

Craggy News

LIGHTING UP CRAGG VALE

The Christmas lights official switch-on is Sunday 4th December at 6.00pm. Meet us at 5pm at the Robin Hood with your lanterns, don't worry if you haven't got one – we have 'spares'! Then set-off following the candle-lit path to St. John's Church where mulled wine and other refreshments await in anticipation of the big switch-on - NASA reported last year that our lights could be seen from space! Warm clothing recommended, and bring a torch and your boots in case the track is muddy. The switch on will be followed by carols in the Hinch - everyone welcome!



WINTER FEST

Sadly, the 2022 panto has been postponed, so a replacement event on Friday 2nd December has been arranged instead: Winter Fest, an exhibition of local talent, (quite unlike any other!), featuring local performers, young and older, who will delight the audience with their particular offerings. It's a family evening, starting at 6.00pm with supper included, and the party will spill over into the Hinchliffe Arms at close of proceedings. More details on www.craggvalecommunity.co.uk, or contact martynk666@outlook.com

Cragg Vale Calendar 2023

The calendar is out now so get yours while you can from Myholmroyd Post Office, The Robin Hood, St John's Church, The Hinchliffe, Craggies or email calendar@craggvalecommunity.co.uk

A great big THANK YOU to all local businesses who supported production and everyone who contributed pictures - we really couldn't do this without you!



WINTER DIARY

1st & 3rd Sundays 7pm – 'Open Mike' at The Hinchliffe Arms

December

Friday 2nd December Broadhead Clough

Volunteers meet 10am at the reserve signboard.
Contact Helen Pedley YWT: 886195

Friday December 2nd Cragg Vale's Winterfest

St. John's Church 6pm Featuring local artists, performers and general show offs! £6 including supper (children free) email Martyn at martynk666@outlook.com for details/tickets

Sunday December 4th Light Up Cragg Vale

5.00pm meet Robin Hood for lantern parade to St John's to switch on Christmas lights (6pm) with mulled wine & mince pies then Community Carol Singing at the Hinchliffe from 7pm Free event

Monday December 5th Wreath Making

St. John's Church 7pm Text Julie on 07443420907 or email gjwsa2@gmail.com to book: £15 - includes wreath base, greenery, ribbon, dried oranges, cinnamon sticks etc plus a glass of wine/beer and nibbles!

Sunday 11th December Christmas Score Event

(orienteeing), 10.30am to 12.30pm St. John's Church: £10 adults, £5 for children - tea, coffee, squash, bacon or vegie-sausage butty. For info contact Jackie Scarf thescarfs@hotmail.com

Sunday December 11th Carol Service St. John's Church

3pm followed by mulled wine, coffee and mince pies!

Friday December 16th Cragg Christmas Cracker

St. John's Church 6.30pm – a very Christmassy evening with Hebden Bridge Junior Brass Band: £8 (children £4) supper and glass of mulled wine included.

Saturday December 24th St. John's Church

11.30pm Christmas Midnight Mass

January 2023

Monday 6th January Broadhead Clough

Volunteers meet 10am at the reserve signboard.
Contact Helen Pedley YWT: 886195

Friday 9th January Yorkshire Countrywomen's Association

'Health & Fitness' Deb Meynell St. John's Church 2.30 – 4.30pm New members & visitors welcome

Saturday 21st January St. John's Church Whist & Beetle Drive

1.30pm – all welcome

Saturday 28th January Burns Night at the Robin Hood

Please book 01422 885899

Tuesday 31st January CVCA Annual General Meeting

7.30pm, the Robin Hood with free buffet & Cragg Vale Quiz with prizes
All welcome

February

Friday 3rd February 2023 Broadhead Clough

Volunteers meet 10am at the reserve signboard, tools & gloves provided Contact Helen Pedley YWT: 886195

Monday 13th February Yorkshire Countrywomen's Association

'Jaunts & Shanties' St. John's Church 2.30 – 4.30pm New members & visitors welcome

Saturday 18th February St. John's Church Whist & Beetle Drive

from 1.30pm – all welcome



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News from The Ark



At the Ark nursery we are keen to encourage and foster a love of books among the children, creating an appreciation and love of books and stories all year round.

For the older children there is a 'Book of the Week' in each room and this is used as a focus for activities such as themed trays for exploration and discovery. The books are also used as a focus for language for the children, encouraging them to learn and use new words. There are story sacks in the rooms, each sack containing a favourite story and props to enact the story and bring it to life for the children. Story sacks have the power to ignite children's imaginations, making stories more accessible to everyone, including children for whom English is not their first language, and children with additional needs or disabilities. They encourage interactions and communication, enhancing vocabulary and language.

"You can find magic wherever you look. Sit back and relax, all you need is a book."

We have also created a 'Book Swap Library' in the reception areas and also in Space, our Out Of School Club. The children can borrow a book to enjoy at home and return it when they have finished with it. Parents can also donate a pre-loved book that they no longer need at home for other children to read and enjoy. Just like a traditional reading library, books can be borrowed and returned and they have been a great success. In the words of Dr Seuss, "You can find magic wherever you look. Sit back and relax, all you need is a book."



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Music Group

The music group continues to meet on the first Tuesday each month, and is growing in popularity, providing a social singalong and some respite from mediocre TV. If you like singing, drinking, socialising and enjoying good company, then why not pop along and join the merriment? Everyone is welcome. For inclusion on the mailing list, contact martynk666@outlook.com



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Available for events and parties

News From St. John's

Lots has been happening at St John's over the last few weeks (Whist/Beetle Drive, Ceilidh, Open Church on a Tuesday afternoon as well as our weekly Sunday service.) Thanks to everyone who attended any of these!

We have lots happening in the next couple of months too and really need everyone in the Cragg community to get behind some of our ideas!

We have various fundraisers coming up in church. On December 2nd we will be hosting 'Cragg Winter Fest' – an evening of entertainment brought to you by various local 'acts'. We have a 'Wreath Making Evening' on December 5th and 'Cragg Christmas Cracker' with Hebden Bridge Junior Band on December 16th.

The church building costs over £2000 a month to run and we have to pay a fixed 'Parish Share' to the Diocese which is over £17000 this year and will be over £19000 next year! We really need you to support our fund raising events and to think about ways (run a class, start a parent/grandparent & baby/toddler group, have a party etc.) you could use the building to help with the costs of the only community building in the village.

There are also the following community events happening.

On December 4th why not join us and CVCA for a lantern parade from the Robin Hood to church where we'll switch on the Christmas lights and celebrate with mulled wine and mince pies before heading to the Hincliffe to sing some Christmas Carols!

On December 11th it would be great to see lots of people at our Carol service at 3pm followed by tea, coffee, mulled wine and mince pies!

Please read the article about the Community Collaboration project being set up by CVCA and church and get involved with your family, friends and neighbours, there'll be lots of exciting things happening and everyone will be very welcome to come and join in.

Look out for dates of 'churchyard clean up' sessions. We really need help in maintaining the churchyard which is there for the whole community.

See the diary on the front page to see times for the above events and of our church services over Christmas.

Please contact Julie at gjwsa2@gmail.com or text **07443420907** for information/details about anything to do with the church.

Julie Harris
Churchwarden



Cragg Vale's COMMUNITY HUBBUB'

In partnership with St. John's Church, Cragg Vale Community Association is creating an exciting new initiative – our 'Community Hubbub'. Now the church is refurbished we have a warm, welcoming, attractive space with plenty of room for a wide range of activities including table tennis and our version of a 'Community Café' where anyone who drops in or who comes to help or take part in any activities, can help themselves to something to eat and drink – but I don't think we can run to wine unless anyone is good at converting water.....!!

You can have a cuppa and a chat, something to eat, share food with friends, swap books and toys (plenty of books to read and toys to play with!), sit and work in our 1st Floor quiet area (laptop provided) or get creative and maybe help with our 'Celebrating Cragg Vale exhibition.' We want to build on the success of the 1,000 postcard exhibition and put together pictures, photos, drawings, paintings, stories, poems – or any combination of all of these! Can you help us?

Anyone of any age is welcome, children as well as adults can come and join in. Or maybe you fancy making some Christmas biscuits or Christmas cards? Why not call in and see what we're doing. Community Transport will be helping people who need a lift from the 'tops' or just to get up and down Church Bank! The Community Hubbub will be opening on Tuesdays and Sundays in December – watch out for our flyers and details on social media.

For more information, to find out about transport, to offer help, or if you have books or toys to swap, please contact Julie gjwsa2@gmail.com text **07443420907** or Marianne on **01422 885224**
marianne.hood@outlook.com

Christmas Score Event

On Sunday, 11th December from 10.30am to 12.30pm, from St. John's Church, there is a map reading orienteering event, everyone is welcome and it is suitable for families, beginners or the 'elite'! The fee is £10 for adults and £5 for children and you will get a map, tea, coffee or squash, a bacon or veggie-sausage butty. For more information contact Jackie Scarf at thescarfs@hotmail.com

Cragg Challenge 2023

Sadly, the 2022 Cragg Challenge had to be postponed following the passing of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth 11, but don't worry, it will be here in 2023! It is re-scheduled for Sunday 30th April 2023, new entries are welcome and existing 2022 entries remain valid. The traditional events: 5k, 10k and 10 miles runs, with the Oliver Collinge Climb (school relay), the John Jones Dash (1 mile downhill), and the Cycle Climb will all be taking place – so put the date in your Diary!

CVCA AGM

Everyone who lives or works in Cragg Vale is invited to the Community Association's AGM on Tuesday 31st January at 7.30pm in The Robin Hood. Once again, we will have a 'Cragg Vale Quiz' with the usual amazing prizes and delicious free buffet for all. Come and find out what we've been doing and please help us put together a plan for the coming year. New Members are most welcome! Anyone who would like to get involved or help on the Committee is encouraged to come and join us! Please let the Secretary, Marianne (marianne.hood@outlook.com) know if you are interested - and if you are not already a member of CVCA, please complete our membership form or contact Marianne.

Membership Reminder

All members of Cragg Vale Community Association are asked to check if they renewed their annual membership - £3 per household per year or £3 per year for individuals who work in Cragg Vale and wish to be members of the Association. Renewal fees can be paid at the AGM or direct to the Secretary Marianne Hood, 2 Green Bank. If you have any queries or problems, let Marianne know: marianne.hood@outlook.com or 'phone **01422 885224**

THE CRAGG VALE LOCAL HISTORY GROUP

AN EVENING WITH SALLY WAINWRIGHT

It was a wet October Wednesday evening in St John's Church in Cragg Vale and the Church was full with excited Members and Friends of Cragg Vale Local History Group. This was not the normal monthly Thursday evening meet. No, this was a very special evening with Sally Wainwright, the acclaimed Writer, Producer, Director, with credits on many TV shows, Films and Radio, and creator and writer of "At Home with the Braithwaites", "Jane Hall", "Unforgiven", "Scott & Bailey", "Last Tango In Halifax", "Happy Valley", "To Walk Invisible" (The Bronte Sisters) and of course, "Gentleman Jack".

Sally informed us she was "a passionate historian" (and one of her sons is an historian), though she also likes "modern and making-up". She's had a particular interest in Anne Lister, so was very pleased to create the "Gentleman Jack" series, and delighted that this fascinating character is now globally known. Sally is especially proud of the film "To Walk Invisible" the film she created, wrote, directed and produced in 2016 about The Bronte Sisters, which, it was generally felt, did not receive quite the amount of exposure and publicity that it deserves.

After a somewhat unpromising start at the Edinburgh Festival where her work was subjected to less than favourable reviews, Sally was prompted to acquire an agent and, in her early twenties, landed her first professional job as a writer for "The Archers". For that she had to turn to her mother for a crash course on the Radio show, as she had never listened to it! Her mother also "helped" her with the creation of "Last Tango in Halifax", famously based on her mother's own experience.

In March 2020, Sally was granted the Freedom of the Borough of Calderdale, the highest honour that Calderdale Council can award, in recognition of her extraordinary contribution to the area. Amongst other privileges, Freedom of the Borough has traditionally been associated with recipients being allowed to herd sheep through the streets. However, it does NOT come with "freedom to park for free" – as Sally has found out to her cost!

The History Group are very grateful to Sally for coming and sharing the history of her career and some of her many memories, it was a very special evening for everyone.





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cragg vale LOCAL HISTORY GROUP

We meet at 7.30pm on the third Thursday of the month in the upstairs room, St John's Church. With tea and coffee at all meetings, we encourage the social as well as the historical. Visitors welcome at £3 a visit -or become a member, £15 for 10 meetings. For more information contact Jane Frechette 07733326866 or email history@carggvalecommunity.co.uk

Thursday 15th December Annual Review and Christmas Extravaganza	Thursday 19th January Anne Kirker "Laura Annie Willson - Halifax-born suffragette, builder, engineer"	Thursday 16th February Murray Secombe "A Lost Highway through Cragg Vale to Todmorden & Halifax c1600-1700"
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**SPOTLIGHT
ON RAMSDEN
RACING**

A look at Craggs very own Ramsden Racing Champions!

Ramsden Racing Sidecar Team

The 2022 season is complete and it's been Rammy and Matty's best year ever!

We came 2nd in the British Championship, achieved five personal best lap times at Cadwell, Croft, Knockhill, Isle of Man TT and also Anglesey and we beat the previous sidecar lap record at Anglesey by 0.8. Many thanks to everyone who has supported us, it isn't possible to achieve goals without you. We will definitely be pushing for more goals next year that is for sure.

You can help and support this local race team by sponsorship – a tyre or donation would really help keep the bike going and/or via the 100 club where £5 a month or £60 a year puts you into a monthly draw. A number is picked out on the 1st Sunday every month and you could be the lucky winner of £100! (some Craggers have won it twice). Around 7pm at the Robin Hood Pub, we do a live video draw on Facebook. We also do a Christmas draw with three prizes so you could win £50, £100 or £200 - you have to be in it, to win it! Any support is greatly appreciated. For more information, please contact Rammy:

T: 07931484050 E: ramsdencragg99@yahoo.com

it isn't possible to achieve goals without you. We will definitely be pushing for more goals next year that is for sure.

|We came 2nd in the British Championship|



Toad Patrol

Toads are very particular about where they breed, they follow the same migratory route back to their ancestral ponds each year. If something like a road is in their path, they carry on regardless and risk being killed. However, here in Cragg Vale we can now protect some of our toads.

'Toad Patrol' signs to warn drivers and help our volunteers who will be covered by special insurance.

We've managed to get their migratory crossing near Green Bank registered and will have 'Toad Patrol' signs to warn drivers and help our volunteers who will be covered by special insurance. If anyone would like to come out in late Spring to help save our toads, please contact Marianne Hood on 885224 or marianne.hood@outlook.com



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BROADHEAD CLOUGH UPDATE WINTER 2022

As the year draws to a close I hope everyone has enjoyed the sight of autumn leaves which for once have not been blown off the trees by early storms. There have been bumper berry crops on the hawthorn and holly, and beautiful displays of fungi. I've seen Scarlet, Blackening and Ballerina Waxcaps, Puffballs, Earth Tongues, and a delicate Pleated Inkcap. This has been achieved using a herd of up to 20 cows included four cows each with a calf grazing in the YWT meadows, and 2 Highland cows who were in the access meadows until recently. They've done a good job of lowering the grass height to let these marvellous fungi grow and shed their spores.



Male Marsh harrier © Vernon Barker YWT website

Other groups visiting the reserve included a research team from Huddersfield University who were surveying the stream network in preparation for installing "leaky dams" for Slow the Flow: an organisation working on flood prevention. 500 dams have been installed in Hardcastle Craggs and the team is now looking at other watercourses which flow into the River Calder. The scientists spent several hours taking samples for water quality and invertebrate river-life, looking at possible areas for the dams, and measuring the depth and flow as the water passes down Broadhead Clough. CROWS have also installed a new finger signpost at the entrance making it much clearer for visitors looking for Whams Wood and Erringden Moor.

The Trust is moving to a new management plan, developed under the UK Forestry Standard, and enabling access to the Countryside Stewardship scheme and Rural Payments Scheme from Natural England. This has led to several working parties for clearing holly in the lower part of the reserve, opening up the forest floor to sunlight. Hopefully, this will increase the display of bluebells near the bench. Holly branches rot down very slowly, being very dense, and they are heaped to provide plenty of shelter for wrens and insects during the winter. In future years we will be concentrating on increasing the resilience of the reserve to the threat of tree diseases, with increasing diversity of native tree species. For instance, there is only one known example each of larch and crab apple in the wood at present, and few hazels, compared to the numbers of holly, birch, and oaks.

Looking forward to Spring, it's great news that there will be a "Toad Patrol" operating on Cragg Road as these wonderful amphibians return to their "spawning" pond. Thanks to Marianne for getting this site registered. Watch out for the warning signs going up and please reduce your speed to avoid squishing any toads! If you would like to volunteer in the reserve, task days at Broadhead Clough are on the first Friday each month, so December 2nd, January 6th, February 3rd and March 3rd. We start at 10a.m. and usually finish around 3pm. Check the weather before you set out and bring a drink and food to last for the time you intend to volunteer. We finish early if it is very wet! You might wish to add hand sanitizer and anti-bac wipes to your bag. All tools are provided, and gloves if required.



Helen Pedley, 01422 886195



www.ywt.org.uk

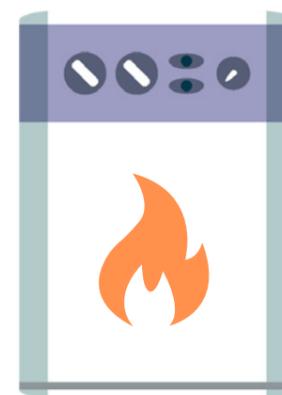
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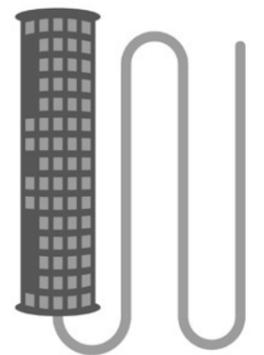
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