

Cragg News

Spring

Spaw Sunday 6th May

Our annual 'Spaw Sunday' event is on 6th May this year. Everyone is invited, meet at the Hinchliffe Arms at 2.30pm to follow the procession, led by Ryburn Longswords, to the spa for the blessing, community picnic, music and dancing from the Longswords. We will end the day, with more music and dancing, at the Robin Hood. It's all **free**, anyone, of any age, is invited to come and join the fun! For further information, contact CVCA Secretary Marianne Hood marianne.hood@which.net



Big Spring Clean-up

It's the 'Big Spring Clean-Up' time again! Over the weekend of 24th and 25th March, Cragg Vale Community Association will be collecting rubbish and cleaning up our valley. If you'd like to help, please contact Marianne Hood on 01422 885224

Cragg Vale Treasure Hunt

On Sunday April 15th we're holding our 'Cragg Vale Treasure Hunt'. Starting at 2.30pm at the Hinchliffe Arms it's for everyone (especially children) and it's free! Collect a quiz sheet, follow the route marked by little bikes, and answer the questions finding 'treasure' along the way! The trail, less than 2 hours through our beautiful valley, has some

steady, but not too energetic, walking. It's not taxing but sturdy footwear is recommended as the ground can be rough and muddy! Return to the Hinchliffe by 4.30pm to enter completed quiz sheets into the prize draw.

For further information, contact CVCA Secretary Marianne Hood marianne.hood@which.net



Kindly supported by Hebden Royd Town Council

Every Tuesday afternoon, St John's Church, 2pm - 3.30pm: 'Open Church'

MARCH

Friday 2nd March Broadhead Clough Volunteers needed: meet 10am reserve signboard, contact Helen Pedley YWT: 886195

Sunday 11th March Mother's Day Hinchliffe Arms Wonderful menu and little gift for all mums

Monday 12th March YCA (Yorkshire Countrywomen's Association) 7.30pm St. John's Church upstairs room, Geraint & Julie Harris talk about their holiday in Botswana and Johannesburg

Thursday 15th March History Group 'The Dummy Airfield', 7.30pm St. John's Church

Saturday 24th March St John's Church, Spring Fling 10am - 3pm Stalls, games and crafts. If you'd like a stall (£10) contact Julie at stjohnscraggvale@gmail.com or text 07443420907

Saturday 24th & Sunday 25th March 'Big Spring Clean Up' If anyone wants to help, please contact Marianne Hood 01422 885224

APRIL

Sunday 1st April Easter Sunday St John's Church 9.30am Help us celebrate Easter, everyone welcome. Tea, coffee and hot cross buns after the service.

Friday 6th April Broadhead Clough Volunteers needed: meet 10am reserve signboard, contact Helen Pedley YWT: 886195

Monday 9th April YCA Jim Walker, 'The lighter side of Police work', 7.30pm St John's Church

Sunday 15th April Cragg Vale Treasure Hunt Free event. Meet 2.30pm, Hinchliffe Arms, return 4.30pm for prizes! Contact Marianne Hood, CVCA, for details: 885224

Thursday 19th April History Group AGM

Saturday 21st April Hinchliffe Arms St George's Day Celebration World Championship Yorkshire pudding throwing competition. Tug of war, vintage games, live music, whole Dexter beef ox roast, market stalls, dancing Free to attend!

MAY

Friday 4th May Broadhead Clough Volunteers needed: meet 10am reserve signboard, contact Helen Pedley YWT: 886195

Sunday 6th May 'Spaw Sunday', meet Hinchliffe Arms, 2.30pm for dancing with Ryburn Longswords, procession to the spa, community picnic, and more dancing at the Robin Hood

Monday 14th YCA Judith McClean 'My life in music', 7.30pm, St John's Church

Thursday 17th May, History Group 'Anne Lister of Shibden Hall', 7.30pm, St John's Church

Sunday 20th May 9.30: St John's Sunday School Anniversary service followed by tea, coffee and bacon sandwiches!

JUNE

Friday 1st June Broadhead Clough Volunteers needed: meet 10am reserve signboard, contact Helen Pedley YWT: 886195

Saturday June 2nd St John's Church Our very own Beer and Gin Festival!

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

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Area has its own quiet sleep room with relaxing music and twinkling lights to create a restful atmosphere. The low-level windows make the room light and airy and allow babies to see the changing weather and wildlife across the valley. On rainy days, the room can become a dark sensory room with a sensory light box, lanterns and twinkly lights. If you'd like to see the Dedicated Baby Area in action and would be interested in learning more about our nursery, why not call by and say hello? Please contact the Admin Team on 01422 882010 or admin@thearkexperience.co.uk

News from St John's Church

It's almost a year since phase 1 of the reordering of St John's was completed! We're really pleased the building is being used as a community space as well as for worship. We've had fell races, pantomime, Music, Story and Song, Cragg Christmas Cracker with Hebden Bridge Brass Band, children's parties, open church, weddings, funerals and baptisms. Cragg Vale History Group and the Yorkshire Countrywomen's Association use the building on a regular basis and the Calder Primary and Steiner Schools have used the church for harvest and Christmas concerts.

The next phase will involve installing a catering standard kitchen and a lift to make the building accessible to all. We also need to do considerable work to conserve the windows and improve their thermal efficiency. This means we'll have to do a lot of fundraising over the next few months, so keep an eye out for more events at St John's and come and join us - you will be very welcome!

The main body of church and the upstairs room are both available for lettings. If you are interested in hiring either space please contact Pam: stjohnscraggvale@gmail.com

It would be good to know if we have people interested in having/helping to run a monthly event such as a quiz, whist drive or dance of some kind. Please let Julie know what you think on stjohnscraggvale@gmail.com

Traditionally, the founding of the Sunday School was celebrated on the third Sunday in May. This year we'd like to bring the event in to the 21st Century with our Anniversary service followed by tea, coffee and bacon sandwiches! If you have family who were connected with the church/sunday school in the past, if you are a member of the current congregation or if you have never visited St John's, why not come to our service, stay for refreshments and find out a bit more about us!

News from Calder Primary School

Class 3 at Calder Primary School are studying the Cragg Vale Coiners for their class topic this term. As part of this, they caught the bus to the top of Cragg Vale and followed the heritage trail through the village and down into Mytholmroyd, imagining what it would have been like to be walking there back in the 1760s. They also enjoyed looking at the CVCA heritage trail boards, which past pupils had contributed their lovely artwork to. It was a muddy walk, but they had a great afternoon of history hunting



and it generated some great writing back at school afterwards. Classes 2 and 3 are also writing a special song all about the Cragg Vale Coiners for a project called The Bing Sing, where they will perform with a choir of 1000 voices at The Piece Hall in May.

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Fifty a day to beat the Balsam

The Himalayan Balsam has featured in our newsletter on many previous occasions but we don't apologise for covering it again. It's a non-native invasive species. As a profuse annual it dies back in winter to leave large clear areas more prone to soil erosion and flooding as well as swamping out our native plant species in woods, cloughs and riversides.



We're starting early this year with a new early, easy strategy to help clear large areas – try pulling up 50 a day while the plants are still small and before flowers or seeds begin to form. Every day you're out walking with the family or on the daily dog walk, pull up 50 a day! Please don't leave them on footpaths but pile them amongst the undergrowth. For more information and photos to help identify Balsam, the internet provides many articles and images.

2018 Cragg Challenge

Organisers are planning the 2018 Cragg Challenge for Sunday 23rd September. Phil Rodda, Chair of the organising committee, set out the main events for the day and the ambitions for new activities:

- The road closure period to be reduced from last year
- More activities and demonstrations, especially around the start-finish area
- A major new event to be added: 'The Cragg Challenge Soap Box Derby'
- The Cycle ascent of the longest continuous climb in England: options for an extended ride are being explored
- The 10-mile, 10-K and 5-K runs will feature again
- The Collinge Climb, one of

the highlights from last year, will run again, but with the aim of involving even more children from around the upper valley.

If you're interested in participating in the cycling or main running events, bookmark the www.cragg15.uk page and follow The Cragg Challenge on Facebook to hear when entries open. If you're interested in entering a team into the inaugural Soap Box Derby, please register your interest either by emailing mytholmroydsbd@gmail.com or via Facebook by linking through to [@mytholmroydsoapboxderby](https://www.facebook.com/mytholmroydsoapboxderby).

The Cragg Challenge needs marshals and other volunteers to help deliver the day. If you can help, please email eventmaker@cragg15.uk If you would like to explore sponsorship opportunities, please email treasurer@cragg15.uk

New Committee Members



At our AGM on 10th January we were very pleased to gain three new Committee: Vivien Aspey, Jane Frechette, and Sylvia Maudsley.

Vivien has re-joined us after a break, we're very glad to have her back again. Jane is the link to the History Group and Sylvia links us to activities at the Church.

The CVCA Committee is now back up to full strength, for any further details, please visit our website www.craggvalecommunity.co.uk

HOO HOLE THE WESLEY CONNECTION



Yorkshire
Wildlife Trust

Broadhead Clough Spring 2018 update

It was glorious weather for February's workday which fell on Candlemas but the old saying proved true "If Candlemas Day be fair and bright... Winter will have another fight" and it's snowing as I write this! We rebuilt a wall which collapsed under the weight of snow caught on brambles growing over it, and cut reeds in the meadow. This encourages the cows to graze on fresh growth and checks the reeds' spread. Both activities are examples of other sayings - "Prevention is better than cure" or when something is inevitable: "A stitch in time ...saves nine!" With wildlife, if habitat shrinks or fragments, small populations are particularly threatened: numbers decline and eventually could die out altogether. What can we do now to avoid greater impact in the long run?

At Broadhead, a great time to start is before the leaves open. In recent years the tree creeper and spotted flycatcher have declined or not been seen at all in our bird surveys. So, with help from local birdwatchers we've installed a few nest boxes: one can be clearly seen on the standing "dead trunk" by the main entrance. Our resident flocks of tits don't really need them, but they'll give a helping hand for other species that don't compete head to head to "share" the same habitat and establish a territory. It may even attract migrating redstarts to breed here once again. Elsewhere, in March the Trust is commissioning surveys on the Willow Tit, which was widespread including a Calderdale population at Cromwell Bottoms, but now is declining nationally.

Spring workdays are planned on the first Friday of the month at 10a.m. on March 2nd, April 6th, May 4th, and June 1st. We meet at the sign board as you enter the reserve. All tools are provided and gloves if you need them – just bring a drink, and packed lunch if you are staying all day.

Helen Pedley, 886195

www.ywt.org.uk

Love Yorkshire, Love Wildlife



The Christian preacher John Wesley visited Cragg Vale in 1770. He is credited, along with his brother Charles, with founding the Methodist movement. The Wesleys were natural organisers and approached everything diligently, especially religion. At Oxford University they participated in a Christian club in such an orderly way that critics called them 'methodists'.

At the time of John Wesley's visit, the greater part of Cragg Vale fell within the township of Erringden, part of the Parish of Heptonstall. The church at Heptonstall was remote and involved a difficult time-consuming journey for Cragg folk, consequently not many people attended, except for special occasions

John took to open-air preaching, having realised that open-air services were a successful way of reaching men and women who would not enter most churches, or where there were no churches. He kept detailed journals of all his travels, and he logged more than 4,000 miles a year – mostly on foot! During his lifetime he preached about 40,000 sermons.

John arrived in Cragg Vale on 28th June 1770 – his 67th birthday. He stopped to preach at Hoo Hole Farm

under a large tree which thrived as an emblem of the occasion for over two more centuries, until, sadly, it became diseased and had to be cut down. He wrote in his journal: "It was a lovely valley encompassed by high mountains. I stood on smooth grass before the house, which stands on a gently rising ground, and all the people on the slope before me. It was a glorious opportunity."

You can picture them crowded onto the field below the farm buildings, with John Wesley giving one of his stirring sermons! His visit led a religious revival in the area, many of our chapels owe their existence to him. Wealthy local people gave land and money for building churches outside Halifax, known as Free Chapels, the Wesleyan Chapel (now a private house) in Cragg Vale is one example.

CRAGG VALE LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

We provide tea and coffee at all meetings. Annual membership starts from our April AGM and is excellent value at only £10 for the year! Meetings, on the third Thursday of every month in St. John's Church, upstairs room, are free for members or £3 for visitors.

Everyone one is welcome, for more information contact Jane Frechette 07733326866

UPCOMING EVENTS

March 15th David Taylor
The Dummy Airfield

April 19th AGM & Alan Fowler
What did you laugh at in the Great War Daddy?

May 17th Pat Osborne
Anne Lister of Shibden Hall

21st June Visit to Stubb



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SPOTLIGHT ON
BUSINESS IN
CRAGG VALE

CRAGGIES, a butchery, delicatessen and café perched above Cragg Vale.

Very much a family affair run by Andrea Mellor, son Thomas and daughter Sarah, Craggies began life as Deli Belge in Sowerby Bridge but soon needed more space. A chance conversation in the spring of 2015 resulted, a few months later, in the business moving into the Craggs Country Business Park.

Thomas is a butcher and daughter Sarah is a baker and their trades are an integral part of Craggies success. When asked about the biggest success, Andrea replied 'Tom'. However, she was actually referring to the butchery side of the business, of which Tom is rightly proud. He said "It's all about proper, traditional, butchery. I buy the animals direct from the field, take them to slaughter and butcher them and we make use of every part of the animal. We believe strongly in the welfare of the animals and I only work with farmers I know well. It's important to me to keep everything as local as possible and to make sure the animals have as little stress as possible – because with the least stress we get the best meat".

Andrea is very much a keen supporter of the 'totally locally' campaign. After hearing people talk about having 'gluts' of fruit and vegetables in their gardens at different times of the year, she is thinking about creating local veg boxes involving local growers. "We want to support local producers and keep money within the local area whilst making sure we can give customers what they want. We not only sell our meat in our butcher's shop but we also use it in our pies and sausages and we sell it in the café."



"It's great to be able to have a family business.....as well as the wonderful views"

Feedback from customers is important and sometimes helps develop new products. A remark from one Cragg Vale regular regretting he couldn't find the sort of traditional pork pie he remembered from his youth resulted in Sarah making traditional 'stand pies' for Christmas. Sarah is now working towards producing small pork pies, using a traditional recipe, to sell in the shop.

Andrea says Cragg Vale is a really lovely place to have a business from both a business and a social point of view "It's great to be able to have a family business and as well as the wonderful views, we have such nice and supportive local customers".



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