



# Cragg Vale Community Association

Members' Bulletin No. 5 September 2008

Dear Members

**Organisation and development of CVCA:** The Committee continues to meet monthly to deal with any admin issues, and to plan events and activities. You are all more than welcome to join us at any of these meetings to listen in and to see what we are doing. The next meeting will be on **Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> September** in the upstairs room at the Robin Hood Inn at 7.30pm. At the last two committee meetings time has been spent producing the foundations of a development plan to answer the objectives of CVCA. We now have short, medium and long term ideas and actions to explore, and sub-groups to take these forward, including Communications (newsletter & website), Social Activities, fund raising (including grants), Environmental Issues, Road Safety and Traffic, and History Group.

**Cragg Vale Noticeboard:** If, as a group or an individual, you wish to use the board, please leave your notice at the Robin Hood and we will put it in place, or phone 884509.

Work has been completed on the **Castle Gate Dam link path**. Have a walk down to see the difference!

**Cragg Vale Park:** Plans have been completed and quotes sought. Choosing the best site for the eco-toilet is proving a challenge!! We would appreciate some help to arrange a consultation meeting and with further grant applications - if you can do so, please get in touch.

**We'd like to ask for your help in other ways** - there have been some suggestions for **environmental improvements:** bulb planting, rubbish bins near bus stops, planters, seats - is there anywhere in particular you'd like to see any of these? Do you have any different ideas or requests?

We have also been asked about **problem weeds in Cragg Vale** - the Himalayan Balsam is getting a stronger hold each year, as also is Ragwort, which although it can look attractive, poses a serious health threat to humans and animals (especially horses) if allowed to thrive and not handled correctly. Concerned landowners are keeping on top of these on their land but they are flourishing in more public areas. It is probably too late to have much impact this year but next year we'll be ready to tackle the problem comprehensively - volunteers welcome!

**Do you want a greener valley?** Climate change and a looming energy crisis are always in the news these days, but Maggie Smallwood, who lives at Firkins Barn, has volunteered to co-ordinate a group of like-minded people to look into ways of reducing Cragg Vale's carbon footprint. (11 mills in the valley 2 centuries ago - driven by water power? - it makes you think!) If you'd like to be involved please get in touch with Maggie on 882848 or email [shaun.topham@ukonline.co.uk](mailto:shaun.topham@ukonline.co.uk)

Heard about **Local Food Networks?** Why not in Cragg Vale? Please let us have your views or tell us if you have something to offer.



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You will all be familiar with the **Kerbside** story. Would you be interested in meeting with them with a view to continuing to give them support?

A familiar face around the village, **Cragg Vale's postman of long standing, John Howker**, is to retire next month, and some residents have asked us if anyone would like to join them in showing appreciation of his commitment and help over the years. Please get in touch with Sylvia Maudsley (884134) or any CVCA committee member or by email.

**History Group:** We had an interesting meeting in August, when producer Peter Kershaw from Duchy Parade Films spoke to us about his project to make a full length fictional drama film based on the exploits of the local community who were heavily involved in coin clipping in the 18<sup>th</sup> C, the "Cragg Coiners". There is to be a series of workshops locally to build up a picture of the background and life and times during the period of coining. At the meeting we agreed to give our support to the project, and to participate in any way we could. So, if we have would-be thespians, photographers, dress designers, set designers, historians etc now is your chance to shine!

Dates to note:   4<sup>th</sup> September   Dr John Hargreaves - Child Labour in the Calder Valley  
                   16<sup>th</sup> October     John Billingsley "Folklore"  
                   November        General meeting - "Reminiscences"  
                   December 4th    Visit to Longley Old Hall, Huddersfield

All welcome. Subs £10 CVCA member, £12 non-CVCA, £5 over 60 household or in full time education, visitors £2 per meeting.

As members you all have a voice in the Cragg Vale Community Association. If you have any requests, comments, suggestions or would like to volunteer your services, please get in touch with the current chair, Judith Hamlin, 884698, or email us. Some people have been unable to make contact via the email address given previously - we are looking into this and in the meantime, please get in touch via [cvca@jsd.me.uk](mailto:cvca@jsd.me.uk)