

Cragg News

ISSUE 46
AUTUMN 25

AUTUMN DIARY

September, October, November:

- Every Sunday 9.30am Church Service Communion or Morning Praise, St John's
- Every Tuesday Community Hubbub 12 noon to 3.00pm, St Johns

SEPTEMBER

Tuesday 2nd September Music Group contact martynk666@outlook.com

Monday 8th September Yorkshire Countrywomen (Corinne McDonald, Cocoa Houses, 2.30 – 4.30, St John's)

Saturday 13th September Heritage Open Day – 10am to 4pm St John's

Sunday 14th September Heritage Open Day – 12 to 4pm St John's

Thursday 18th September History Group 7.30pm St John's

Sunday 21st September Repair Cafe, St. Michaels, 1-4pm

Monday 22nd September Exercise Group, 2 – 3pm, St John's

OCTOBER

Tuesday 7th October Music Group contact martynk666@outlook.com

Sunday 12th October Harvest Festival (9.30am) followed by brunch/early lunch

Monday 13th October Yorkshire Countrywomen – Harvest Lunch, booking essential

Thursday 16th October History Group 7.30pm, St. John's

Saturday 18th October Autumn Curry Club. St. John's, from 6.30pm

Monday 27th October Exercise Group, 2 – 3pm, St John's

Friday 31st October Whist Drive, 6.30pm

NOVEMBER

Tuesday 4th November Music Group contact martynk666@outlook.com

Monday 10th November Yorkshire Countrywomen. AGM, St. John's from 2.30 – 4.30pm

Thursday 20th November History Group, 7.30pm St John's

Monday 24th November Exercise Group 2-3pm

Friday 28th November Whist Drive 6.30 for 7pm start (Last one until March 2026)

Sunday 30th November Torchlight procession and Christmas lights switch-on

ADVANCE NOTICE!

Monday 1st December Wreath Making 7pm

Friday 12th December Cragg Christmas Cracker 6.30pm

CRAGGFEST 2025

was back again, bigger and better than ever, and aided by some lovely weather, saw record turnouts and raised an amazing **£10150** for local charities!

Organiser Joanne Hull said "Wow! It's unbelievable hard work putting something like this together, but as a team effort with some fabulous volunteers in setup, security, catering, bar service, tidying and dismantling, not to mention the bands and the guests, it's exhausting but so worthwhile." "Big thanks also to sponsors and supporters Craggs Energy for the posters and t-shirts. Check out the fab photos and videos on Craggfest facebook site, it was a real blast!"



MUSIC GROUP

The Music Group is still meeting on the first Tuesday each month, exploring new and creative versions of popular classics so if you fancy a singalong, you'll be very welcome.

Contact martynk666@outlook.com for inclusion on the mailing list for regular reminders of meetings.

CALENDAR FOR 2026

LAST CALL FOR PHOTOS

Work is now starting on the 2026 Cragg Vale Calendar, so if you have any pics (quirky, colourful, interesting or just really nice) of the area that you'd like to share, please send them to martynk666@outlook.com. Any photos included as the main shots, will receive a complimentary copy of the calendar.

Cragg
Vale
COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

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COMMUNITY *News*

Hi all and welcome to the Autumn 2025 CVCA newsletter.

It's been a busy summer, with the Treasure Hunt, Spaw Sunday Picnic, Duck Race, History and Music Group meetings, Hubbub, Cragg Challenge, the Cragg Vale Fell Race and CraggFest 2025. There's also offerings from the Yorkshire Countrywomen, Yoga and Whist at St. John's, the ongoing efforts at Broadhead Clough and the heroic work performed by CROWS in maintaining our local walkways.

Conversations are also taking place with the Council regarding traffic speeds

in the village and fly tipping on the upper stretches of Cragg Road. Your Committee members work hard to ensure there's never a dull moment in Cragg Vale!

September marks the end of the CVCA financial year and we're asking for local community support for CVCA efforts by way of annual membership to the Community Association to help cover running costs (website, insurance, printing, free events, admin etc). Membership costs just £5 per household and enables members to vote at the CVCA Annual General Meeting.

Membership details can be obtained from the CVCA website www.craggvalecommunity.co.uk search for "membership" and download the membership form. Thanks for your support



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Treasure Baskets: Tiny Explorers and Their Big Adventures

Picture this: your baby, sitting up, peering into a mysterious basket filled with curious treasures. No beeping toys. No flashing lights. Just real objects with real textures, ready to be discovered. Welcome to the magical world of heuristic and sensory play. This kind of play is wonderfully simple: you offer a selection of safe, everyday items - especially natural materials - and let your baby lead the way. It's amazing to see how long even the smallest explorers can stay fascinated when they have something truly interesting to investigate.



What goes in the treasure basket?

- Wooden treasures - spoons, egg cups, chunky bangles, smooth blocks, or curtain rings (metal removed).
- Metal mysteries - a shiny teaspoon, a tea strainer, small bowls, or a little tin that makes a satisfying "ting!" when tapped.
- Textural treats - a furry swatch, a silky square, a loofah, or a pebble that's cool and smooth to the touch.
- Unexpected curiosities - a make-up mirror, a CD or anything else that's safe and intriguing.

Place them all in a low basket - no lid, no fuss - so your baby can reach in and choose what calls to them. You'll see tiny fingers exploring textures, little hands experimenting with weight, and curious eyes studying reflections.

Before each play session, check that every item is big enough not to be swallowed, strong enough to withstand a tug, and smooth enough to be gentle on gums. Give the edges a quick feel and retire anything that's chipped, frayed, or past its prime.

This freedom builds their confidence, helps them focus for longer, and turns everyday objects into the most exciting toys in the world. So, go ahead - fill that basket, place it within reach, and settle in for the show. You'll be amazed at how much learning fits inside one little basket of treasures.

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CRAGG CHALLENGE 2025

LONGEST HILL ON THE LONGEST SUNDAY



Sunday 22nd June saw the return of 'the longest hill on the longest Sunday' to Cragg Vale. Highlights included 'Chainsaw Guy' in the cycle ascent and a couple of buggies racing in the 5K. Nice to see some alternative takes on the events!

The day started with the Cragg 35 Sportive cycling event with even more entries for its second year. This was followed by the 'Oliver Collinge Climb' (school relay) with entrants from local primary schools and Calder High being joined by a new cohort from Warley Town School. A great effort, with some of the older students running legs of over 1Km (and against a vicious headwind), and they still achieved a time of 36m 25s, an impressive 3 seconds faster than last year!

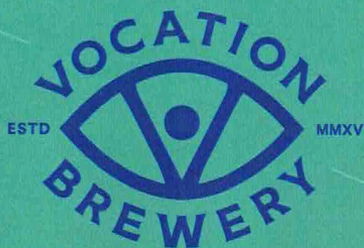
Once again, we had good numbers of spectators out along the route to cheer on the participants which really makes a difference to the people taking part.

Our fundraising for charity, Overgate Hospice and Cancer Research UK, this year, through work at the Start/Finish, a sponsored Cycle Ascent and via our JustGiving pages is running at over £1000 and still receiving donations after the event! While one runner sponsored for the 10-mile has raised approximately £1400 for Cancer Research UK.

There are hundreds of photographs from the day,

all accessible and downloadable free by following the link on our website <https://craggchallenge.co.uk/all-media>

We are already planning for next year, the 'Longest Hill on the Longest Sunday' is now a regular event in the Cragg calendar. Thanks to all involved in delivering a wonderful day.



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THE RUSTY HEN

CRAGG VALE



COMMUNITY SHOP

Open Tuesday – Sunday
from 10am to 6pm
(2pm on Sundays)

Pop in for drinks, snacks,
fresh fruit & veg, or other
goodies, and a warm
welcome for everyone.

ARE YOU INTERESTED IN BEEKEEPING?



A friendly gang of natural beekeepers are
looking for new members to join their
group. They have four top bar hives in an
apiary on the Redacre growing project

in Mytholmroyd. It's an inexpensive
supportive way to give beekeeping a
try and they'd love to hear from
anyone who's interested.

Email Maggie@maggiesmallwood.com

YOGA ANYONE?

O'er Vales and Hills Yoga, at St John's
Church on Monday and Friday evening at
6pm with a Sunday session once a month.

Rebecca Shooter, yoga instructor says "It
is an absolute joy to offer this class, which
runs twice a week incorporating live music,
guided meditation and yoga nidra - it is a
truly mixed level community of yoga, and
it is my aim to ensure that everyone leaves
feeling relaxed and replenished.

The classes are a mix of slow flow vinyasa,
curated in response to the people who
make up the group, with modifications

offered for poses to make them accessible
to all levels."

For more information go to
<https://www.oervalesandhills.co.uk/>

CRAGG VALE LOCAL HISTORY GROUP

Have you attended one of our meetings in the past? If yes, then we hope to see you again during the upcoming 2025-2026 season. If not, why not? The organising Team of Roy Collinge, Shirley Daniel, Heather Readyhough, Andy Hemsley, and Margaret May have put together another very interesting and varied programme of talks, with "something for everyone". We hold the meetings in St John's Church at 7.30 pm, on the 3rd Thursday each month from September to May, with a "visit" for the June meeting. Refreshments are available at the end of the meetings.

Annual Membership is £15 for the year. However, visitors are always most welcome - for £3 per meeting. So, if you are interested in joining, please do come along to one of our meetings.

Or if you would like more details please phone **Heather** on 07796 620838, or email history@craggvalecommunity.co.uk

2025 - 2026 PROGRAMME

SEPTEMBER 18TH

Ben Brundell - Rishworth's Moors: What might have been

OCTOBER 16TH

Alan Fowler - The Trades Club

NOVEMBER 20TH

Michael Peel - Calderdale

DECEMBER 18TH

Christmas Extravaganza

JANUARY 15TH

Julian Carr - The Making of Sowerby Bridge

FEBRUARY 19TH

David Glover - Calderdale Murders 1858-1957

MARCH 19TH

Barbara Attack - The History of the Jowett car

APRIL 16TH

Ann Kilbey - Moderna Blankets

MAY 21ST

David Cant - Whatever happened to townships

JUNE 19TH

Visit - to be advised

The Hinchliffe Arms

Opening Times:

Monday • Closed

Tuesday • Closed

Wednesday • 3pm - 8pm

Thursday • 3pm - 8pm

Friday • 12 noon - 10pm

Saturday • 12 noon - 10pm

Sunday • 12 noon - 8pm

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Booking Advisable



LISTER LANE CEMETERY HALIFAX

Each year, a visit to a "place of interest" is arranged. Last year, June 2024, the group visited the restored Rochdale Town Hall. This year, June 2025, the visit was to the Lister Lane Cemetery in Halifax. The cemetery first opened in 1841 as the Halifax General Cemetery. However, by 1963, the site was full and so had to be closed to any further burials. Consequently, it went through a period of neglect and abandonment until, in 1999, "The Friends of Lister Lane Cemetery" charity was formed and, in collaboration with Calderdale Metropolitan Borough Council, the volunteers set to promote the upkeep and public profile of the site. In 2015, the Cemetery was awarded a Significant Cemetery in Europe status by the Association of Significant Cemeteries in Europe.

The cemetery covers three acres of land, laid out around a neo-classical chapel (now derelict) and a raised terrace with views across Halifax to Beacon Hill. It is Grade II listed in Historic England's 'Register of Historic Parks and Gardens of special historic interest in England', and has many interesting monuments, particularly the gothic spires and obelisks along the main pathway.



Its memorials provide an index of many people who shaped the development of Halifax during its period of spectacular growth in the 19th century, a period which defined the way the town still looks today. The grave stones were cut from a local quarry in Elland and that, together with the site seeming to have its own little micro climate, has resulted in the stones remaining in very good

condition. Some of the graves are 20 deep and unfortunately some are now sinking. The Friends of Lister Lane have researched every person buried in the Cemetery and there are several information boards in the site giving the fascinating stories about their lives, with more available on the "Friends" website, www.listerlanecemetery.co.uk.

The patron of the Cemetery is The Rt Hon Hugh Crossley, 4th Baron Somerleyton. Many of the Crossley family are buried in the Cemetery including John, Francis and Joseph. Their family house is across the road from the Cemetery, Belle Vue Mansion, which in the 1970's was the home of Halifax Library. It is now privately owned and used as a party/wedding venue catering for up to 600 guests.

AND A LINK WITH CRAGG VALE...

As you enter the Cemetery from Lister Lane entrance, on the left is the site of the old cemetery lodge where 6 year old Mary Hackett and her family had lived. The family had moved to Halifax from Limerick, Ireland, in search of a better life. On the 12th August 1952, Mary disappeared whilst playing outside her home. Her body was found 6 weeks later at Park Congregational Church, a mere 150 yards across the road from her home. Albert "Bert" George Hall, the caretaker at the Church was arrested for the murder. Bert was married and had only recently moved from Cragg Vale to take up this post. He pleaded not guilty to the murder, but, after a trial of only 4 days at Leeds Assizes, he was convicted. Incidentally, he was the last local man to hang at Armley Jail, on 22nd April 1954. One last detail about this incident. In 1972, a man walked into Hull Police Station and confessed to the murder. Scotland Yard looked into the matter. However, Bert's conviction was upheld.

THE VISIT – JUNE 2025

It was a balmy summer evening with temperatures in the low 20s, when the party from the history group arrived for the visit. The group would like to thank "The Friends" for arranging this special visit for us, and in particular our tour guides, David Glover and Stuart Wilkinson, for a most interesting and knowledgeable tour. Normally the Cemetery is kept locked due to previous vandalism. However, it is open to the public on certain days – the next one being Sunday 21st September as part of Heritage Week in Halifax.

St John the Baptist in the Wilderness Cragg Vale



Find out about the church's history and architecture. See what the church is like now and what it has to offer the Cragg community.

Look for your family history in our baptism, marriage and burial registers

Saturday 13th September

10am to 4pm

Sunday 14th September

12 to 4pm

Refreshments available



Find out more:



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NEWS FROM ST JOHN'S CHURCH, CRAGG VALE

We have been in interregnum (between vicars) for just over 2 years now. We are hopeful that the 'right' person will be found through the next round of advertising. The person appointed will be 'Priest in Charge' of Erringden Benefice (St John's, Cragg Vale and St Michael's, Mytholmroyd) and the parish of St Mary's, Luddenden with Luddendenfoot.

We have a regular Sunday service at 9.30am. We either 'borrow' a vicar from somewhere to lead a communion service or have a 'DIY' service of Morning Praise with volunteers from our congregation leading, reading, putting prayers together and 'doing the sermon slot'. After 2 years without a vicar we are pretty good at these now!

Our social and fund-raising events continue as usual. Thanks to everyone who supported the Duck Race in July!

We have regular whist drives (usually the last Friday of the month) and would love to have more people coming along to these. It doesn't matter if you're an expert, a beginner or anywhere in between!

Our next event will be the 'Heritage Open Days' on September 13th and 14th. Church will be open to all so come along and find out about the church's history and architecture. See what the church is like now and what it has to offer the community. We will also have our records (some going as far back as the 1830s) available for you to look at your family history. If you've never been in St John's, we think you will be pleasantly surprised by what you find - if you were expecting a dark Victorian interior then think again and come and have a look. We'll be offering refreshments too and will have some activities for children.

On October 12th we'll be having our Harvest Festival followed by a harvest brunch. We invite anyone to come along to the service at 9.30am, bring a donation of food to go to the food bank in Mytholmroyd (tins, packets and bottles are best as they keep) and stay for brunch/early lunch. This day will also be our 'Gift Day' when we ask anyone in the Cragg community and beyond, who would like to, to make a monetary gift to church. This year, all gifts will go towards our lift appeal.

We need to get a lift between ground and first floor as soon as we can so that all the community activities that happen in our upstairs room (History Group, yoga, poetry workshops etc.) are accessible for all. It will also mean that some activities that are held in the big church space because of access problems to the upstairs room (YCA, over 75s exercise class) can move up there to a space that is much cosier and easier to heat.

We would really like to get the lift ordered in the next few weeks so, if you'd like to donate, please use the QR code below, get in touch with Geraint, our treasurer or put your contribution in a Gift Day envelope that comes through your post box.

It would be good for the spaces to be used even more by the Cragg Community (and beyond!) so if you have ideas about a class you'd like to run, a group you'd like to host etc. just get in touch!

On October 18th we'll be having our Autumn Curry Club. Please see the poster for more information. Our Curry Clubs have been very popular so buy your tickets as soon as possible to avoid disappointment!

Cragg Vale Community Hub happens every Tuesday from 12 to 3pm. Please support this joint venture between St John's and CVCA by either coming along to use it on a Tuesday, encouraging others to come along or to be one of our volunteers who help run things (you can volunteer to be in the kitchen or in the hall).

Please contact the churchwardens (Julie and Geraint Harris) if you have any queries about anything related to St John's. (email gjwsa2@gmail.com or text 07443420907)

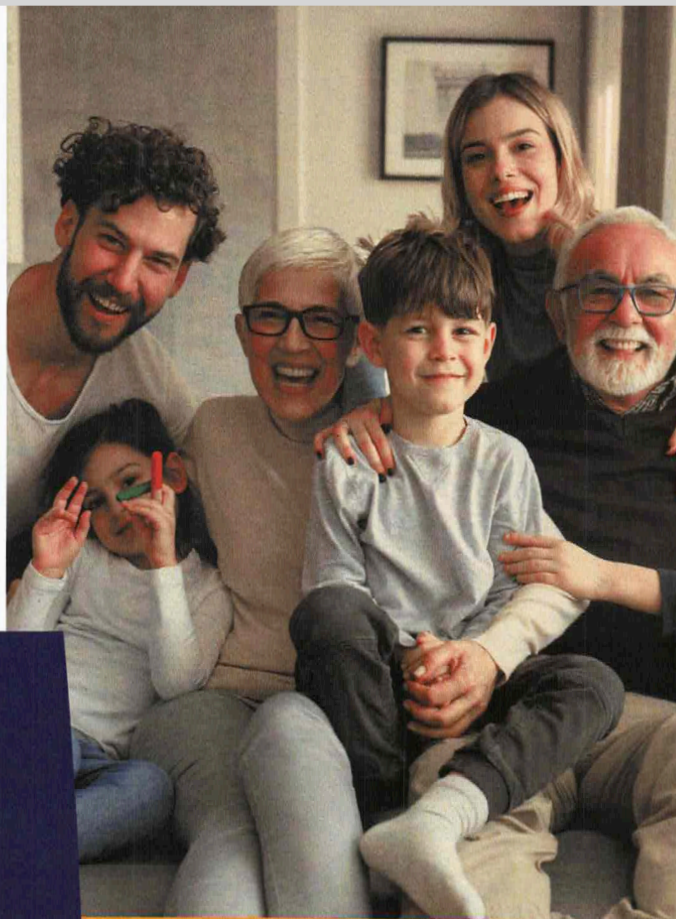
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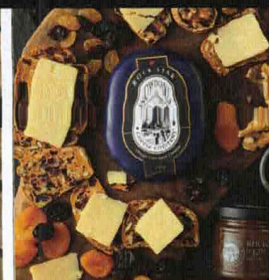
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BROADHEAD CLOUGH SEPTEMBER 2025 UPDATE



Yorkshire
Wildlife Trust

What a difference a year makes! The sunny spring and bright sunshine has been good news for most of our wildlife. When we returned home from holiday what a surprise to find our companion planting of nasturtiums in the veg beds doing exactly the job we wanted. Their leaves were covered in caterpillars (probably of the large "cabbage white" butterfly).



A wasps' nest had appeared under the garden shed's roof. It can be easily avoided, so we're letting them stay put. The blue tits had an abundance of caterpillars, and it was fantastic to see their number of family groups return to previous levels.

The task day fell on August 1st, Yorkshire Day, and it was eerily quiet in the wood. In 3 hours I heard one nuthatch, a few wrens and saw a jay flit through the trees. Where were the birds?... skulking out of sight to moult!

Over time, feathers (made of keratin similar to our nails), get damaged or wear out, and must be shed. They are then replaced to keep out the winter weather, or to be in the best possible condition for migration. You'll see some very shabby looking robins and blackbirds, who are usually the first to moult in July.

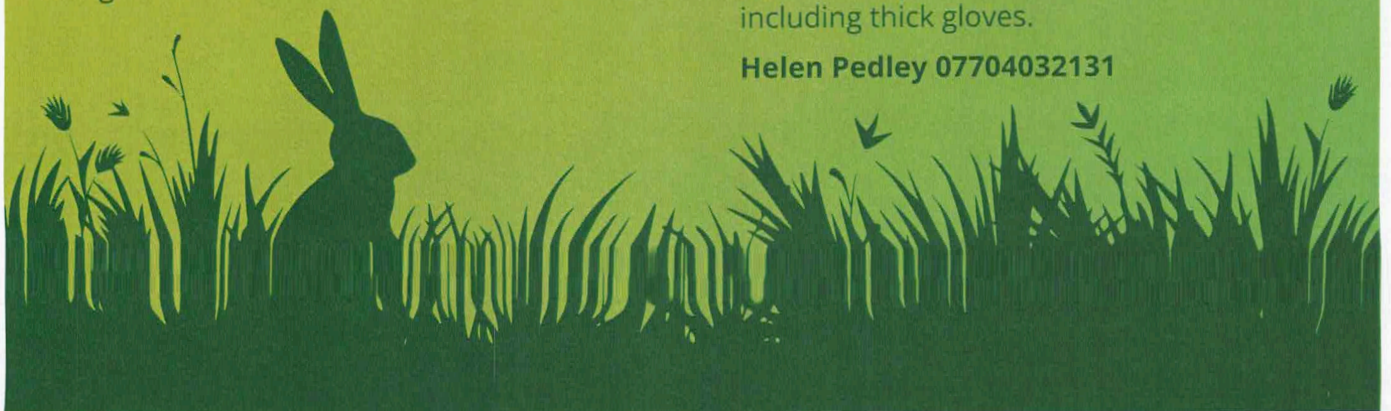


Photo credit : RSPB

Blue tits wait until August, after their final brood has fledged, and hide away in the trees. Willow warblers are unusual in that they moult before each long journey, from, and to, Africa. They shed feathers twice in a year. During the average 4-8 week moult, birds can't fly well, and are at greater risk of predators. Hiding in hedges or thicker vegetation whilst staying silent is the best survival plan!

If you want to volunteer at the reserve, we'd love to meet you at the entrance signboard at 10a.m. on Sept 5th, Oct 3rd, and Nov 7th. Bring food and drink for the time you intend to volunteer. We usually work until 3pm. All tools are provided, including thick gloves.

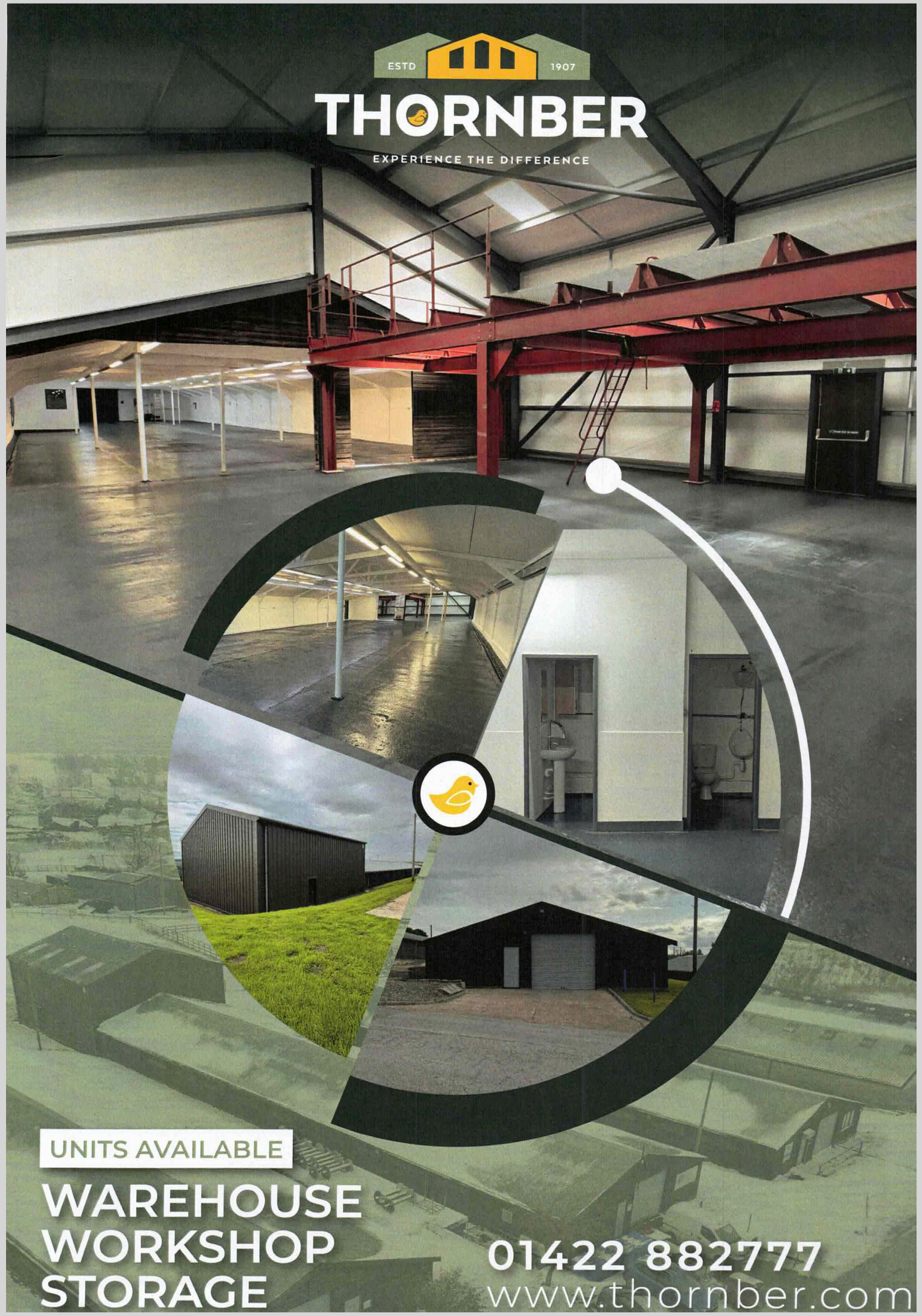
Helen Pedley 07704032131





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