiments, on patios in pots, in fields in France as a crop. They are instantly familiar and make me smile. I didn't realise in the USA they grew wild as part of "alpine" meadows. What's native in one country is a crop or garden favourite in another. This scene of Sunflower Relay (Washington state) is not a likely sight above Broadhead Clough! We have cotton grass and heather on our moors and cows grazing in our meadows.

After Brexit the laws affecting our landscape may change and we each might see this as an opportunity or a threat. YWT is a hands-on organisation but it's also political when challenging planning applications (HS2), or lobbying on government policy (fracking). Their campaign page on the website states

"Yorkshire Wildlife Trust will continue to strive for a county full of wild places and we would love you to help us."

Those who'd like to use their voices or pens to join the debate could check it out at <http://www.ywt.org.uk/campaigns>.

For those who prefer to be at the spade end of conservation, task days are on the first Friday of the month at 10a.m. on Sept 1st, Oct 6th, Nov 3rd and Dec 1st. Please meet at the sign board as you enter the reserve.

Helen Pedley, 886195

www.ywt.org.uk

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News from the Ark

A Parent's Guide to Early science

Children show an interest in the world around them from an early age, so early science activities are an important part of their learning and development. Understanding of the world is part of the Early Years curriculum, where children are encouraged to explore and notice the changes around them such as going for a nature walk or planting seeds.

Science activities can also develop physical and language development

Children's brains are hungry for stimulation and many science activities will encourage your child to look at something new and this in turn develops their intellectual development. For example, watching how ice melts in water or how magnets stick encourages conversation and stimulates your child's mind to ask questions and look into different possibilities. This term is described as "shared and sustained thinking" and we use this term in the Ark to describe the way adults and children come together to explore and talk about things of interest.

Children get a real sense of satisfaction from exploring materials and noticing changes

Science activities can also develop physical and language development for example holding an object like a windmill and watching it go round allows parents to introduce new words like spin, round, and wheel, bringing new words into their vocabulary. Children need to hold



or manipulate objects to help develop their fine motor skills.

Children get a real sense of satisfaction from exploring materials and noticing changes, for example during the cooking process or watching plants grow. The pleasure from being alongside an adult supports their confidence and helps them feel valued so this is excellent support for their emotional development.

Tips for exploring science at home:

- Water play is hugely appealing to children. Watching the water go down the plug hole or seeing how steam vaporises on a mirror can be fascinating to a child.
- Bubbles are popular with children. Talk to your child about how bubbles move or blow away with the wind and watch them pop!
- The weather is great to explore and discover either looking at how puddles form and dry up in the sun or how some daises close in the grass when the sun goes in.

Help Stop the Spread of Himalayan balsam



The Inland Waterways Association [Alliance member] has launched a new campaign to encourage everyone to get involved in controlling invasive Himalayan balsam. In addition to its series of work parties organised by various IWA branches around the country, IWA wants to see more individuals helping to control the plant following calls in national newspapers and elsewhere that the plant has become even more widespread this year.

•Whether people are walking the dog or out with family and friends, everyone can help by pulling up a few plants if they see it before the seeds have started to develop. IWA has come up with a 3-stage check list, 'Pull Snap Stomp', to remind people what to do:

Pull

Check **IWA's Himalayan Balsam identification guide** to be certain that it is Himalayan balsam and then pull up individual balsam stems – they pull up very easily;

Snap

Break off the root below the lowest growing node;

Stomp

Pile it up in small heaps for it to rot down, away from the path. Bigger piles can be stamped on to assist the rotting process – small children love doing this and it makes a great sound.

Green Invitation

Dr Andrew Taylor, the inspiration behind the Greenfield Turbine scheme, invites you visit this highly successful project. Using a plentiful natural local resource - water, it is not an eyesore, doesn't wreck your roof, and has already delivered benefits to investors. If you are interested, please contact Roger Wood at the Robin Hood.



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News from Cragg Vale J&I School

The School's Fete and Duck Race, held on 2nd July on a gloriously sunny day, was very well supported



On Thursday 13th July, Cragg Vale School held a Celebration Evening for past and present pupils, families and staff. There were talks by Yvonne Broadbent (a past pupil), Frank Woolrych and Ann Kilbey from Pennine Horizons Digital Archives – which both proved so popular that there was standing room only and they had to be repeated for a second time!

There were also photos, log books, and memorabilia from years gone by and a timeline to which everyone was invited to add their photo, the years they attended or taught at the school. Headteacher, Kate Lambert, said "It was wonderful to see so many people coming along to share their memories and reconnect with former classmates and teachers or teaching assistants. Our thanks to everyone who brought



along their photographs to share. The timeline photos will now be captured in a special book which will be in our entrance area at our new building.

We are already planning events for the autumn term in Cragg Vale Church and are committed to preserving our school history and heritage as we move forward."

News from St. John's Church



Following the re-dedication by Bishop Jonathan, Cragg Vale's Church, St John the Baptist In The Wilderness, is open again for a programme of events and activities – as well as church services.

The History Group have returned to the church for their regular monthly meetings and starting in September on the second Friday of each month, you can have a pie and pea supper and see some of the old Cragg Pantos!

A new pantomime is planned for 8th and 9th December, keep an eye out for requests for people young and old to come and join the first Cragg production for quite a few years.

Over the Harvest Weekend, 7th and 8th October, there will be a flower festival, harvest supper and harvest celebration service. The church will be open every Tuesday and Sunday afternoon from 3 to 4.30pm, why not drop in for a cuppa and a chat or just for some quiet time in a peaceful place.

The upstairs meeting room and the main church room are available for hire at very reasonable rates.

If you are interested, please contact Julie at gwsa@btinternet.com or Ed edward.talbot948@btinternet.com for details.

CRAGG VALE LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

We provide tea and coffee and all meetings are free for members or £3 for visitors. We meet on the third Thursday of every month in St. John's Church. Everyone one is welcome, for more information contact Jane Frechette 07733326866

UPCOMING EVENTS

September 21st Nigel Smith
Roots in the Landscape

October 19th Trevor Simpson
Small Town Saturday Night

November 16th John Spencer
Duke of Wellington's Regiment

December 21st
Christmas Extravaganza

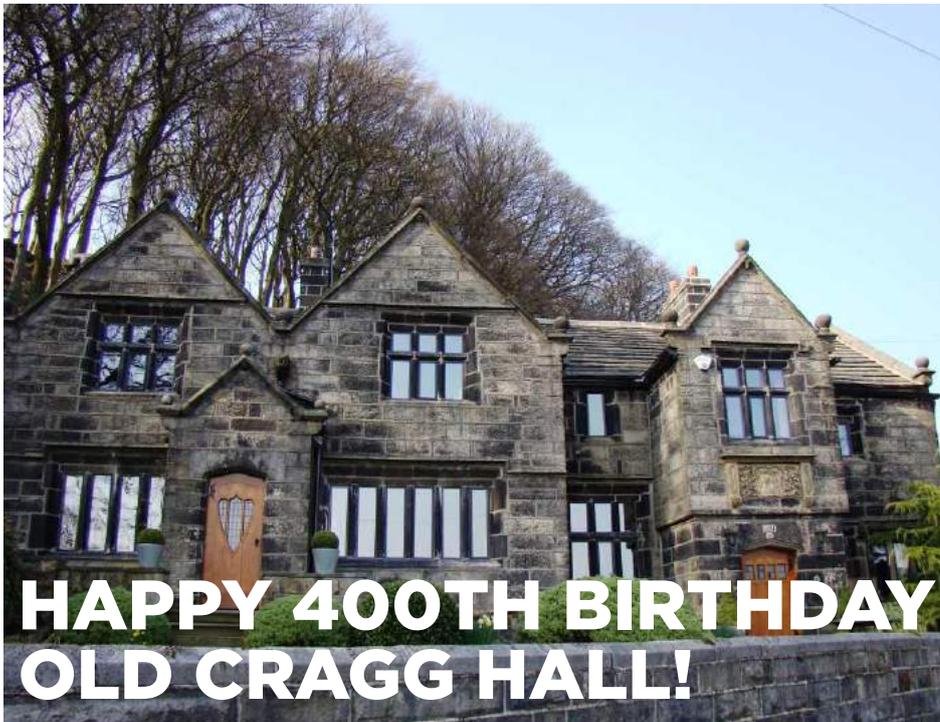
2018

January 18th David Glover
Halifax Zoo & Amusement Park

February 15th Open Night
'Any O!' Tins' bring along your old tins!!

March 15th David Taylor
The Dummy Airfield

April 19th AGM & Alan Fowler
'What did you laugh at in the great war Daddy?'



Old Cragg Hall's early history is something of a mystery, except that it was supposedly built in 1617 by a member of the Sunderland family, a long established and wealthy family first mentioned in the Halifax area in 1264.

When, in 1449, the Erringden Deer Park was dispaled, the Court Rolls for the Manor of Wakefield recorded that the park was divided into several landholdings, and a John Sunderland became tenant of one part including the Withins, paying an annual rent £2.10s, plus a "fine" (one off payment) of £4.6s.08p. Records suggest that the Sunderlands continued to rent the land for nearly two centuries, until James 1st (1603-1625) sanctioned a deed of enfranchisement, transferring the land into the ownership of one John Sunderland, a clothier (the area on the moors, Sunderland Pasture, most probably named after him). Now a Freeholder, Sunderland would be raised to the status of Yeoman, eligible to serve on juries and vote in county elections, and in need of a home to match his status. Although it is likely there was an earlier building on the site, Old Cragg Hall, often referred to as the original manor house of Cragg Vale, was built in the Jacobean "F" plan style – a house with two bays projecting from the main

building, giving an F shape, the lower bay is usually the porch and entrance.

Another couple of centuries passed during which the house and its occupiers will have experienced many changes: the Civil War, Cragg Vale Coiners, the Enclosures Act, the decline of the dual economy and home cloth manufacture as the Industrial Revolution brought mechanisation and mills driven by water power, the construction of the Turnpike Road from Mytholmroyd to Blackstone Edge, to name but a few.

The next documented chapter in the Old Cragg Hall story is its purchase by Mr Christopher Rawson (of the Halifax family of bankers) in 1833, when it was in a serious state of disrepair. He restored it magnificently to its original design, adding the Rawson coat of arms over the front porch. In places it is possible to see the difference between the original and the rebuilt, where the outer walls were reclad with new stone. The Rawson family used the house as a weekend retreat and shooting lodge until the 1850s when it changed hands in rapid succession first to John Greenwood, then George Hinchliffe and finally Hinchliffe Hinchliffe, who moved in in 1855 with his wife and children, from Marsh Grove, which had been his home since birth.

“The Hall was reputed to have that one essential feature of any self-respecting ancient property”

From 1880 it was known as Old Cragg Hall, after Hinchliffe Hinchliffe had built and moved into the “Lower Cragg Hall” down the hillside, and Thomas Edwin Hinchliffe, his half cousin and mill manager, took up residence.

The Hall was reputed to have that one essential feature of any self-respecting ancient property - its very own ghost, in the form of a servant girl, alleged to have been murdered in the porch chamber by a son of the Sunderland family. She apparently either haunted the house for what would have been the rest of her natural lifetime, or until her bones were found in the wood and buried in the Churchyard, depending on which story you read! A poem was written about “The Maid of Old Cragg Hall” by F C Spencer. Since 1927 the hall has had a succession of owners, currently in the safe keeping of Steve and Angela Marchant. Here's to the next 400 years!.



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NEW TEAM AT THE HINCHLIFFE ARMS

In June this year, a new team took over at the Hinchliffe Arms. Robert Owen Brown, a panellist on national food critic Jay Rayner's BBC Radio 4 Kitchen Cabinet, is the new head chef and tenant.

It's a slice of the good life," says Robert, who has taken over the pub with his partner Gemma, their two year old daughter Alice, and friend Keran as Manager. The team came to Cragg Vale after their previous pub, The Mark Addy in Salford, was destroyed in the floods. Keran said "I thought Robert was mad when he told me he'd found this pub with no main road but as soon as I saw it I just fell in love with the place!" Robert has spent his career championing British in-season produce and embracing the nose-to-tail philosophy: "If you care about provenance this place is a chef's dream."

On the menu, the usual pub staples will always be hand-made, and the steak a fabulous piece of Aberdeen Angus beef from Rudd Clough Farm. Robert's classics such as crispy black pudding potato cake and an Offaly good sandwich (including gluten free) are also listed.

In season, you may find Whitby crab, Cornish octopus, venison, or a malt whisky cured salmon. Vegetarians will not be subjected to a stuffed pepper but the delights of soft curd cheese with beetroot cooked two different ways served with toasted pumpkin seeds and apple blossom honey or organic pearl barley risotto style with wild forest mushrooms, smooth celeriac and herbs.

In season, you may find Whitby crab, Cornish octopus, venison, or a malt whisky cured salmon.

The famous Manchester Egg, a pickled scotch egg wrapped in black pudding and sausage meat and rolled in crumbled pork scratchings, has also been packed into a suitcase, renamed Craggy Egg and moved over to Yorkshire. Other bar bites include crispy mac and cheese or a pickled free-range duck egg with a spicy dipping sauce.



Robert, who propelled The Mark Addy pub into the Top 100 restaurants in the UK, is passionate about being part of a community.

Robert, who propelled The Mark Addy pub into the Top 100 restaurants in the UK, is passionate about being part of a community. "It's a great place to bring up our daughter Alice and we want to get involved in supporting community events".

Gemma and Robert plan to make The Hinchliffe Arms one of the best wedding venues in Yorkshire and also plan to bring in high profile guest chefs, and food and drink dining experiences. It's a case of...watch this space!

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