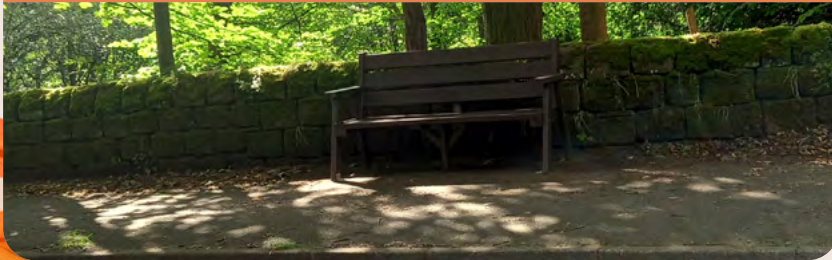


# Cragg News

## SEATS SUCCESS

Finally, after much to-ing and fro-ing with Hebden Royd and Calderdale Councils, the Cragg Vale Community Association is pleased to announce we have 2 brand new seats installed along the road from Mytholmroyd to Cragg Vale. You will now be able to stop and rest as you make your way up our longest continuous hill, first by Lower Clough Foot and then in the shade opposite our Community Park. CVCA thanks the Councils and all involved for our long-awaited seats!



## WINTERFEST

Following the success of 2022 'Winterfest', plans are now afoot for the 2023 follow up. It's an evening of informal entertainment, featuring local performers and supper, and is scheduled for Friday, 1st December at St. John's Church. So, if you can sing, dance, play an instrument, tell jokes or perform sketches, and you'd like to take part, please contact [martynk666@outlook.com](mailto:martynk666@outlook.com)

## CRAGG VALE CALENDAR 2024

The Cragg Vale Calendar for 2024 "Cragg Vale - Then and Now", with photographs old and new, will be available from October in the usual outlets: Mytholmroyd Post Office, Craggies, The Robin Hood and Hinchliffe pubs, St. John's Church and CVCA Committee Members. For more information contact [martynk666@outlook.com](mailto:martynk666@outlook.com) – and remember, they do make lovely Christmas presents!



## LIGHTING UP CRAGG VALE

The Lantern procession and Christmas lights switch-on is scheduled for Sunday 3rd December, starting at the Robin Hood at 5.00pm and then making our way to the church for the official switch-on of the Christmas lights. Pop the date in your diary and we'll issue social media reminders, nearer the time.

## AUTUMN DIARY

Every Tuesday (2-5pm) and Sunday (12-3pm)  
'Community Hubbub' at St. John's Church

### September

**Friday 1st September:** Broadhead Clough Volunteers meet 10am at the reserve signboard, tools and gloves provided. For information contact helen Pedley YWT 886195

**Monday 11th September:** Yorkshire Countrywomen's Association

**St. John's Church:** Harvest Lunch 12.30pm for 1pm

**Thursday 21st September:** Cragg Vale Local History Group 7.30pm St. John's Church 'Withens Reservoir with Ben Brundell

**Friday 29th September:** YCA Macmillan Coffee Morning 11-12.30 St. John's Church

### October

**Friday 6th October:** Broadhead Clough Volunteers meet 10am at the reserve signboard, tools and gloves provided. For information contact helen Pedley YWT 886195

**Monday October 9th:** Yorkshire Countrywomen's Association St. John's Church, 2.30pm Open Meeting with the Royal Pastry Chef Colin Anderson - £3

**Thursday 19th October:** Cragg Vale Local History Group 7.30pm St. John's Church, 'The Coiners, what do we really know?' with Steve Murty

**Friday 27th October:** Whist Drive St. John's Church 6.30 for 7pm

### November

**Friday 3rd November:** Broadhead Clough Volunteers meet 10am at the reserve signboard, tools and gloves provided. For information contact helen Pedley YWT 886195

**Monday 13th November:** Yorkshire Countrywomen's Association St. John's Church, 2.30pm, AGM with activities and refreshments

**Thursday 16th November:** Cragg Vale Local History Group 7.30pm St. John's Church, '17th Century Yeoman Farmhouses and Oak Furniture of the Upper Calder Valley' with Peter Thornborrow

**Friday 17th November (or Saturday 18th tbc)**  
Disco St. John's Church 7pm

**Friday 24th November:** Whist Drive St. John's Church 6.30 for 7pm

### December

**Friday 1st December:** Broadhead Clough Volunteers meet 10am at the reserve signboard, tools and gloves provided. For information contact helen Pedley YWT 886195

**Friday 1st December:** 'Winterfest' St. John's Church, information from [martynk666@outlook.com](mailto:martynk666@outlook.com)

**Sunday 3rd December:** 'Light Up Cragg Vale' meet 5pm at the Robin Hood



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E admin@thearkexperience.co.uk  
www.thearkexperience.co.uk



# NEWS FROM THE ARK

## Let's All Go to The Park

We love to explore the local area with the children – perhaps you've seen them in their waterproof outfits heading off to Forest School, or more recently, going to the park for an adventure.

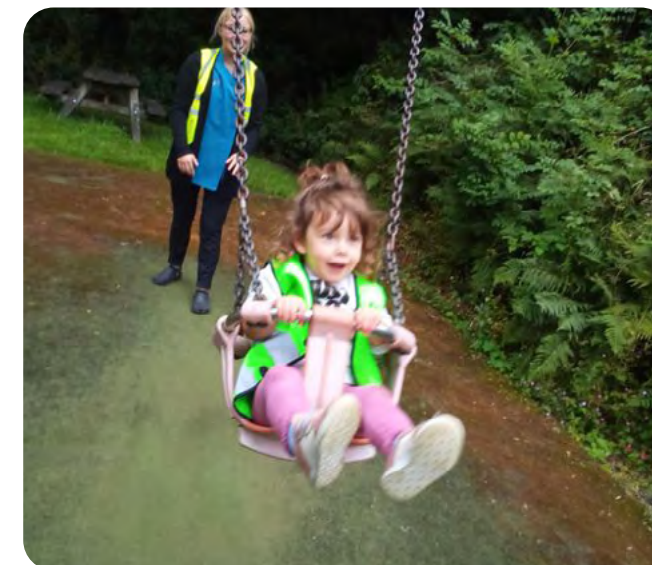
A trip to the park can mean more for the children than playing on the swings and the slides. It helps with gross motor skill development as they climb, run and jump. Children who spend time playing outdoors are more likely to move in ways that challenge their muscles, bones and physical endurance.

Their sense of balance and co-ordination is tested as they play, catch balls or play hopscotch and their imaginations can run wild. Children learn to love nature through their own experiences. They listen to birds singing, or the wind rustling through the trees. They can go on a bug hunt, smell flowers and splash in muddy puddles. Why not lie on your back and look for shapes in the cloud formations overhead?



A trip to the park is also a chance to develop communication and language skills. Put yourself in your child's shoes, explore it with them and talk about what they can see. Make a nature collection from things you find in the park, and encourage your child to describe what the items feel and look like. **See you at the park?**

**"The playground is where nature meets play, and the magic happens."**



## Facebook & Instagram

We love to keep our local community connected, so in between our quarterly newsletters, we're using facebook and instagram as a means of sending reminders and updates on Cragg Vale Community issues and goings-on. We've currently got over 200 people on the group, so if you're a social media user, and you'd like to keep in touch, look up "cragg vale community" on facebook and ask to join.



## Music Group

The Music Group is back in full swing, meeting on 1st Tuesday of each month, creating some "local" renditions of favourites old and new. "It's better than sitting in and watching rubbish TV on my own" was the view of one regular and "it's far more fun than Eastenders" was another. Not sure if that's a compliment! Venue may vary, so if you'd like to come along for an evening of musical mayhem, get in touch with Martyn Kenyon on martynk666@outlook.com and he'll include you on the mailing list. More details on the CVCA website [www.craggvalecommunity.co.uk](http://www.craggvalecommunity.co.uk)



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## News From St. John's

The main news from St John's is that Cathy Reardon, our vicar, has retired after being in charge of the Erringden Benefice (the parishes of Cragg Vale and Mytholmroyd) for 10 years. She took her last service on July 23rd and has now moved, with her husband Alan, closer to family in Lancashire. Cathy has seen the two churches through reordering (St John's), floods (St Michael's), and the Covid pandemic and we are grateful to her and Alan for all they have done for both churches. We will miss them a lot.

We now start an 'Interregnum' (literally - the time between reigns) which will last until a new vicar is appointed. The process can take a while and is likely to last months rather than weeks. In the meantime, St John's is in the hands of the churchwardens and the Parochial Church Council (PCC). If you need information about weddings, baptism or funerals please email the wardens (Julie and Geraint Harris) on gjwsa2@gmail.com or text/leave a message on 07443420907.

Cragg Vale Community Hubhub will continue in church through autumn and winter. If you haven't been yet, please come and see what's on offer. We really appreciate the community support we have had so far this year and hope this will continue. We want church to be used by and for everyone in the Cragg Community.

In September, we are taking part in the National Trust's Heritage Open Days. The theme this year is 'Creativity Unwrapped'. We'll have our impressive Millenium Tapestry (made by many community members) on show along with the many cross-stitch kneelers worked by a host of different people who lived in or had a connection to Cragg. We would like YOU to join us at St John's to share your creativity. Whether you're a professional creative or a keen amateur, whether you're a knitter, a writer, a painter, a photographer etc. we would like you to display your creations for the rest of the community to admire, or even demonstrate how you make them! Dates & times are in the church calendar. If you'd like to display your creations (you wouldn't need to be present all the time), please contact Julie.

We have some fund-raising events coming up, see our calendar for dates. We've included some of our Christmas events so you can put them in your diary! We haven't set a date for everything yet so please keep an eye on social media and look out for posters in the church noticeboard and the community noticeboard opposite the Robin Hood.

If you are interested in hiring either of the spaces in St John's for meetings, parties, classes etc. please get in touch!

## HUBBUB NEWS



CRAGG VALE'S  
COMMUNITY



**HUBBUB**



Cragg Vale's Community Hubhub, set up by CVCA and St. John's with grant support from Hebden Royd Town and Calderdale Councils is continuing to offer its warm welcome to all throughout the Autumn and Winter on Sundays from 12 noon to 3pm and Tuesdays from 2 to 5pm. The children's toys, jigsaws, chess and other board games and the 'art corner' have proved very popular as has the table tennis!



**Thank you to our volunteers:** a big 'thank you' must go to the team of volunteers who have kept the Hubhub and the Community Café going with hot and cold drinks and food for everyone. We always need more volunteers so if you would like to help please let Marianne (marianne.hood@outlook.com) or Julie (gjwsa2@gmail.com) know!

**Free Transport** will be available again from September! Calderdale Community Transport are being used by the Hubhub team to pick up and drop off people who find it difficult to get to St. John's. If you, or someone you know, would like to have a lift to the Hubhub, please let Marianne know by email or 'phone: **01422 885224**

If you haven't been yet, please come and see what we are offering. We don't charge for anything but donations are always welcome!



## ST JOHNS DIARY

*Holy Communion Service - Sundays - 9.30am*

**Sundays 9.30am**

Church service (usually with communion)

**1st Monday of the month 2 – 3pm**

Over 75s Exercise Class

**October 27th 6.30 for 7pm - Whist drive**

**November 17th or 18th - TBC 7pm Disco!**

**November 24th 6.30 for 7pm - Whist drive**

**December 1st - Winterfest!**

**December 3rd - Christingle, Lantern Parade and Christmas Tree Lighting**

**December 4th - 7pm Wreath Making (Contact Julie to book your place early to avoid disappointment!)**

**December 15th - 6.30pm Cragg Christmas Cracker!**

**December 17th - 3pm Carol Service followed by mulled wine and mince pies**

## CROWS IN CRAGG VALE

The Cragg Vale riverside path must count as one of the best walking routes in the area. The problem is the path runs through wet woodland so needs a lot of maintenance. CROWS (Community Rights of Way Service) have been working with the Community Association, who gave us a generous donation to try and keep on top of the problems with the route. Earlier this year CROWS completed a survey and identified several things that needed sorting.

**CROWS (COMMUNITY RIGHTS OF WAY SERVICE) HAVE BEEN WORKING WITH THE COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION.**

Smaller jobs were completed, but larger jobs needed extra funding. Thanks to a generous grant from Hebden Royd Town Council, they are able to carry out all the work over the next few months. CROWS will repeat the survey every year (in Feb/March) to identify new problems, deal with small issues watch out for things that are beginning to deteriorate.







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# THE CRAGG VALE LOCAL HISTORY GROUP

## A HISTORY OF THE CRAGG VALE AREA

*Glyn Lee, member of the Cragg Vale Local History Group, talks about his latest book, produced with help from Cragg Vale residents.*

**For the last 12 months I have been busy researching my latest Calderdale book 'A History of the Cragg Vale Area'.**

During that time, I have enjoyed meeting some of Cragg Vale's residents who have kindly passed on their knowledge and, in many cases, their life-long experiences of living and working in Cragg Vale. In this respect I am greatly indebted to members of St. John's Tuesday Church Group for their contribution to my research and loaning me some of the photographs in the book. I particularly want to thank Mrs Doris Hirst for sharing her extensive knowledge of the area, who at ninety-four years young, has lived in Cragg vale all her life.

A History of Cragg Vale, illustrated throughout with old and new photographs, covers such topics as: Cragg Road, Erringden Deer Park, Coiners' Country, St. John's Church, The Industrial Scene, Inns and Beerhouses, Shops, Sports & Leisure, Cragg Vale Spa, Castle Hall Auxiliary Hospital and Walks Around Cragg vale. The chapter on Coiners' Country and Industrial Scene is discussed in some detail. I hope the book will appeal to anyone living in Cragg Vale who has an interest in local history. I have tried to portray some aspects of Cragg Vale's history and traditions which go back to at least medieval times. The book is only available to borrow or use for reference from Calderdale Libraries and there are several copies of the book at the Hebden Bridge, Sowerby Bridge and Halifax branch libraries for readers to use.

Thank you

*Glyn Lee*



*Mrs Doris Hirst*

## INTERESTED IN JOINING THE HISTORY GROUP?

With Summer (!) behind us, the History Group is primed and ready to start a new season of our friendly monthly meetings. Would you like to join us? The first meeting will be Thursday 21 September. Annual membership remains at £15 per person, and that covers our ten meetings from September through to June, with June usually a visit to an interesting location. Alternatively, we do welcome Visitors at each meeting, for a nominal fee of £3 per visit. The 2022-2023 programme of talks was an eclectic mix of topics and subjects. We heard about the Fieldens of Todmorden, the history of Mill Bank, the highways through Cragg Vale to Todmorden and Halifax, Laurie Annie Willson (suffragette, housebuilder, engineer) the history of Hollin Hey, how to go about researching the history of your house, and finishing with a guided tour of Dean Clough. And the programme for 2023-2024 looks to be just as varied and interesting.

For more information please phone Jane on 077 333 26866, email [history@craggvalecommunity.co.uk](mailto:history@craggvalecommunity.co.uk), or visit the CVCA website [www.craggvalecommunity.co.uk](http://www.craggvalecommunity.co.uk)

## cragg vale LOCAL HISTORY GROUP

Our first meeting of the new season will be on Thursday September 21st at 19:30 in the Upstairs Room at St John's Church. Meetings will then continue as usual on the 3rd Thursday of the month through to June 2024. Annual Membership remains at £15 per person. Visitors are always welcome, for a fee of £3 per visit.

**September 21st**  
Ben Brundell  
Withens Reservoir

**October 19th**  
Steve Murty  
The Coiners, What do we  
really know?

**November 16th**  
Peter Thornborrow 17th Century  
Yeoman Farmhouses and Oak  
Furniture of the Upper Calder Valley



# SPROCKET'N'SPOKES

SPOTLIGHT ON  
CRAGG VALE  
BUSINESSES

Sprocket'n'Spokes is a cycle repair and service workshop set up a few years ago by James Midgley in his garage at Upper Clough Foot Farm, Cragg Vale.

James had worked in a maintenance profession all his career, travelling the world until he felt a strong desire to come 'back home' and spend more quality time with his young family.



Having been a keen mountain biker who maintained his own bikes and gaining a City and Guilds in Bike Maintenance, James used these skills to set up his new business just off Cragg road.

There's lots of choice of Bike Service packages on James' website and you can always ask for a free estimate for any work. James keeps loads of bike components in stock and can work on any type of bike including electric ones. He finds that his customers are usually returnees or they find him by word of mouth, so he doesn't need to advertise! He claims his prices are very competitive.

The business has ample off-road parking and 'walk-ins' are welcome.

Contact James on **07563 246416** or visit his website or Facebook page.

# YORKSHIRE COUNTRY WOMEN'S ASSOCIATION

The Yorkshire Countrywomen's Association wants to bring women from all areas and backgrounds together to enjoy our core values of companionship, crafting and community. We believe that our actions can make a difference in our communities. We hope you will join us.



It's been a very active and interesting year of listening to a variety of subjects about 'Bees'; 'Life at Sea'; and 'A Ugandan Adventure', with excursions to North Yorkshire for afternoon tea in the village of Roecliffe, a visit to the Theatre, and an introduction to Tapas on the lakeside at Hollingworth Lake.

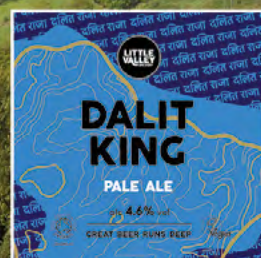
An exercise 'taster' led to a monthly session of gentle exercises in the church and we have also served 'Cream Teas' in the church room in aid of YCA funds.

We invite all the community to the church on Friday 29th September for the MACMILLAN coffee morning and look forward to the next YCA meetings: September: members host a Harvest lunch with other YCA groups; October 'Open Meeting' on Monday 9th at 2.30pm when we welcome COLIN ALDERSON - a Royal Pastry Chef Tickets £3 - Refreshments available and November - ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING - with activities and refreshments. We collect for Overgate at the Christmas celebrations, usually a Christmas meal! Join us, it's fun!



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# BROADHEAD CLOUGH AUTUMN 2023

We know that Broadhead Clough is a great place to visit, but due to its challenging climb, steep steps and uneven path it is designated as one of the Trust's "Wildest" reserves. During the summer we're pleased to report that a second bench has now been installed giving the opportunity for folk to have a rest before the final climb up on to Erringden Moor. The new bench is at the path junction- an ideal place for looking out over the sycamore bowl, and where the children's "Making Tracks: Nature walk" turns to the side gate exit.

This came about through a real community effort involving a grateful walker who was "rescued" from the hills by the local mountain rescue team; CROWS recommending the Clough as a popular location; and YWT providing a suitable site. Seven volunteers from Calder Valley Search and Rescue transported the bench up to site using their unicycle "stretcher". This proved ideal reconnaissance as they were called into action for real three days later when someone fell coming down the clough! The bench has been presented by local business British Recycled Plastic, (based at Topland Country Business Park) and has a dedication "with thanks to Calder Valley Search and Rescue team members and their search dogs".

During the summer we broke off from the dry stone walling to tackle the annual task of pulling bracken from the heath areas in the reserve. It's hard work, but every year the regrowth is definitely less and the stalks don't grow as thickly or as high so the bilberry can flourish. We always wear heavy gloves, as the stalks contain silica and can splinter, causing serious hand wounds. Also be very careful if you have to walk through thick bracken blocking a path. If wrapped across an ankle or snapped off it can result in lower leg wounds too. One way is to use a stick to bash aside, then stamp it flat to walk over, rather than try to push through.



**"This proved ideal reconnaissance as they were called into action for real three days later when someone fell coming down the clough!"**

The cattle have also returned to the YWT meadows and on the approach to the reserve. This year there is a mix of Highland cows with calves, and mixed commercial breeds. They can be nose-y but are usually placid if you keep calm and quiet when passing. We will finish the dry stone walling on the September task day and in the autumn work on selective thinning of some tree species to improve floral diversity in the wood. Also in autumn, "Slow the Flow" will be installing leaky dams at Broadhead Clough on the third Sunday of the month, starting in September. You can learn more about this at : <https://slowtheflow.net/you-can-volunteer/> and <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/broadhead-clough-taster-session-tickets-698007588487?aff=oddttdcreator>

We meet on Fridays at 10a.m. on September 1st, October 6th, November 3rd, and December 1st. Do bring food and drink for the time you intend to volunteer, hand sanitizer is a good idea, and sun cream /insect repellent depending on the weather. All tools are provided, and gloves if required. Helen Pedley, 886195

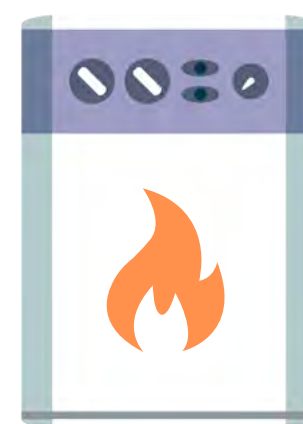


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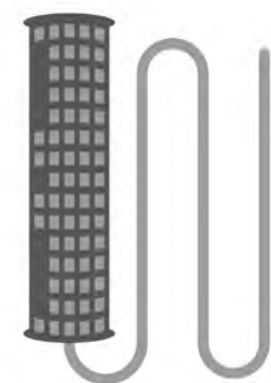
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