

# Cragg Vale Community Newsletter No 12

December 2010

**Cragg Vale Community**  
Carbon Conscious Cragg Vale

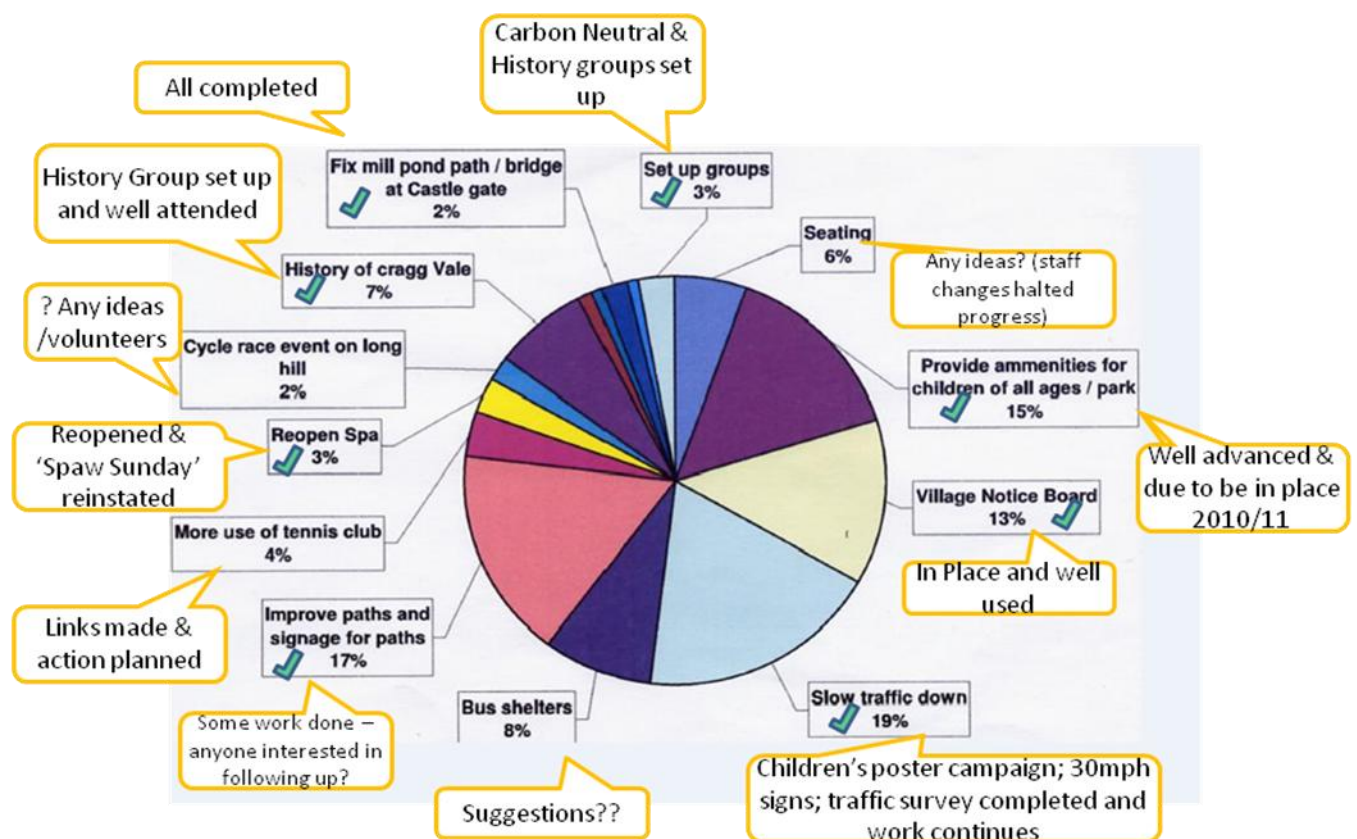


## Season's Greetings.

Welcome to the bumper Christmas newsletter.  
We hope you are all getting excited about the up  
and coming Christmas break and jolly festivities.



We recently held our AGM and have some progress  
updates for you all regarding our original priorities:



We have also achieved:

- Our own website
- Highly successful Cragg Calendars for 2009, '10, '11
- Produced Cragg Vale postcards
- Involved local businesses in CVCA activities
- 'Clean-Up Cragg' weekends and litter picking
- 'Balsam bashing'
- Daffodil planting

- Christmas lights and 'get togethers'
- Stand at Mytholmroyd Gala - 2008, 2009 & 2010

We have asked you all for our next set of priorities and have received the following input to date:

- 'Cragg in Bloom'
- Cragg Vale Christmas carols
- Organised 'dog walking'
- Cycle club or walking club
- CVCA project to develop 'village green' (*with the church*)
- Community garden
- More seating at viewpoints
- Traffic - mobile speed camera, restrict large lorries (below 3/5 tonnes)
- Make Cragg Vale a 'smokeless zone' - *but* - got the response/objection that some people want to burn their own wood!

Do you have any more suggestions/thoughts on the above - please let us know via email at [info@craggvalecommunity.co.uk](mailto:info@craggvalecommunity.co.uk) or telephone Liz 881182.

We hope you enjoy this newsletter - thanks to our sponsors for their continued support. Without them this would not be possible ☺. Please let us know if you would like to see any other information,

Wishing you all a wonderful Christmas and prosperous New Year.

Take Care.  
**CVCA team.**





**Cragg Vale CALENDAR - "2011 Fauna and Flora in Cragg Vale"**  
*- Printed by The Print Bureau*

Following two very successful years, we are very happy to report that we have produced yet another lovely calendar for 2011.

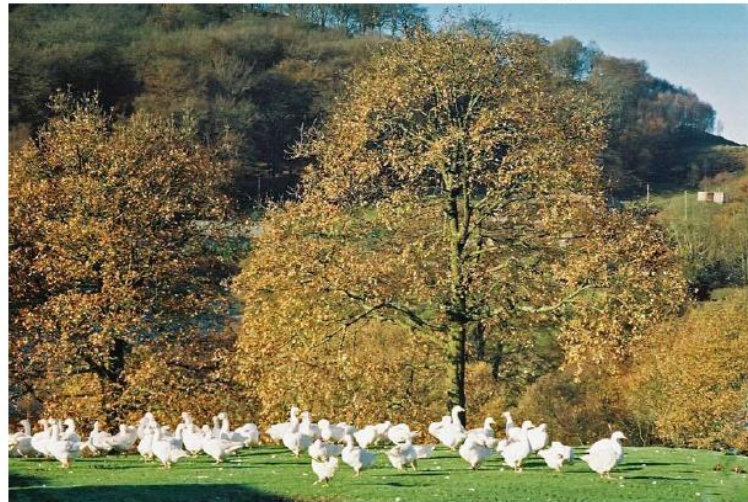
As last year, we looked to local talent to provide the key element - the photos of nature around

Cragg Vale. We received many wonderful entries and it was an almost impossible task to short-list the required twelve - another example of needing many more months in any one year and many more months in each of the seasons!

A big thank you to everyone who took part and congratulations to the following whose winning shots have been chosen this time round - Shirley Daniel, Thomas Stamp, Steve Marchant, Ed Newsham, Anne Beard, Margaret May.

The calendars are on sale at the same price as before - £6 each or 2 for £10. An absolute bargain especially as we have changed the format so that the photos are bigger and better and there is more space in the day boxes for your own important notes and reminders. They may be purchased from the local pubs in Cragg, the Church, Mytholmroyd Post Office, other local outlets, local events, and of course, from any member of the committee or by emailing us your order to [info@craggvalecommunity.co.uk](mailto:info@craggvalecommunity.co.uk).

**2011  
Fauna and Flora in Cragg Vale**



"Golden Geese in the Vale"

Photographed by Anne Beard

Produced by Cragg Vale Community Association

Our aims and objectives:

"To promote and encourage the community spirit within Cragg Vale; to safeguard the character and preserve the history of the area; to improve the environment for all those who live and work here."

  
JOHN DEERE

# BOB WILD

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And finally we must not forget the other key element of the Cragg Vale calendar, namely the sponsors - Cragg Builders Ltd, Thornber Properties & 4Js Country Workspace, Barry Wheelwright Insurance Consultants, Broadcliffe Fabrications, Steve Ramsden Vale Mill Garage, Calvag, Marvell Consultants, Turley Holes Bed & Breakfast, Little Valley Brewery, Atlantis Fancy Dress, The Hinchliffe, The Robin Hood.

# THANK YOU

**PLACE YOUR ADVERT HERE!** If you would like to advertise in the Cragg Vale Newsletter, for a small fee, please get in touch with Liz on 881182 or via email [info@craggvalecommunity.co.uk](mailto:info@craggvalecommunity.co.uk). We print and deliver 500 newsletters received by all residents and businesses in Cragg.

### Anyone for Tennis? - Emma to edit?

Cragg Vale Tennis Club is looking for new members. If you are interested in playing for the club or just having a knock about on the courts then please get in touch with Emma on XXXX - what's the best number for you mobile / home?



| Membership Category | Annual Subscription |
|---------------------|---------------------|
| FULL                | £40                 |
| FAMILY**            | £60                 |
| JUNIOR              | £10                 |
| SOCIAL              | £10                 |

**Notes:**

- 1) \* Year runs from the 1<sup>st</sup> January
- 2) \*\*Family means Parents and Juniors who are in full-time education at the same time
- 3) As a member of Cragg Tennis Club you will automatically be a member of the British Lawn Tennis Association (LTA) and be included in the draw for tickets
- 4) As a member you will receive a code for court lock and access to the courts (on none Match days\*\*\*)
- 5) \*\*\*Match days are Tuesday, Thursday evenings between April and August
- 6) Annual subscription fees are not refundable

## Quarterly Recipe

Liz to add if no one else fancies putting in a festive favourite??



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# The Hinchliffe at Cragg Vale

Food served Tuesday to Saturday lunch

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Yorkshire evening post 25/07

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**Enjoy.** Please send us your favourite recipes for our next issue  
[info@craggvalecommunity.co.uk](mailto:info@craggvalecommunity.co.uk)



## Broadhead Clough

### Update on our local Yorkshire Wildlife Trust Reserve



Harvest and Autumn have been fantastic seasons this year. Anyone with apple trees seems to have bumper crops, and there are lots of rose hips, haws and holly berries around. Whilst our native trees don't go the scarlet red of maples, the yellows, ochres and bronze of the leaves have been really rich this year. Cragg Vale also has the fantastic mixed habitat of "moorland fringe." It's so important for bird species like twite or migrant redwing who return in the autumn to the fields below the moor. The low sunshine makes the sedges, bilberry and heather glow as they too turn from green to gold.

Connections to other habitats are really important for conservation. Our wildlife is connected by the River Calder to the Humber Estuary and new plans for restoring marine habitat in the North Sea. Our plant life is connected by the Pennine spine to the work on peatbog conservation where every restoration can store huge amounts of carbon back into the soil. If you want to read more about these ideas then download the Living Landscapes document from [http://www.ywt.org.uk/living\\_landscapes.php](http://www.ywt.org.uk/living_landscapes.php).

The idea is to restore, recreate and reconnect to ensure local "disasters" don't mean national extinction.

Unfortunately our October workday had to be cancelled but the September day replaced much of the stepped section of the path. During the winter, workdays are planned for day 21<sup>st</sup> ember and

day 12<sup>th</sup> ry. We meet at the entrance to the reserve at 10am but wrap up well against the cold and wet!

If this isn't for you then you can still help wildlife by being part of the wider landscape. Cold snaps or prolonged wet and windy days are when wild birds really need a bit of support. By keeping tables and feeders full of seed or peanuts, and providing fresh water for drinking or bathing you can attract them to come to you instead. Leaving a bit of the garden "messy" with a pile of leaves, twigs and branches is great for insects and toads, whilst newts hole up in our stone walls. Don't forget hygiene : clean out your bird boxes so they are ready for Spring, and beware food scraps or you'll attract wildlife you don't want near the house!

## **ATTENTION ALL READERS!**

If you have any suggestions about content you would like to see in our newsletter or fancy writing a column for us then please get in touch with Liz on 881182 or via email [info@craggvalecommunity.co.uk](mailto:info@craggvalecommunity.co.uk)

### **Work at Withens Clough Reservoir**

Yorkshire Water have recently started improvement works at Withens Clough Reservoir. The project is required to comply with the Reservoirs Act 1975 and is part of a bigger, £60million programme of work at a number of their reservoirs over the next five years.

Reservoirs contractor Mott MacDonald Bentley (MMB) will be carrying out the improvements in two phases.

### **Phase 1 - Drainage Works**

This started in September 2010, and it is hoped that this phase will be completed by the end of this year. MMB require a site compound which has meant that Yorkshire Water have had to close the car park onsite whilst they complete the scheme. If possible, the car park will be opened at weekends.

### **Phase 2 - Overflow Works**

From early next year, work will begin to replace the existing overflow structures at the reservoir. This phase of work will take around 15 months to complete and will involve an increase in traffic to and from the site via Rudd Lane. For safety reasons, the reservoir will be lowered for this phase of construction for the duration of the scheme. The car park will remain closed for this phase also. Once again, it will be open at weekends if possible.

Video footage of the full length of the access road has been carried out and damage caused as a result of the scheme will be repaired on completion.

To find out more, please visit [yorkshirewater.com/reservoirs](http://yorkshirewater.com/reservoirs). There is a dedicated web page for the scheme with further contact details.



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### **CVCA Park Project Boost**

Update from Andy?

## Carol singing around the village!

Sun 19<sup>th</sup> Dec - Hinchliffe 6pm  
Mon 20<sup>th</sup> Dec Robin Hood 6pm

The dates are provisional or rather weather dependent so check with Jackie 882555.

Plan to wrap up warm and bring a torch for some hearty singing and surprise invites.

Last year we raised lots of money for The Hope Foundation, a charity administered locally, that supports an orphanage in Kerala, India. Our donations are always so gratefully received and it's good to think of others less fortunate than ourselves at Christmas.



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### **Remembering Thomas Crowther :**

Since November last year members of the PCC have been researching one of our first vicars, a very special man called Thomas Crowther, whose plaque resides on the wall near the font in church. He was evidently a much loved and respected vicar who was not afraid to protest about child labour and the terrible working conditions and hours worked in the Cragg Vale mills, even if it meant his family were ostracised by the gentry.....

### **Thomas Crowther - 1795 - 1859**

Rev Thomas Crowther was Vicar of St John the Baptist in the Wilderness, Cragg Vale from 1821 until his death on 18 November 1859. During his ministry at the church he became acutely aware of the terrible inhumanities of the factory system of that time, and in particular of the long and gruelling working hours that young children were subjected to. He was not afraid to speak out on their behalf, even from his pulpit, but also at public meetings, like the one in Hebden Bridge on 24<sup>th</sup> Aug. 1833, held for the purpose of promoting the 'Ten Hours Factory Bill' and for 'exposing the atrocities committed by certain liberal factory masters.' Strong words for a cleric at a time when it was more common for 'the church' to support the establishment. The main speaker at the meeting was Richard Oastler, entitled the 'factory king' by his opponents, who worked tirelessly for the cause of the factory workers. The Ten Hours Act was not brought in until 1847 and then it required further legislation in 1850 to enforce it.

## **C V PEST CONTROL**

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# CHRISTMAS WREATH MAKING NIGHT

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St John's Kindergarten, Cragg Vale*



WEDNESDAY 8 DECEMBER FROM 7.30

*All other materials provided just bring your own foliage  
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## Jokes Corner

**Joke 1** - What goes OH! OH! OH!

**Joke 2** - What do sheep say to farmers at Christmas time?

**Joke 3**

**What's a good Christmas tip: "Never catch snowflakes with your tongue until all the birds have gone south for winter"**

*Check out the back page for the punch lines.*



## Cragg Benches

New benches - we are looking to put in some new benches around Cragg. Do you have any suggestions? Please let us know where you would like one and also if you are interested in having a 'Memorial Bench' - contact us on [info@craggvalecommunity.co.uk](mailto:info@craggvalecommunity.co.uk) or James on [erringden@aol.com](mailto:erringden@aol.com)



## Reminder

**Dog Owners** - just a reminder that any dog waste can be put into normal litter bins.

- also that, from now until they lamb next spring, sheep are very vulnerable and easily upset, so please keep dogs on leads and at a distance, when walking near them

**Recycling Boxes** - please keep these weighted down to save them blowing down the main road!

**First Aid Training** - The first "First Aid" course at Cragg church has been a success- 13 turned up from Cragg including 4 teenagers. If you

want further information contact Geraint [gjwsa@btinternet.com](mailto:gjwsa@btinternet.com) 845183  
or Jackie Scarf [thescarfs@hotmail.com](mailto:thescarfs@hotmail.com) 882555

## Wash Falls, Upper Cragg Brook

Many folk were interested in the Yorkshire Water fencing going on over the summer at Wash Falls so on behalf of the CVCA Jackie wrote to YW saying,

*'The fencing and new bridge across Cragg Brook just below Lark hall have certainly stirred up some controversy in Cragg but because it's off the main road it's taken a while for folk to realise what's been happening. There's concern locally about what is happening there and a lack of understanding about why.'*

*Wash Falls (pictured to the right) has been used by generations of Cragg kids to go swimming on sunny days and the old stone 'stepping stones' part of the right of way across to the conduit on the other side.*



*Older residents have photos of swimming there. In fact during WW2 lots of airmen were stationed in Cragg as there was a dummy airfield on the Moor[ near Manshead] and they helped to create the pool to swim and jump into, just below the 'stepping stones'.*

You may be interested in the YW reply:

"Yorkshire Water Services own approximately 30,000 ha of land, 11,400 ha of which is designated as a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI). This land is mainly used for the purposes of water catchment but is generally managed by various tenants for the purposes of agriculture and

/or recreation. The agricultural tenants have to derive a livelihood from the land and this is of course taken seriously by YWS.

In fact, YWS are currently working closely with those tenants whose land falls within the SSSI and we are investing in these area to generate improvement. This has involved communication and agreement with many parties including the tenants, Natural England, the Environment Agency and Moors for the Future.

The bridge and stock proof fencing that you mention form part of this investment. Other works planned here include bracken control, the restoration of bare peat and the repair of the shooting lodge and restoration of the sheepfold. These works will improve the moorland vegetation, enable the effective management of stock and restore features of historical interest.

I note your comments about swimming on Yorkshire Water land and would advise you that I am not aware of the Company's consent having been sought or granted for such an activity. You may be aware that the Company has run several campaigns to raise awareness of the dangers of swimming in reservoirs and as such, it is unlikely that we would agree to encouraging similar activities on any of our landholdings."

I doubt the airman ever asked for permission! Many of you will have been down there as kids or with your own children-obviously at your own risk.



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## **Rubbish!**

It feels like a lot of what you buy from the supermarket is packaging which goes straight from the shopping into the rubbish. Although you can recycle most things, including plastic bottles, there's always lots of mixed plastic containers and bags for the black bin liner. Calderdale doesn't recycle these even though other local authorities have started to do so.



Recycling plastic makes a real difference, not just to the litter problem but to the wider environment. It's been estimated that, compared with virgin polythene, the recycled stuff releases only around a quarter of the green house gases and reduces water usage by ninety percent.

CVCN is lobbying the council to get the mixed plastic out of the landfill bags and into recycling. We're also looking into whether there is potential to collect the waste from Cragg locally and get it recycled.

There have been reports from local people that they have seen the waste that we segregate for recycling all being thrown into the collection lorries together so may be going to landfill rather than recycled. If anyone sees this happening, let the council know and they should chase it up.

## **Windmill visit**

For the next meeting of the Cragg Vale Carbon Neutral (Monday 13<sup>th</sup> Dec) we will be visiting a farmer in Soyland who has had a windmill up for just over a year, which he has been monitoring closely. Anyone who is considering investing in a windmill might learn from his practical experience about the real financial implications. We will be meeting at the Robin Hood Inn on Cragg Road about 7.30pm. All welcome!

**The Calder Valley Steiner Education** moved to the old Sunday School of St. John's Church, Cragg Vale two years ago. We were previously at St. Mary's Church in Luddenden, but had outgrown the space available there. Here we have established 2 kindergartens (for 3 to 6 year olds) and two of our four parent and child groups.

We have been warmly welcomed into the Cragg Vale community and we find the surrounding area very inspiring. We hope to work more closely with our neighbours in the future.

In September this year we purchased the building and have continued to refurbish both inside and outside spaces. We would like to say a big thank you to all our neighbours for putting up with the inevitable disruption. From next September (2011) we will be extending our provision in the form of a Small School to include primary school age children from age six. The new classes will follow the Steiner Waldorf Curriculum, which takes account of the needs of the whole child - academic, physical, emotional and spiritual. All subjects will be taught in an artistic and creative way, developing a love of learning and an enthusiasm for school.



We are currently applying to the Department for Education for Free School status.

We are very keen to develop the outdoor curriculum and Cragg Vale is such a beautiful place to experience the seasons & to foster in the children their innate respect & love for the environment which they share with the animals & plants as well as the people who live & work around them. We would be very interested in hearing from anyone who could offer us some land to rent where we can grow more vegetables & perhaps keep some animals. We would also love to have a base in the woods where we can store some basic cooking (camping

style) equipment & have some shelter from the elements when the weather is very rough. If anyone can help us with this please get in touch.

Lastly we would like to thank everyone for giving us such a warm & open hearted welcome into this community. We already feel so at home here & look forward to getting to know more people & being able to make a positive contribution to this very special place.

For more information please contact Marilyn on 01422 885249.

**Add in beauty advert from new sponsor**

## Add in pictures from Jackie

We'd love to have some of our well known Cragg characters on the CVCA website. Jackie has been taking photos and collecting some information from our celebs! Have a look on the website in the near future to see who's been persuaded to part with their details and have their photo taken. We think you'll know most of them and if you don't then you should! They make up some of the best and wisest of Cragg folk! Many are Craggers born and bred. If you have any suggestions or ideas as to who should be chosen or would be happy to be on yourself, contact Jackie on 882555 or [thescarfs@hotmail.com](mailto:thescarfs@hotmail.com)

# Benchmark Travel

**Did you know Calderdale's fastest growing  
Travel Agency & Tour Operator was now situated  
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Our official opening day is Saturday 2nd October 2010 so why not pop in and see us on the day between 10am - 4pm for drinks, snacks, the odd celebrity and lots of fantastic holiday offers

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## **What's on Guide Autumn.**

**Fri 3<sup>rd</sup> Dec** - Christingle and CVCA Christmas lights switch on event - all welcome.

**Sun 5<sup>th</sup> Dec** - Walkden's lunch at Castle Hall Barn, Cragg Road from 11:00am. Vicki and Ian Walkden invite you to their Annual light lunch, mulled wine, mince pie stall and raffle.

Ticket £4.00 (please purchase before the day calling Vicki or Ian on 882717. Contributions to the mince pie stall would be greatly appreciated! All in aid of Church funds.

**Wed 8<sup>th</sup> Dec** - Christmas Wreath Making from 7:30 at St John's Kindergarten, Cragg Vale. Tickets £6 in advance only 01422 881139 or on sale at The Hinchcliffe .

**Fri 10<sup>th</sup> Dec** - 7 -7:30pm Christmas Dinner - more details to follow - A Doris Hirst production.

**Monday 13<sup>th</sup> Dec** - CV Carbon Neutral windmill visit. We will be meeting at the Robin Hood Inn on Cragg Road about 7.30pm. All welcome!

**Sun 19<sup>th</sup> Dec** - 9.30am Carols and readings in Church

**Sun 19<sup>th</sup> Dec** - Carol Singing Hinchcliffe 6pm and

**Mon 20<sup>th</sup> Dec** - Robin Hood 6pm. The dates are provisional or rather weather dependent so check with Jackie 882555. Plan to wrap up warm and bring a torch for some hearty singing and surprise invites. In aid of the Hope Foundation, a charity administered locally, that supports an orphanage in Kerala, India. Our donations are always so gratefully received and it's good to think of others less fortunate than ourselves at Christmas.

**Wed 22<sup>nd</sup> Dec** - 7:00pm Church Christmas flowers and Carols and refreshments.

**Fri 24<sup>th</sup> Dec** - Children's Crib service at St John's at 4:00pm

**19<sup>th</sup> Jan** - Withens Reservoir/All mod cons

**17<sup>th</sup> Feb** - An Informal History of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century - Ian Dewhirst

**17<sup>th</sup> Mar** - Education in Cragg Vale - Yvonne Broadbent



## Cragg Vale Local History Group

### **Shirley or Roy to update**

**December - Christmas visit** - details to be announced later

**19<sup>th</sup> January** - Withens Reservoir/All mod cons



**17<sup>th</sup> February** - An Informal History of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century - Ian Dewhirst

**17<sup>th</sup> March** - Education in Cragg Vale - Yvonne Broadbent



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## **Yorkshire in Bloom**

Inspired by the wonderful blooms along Cragg Road- you can't have failed to notice the house opposite Cragg School with all its wonderful hanging baskets - Jackie Scarf was wondering if we have the potential to do more and enter ourselves in the Yorkshire in Bloom competition for 2011.

## **What do you think?**

CVCA volunteers planted bags full of daffodils over the last 2 years, engaged in litter picks and tried to generally improve the environment for Cragg residents. Cragg in Bloom is not just about hanging baskets though, it's about promoting a safer, cleaner and greener local environment. We'd need new volunteers too. Are you a keen gardener with time /seedlings to spare? Can you make window boxes/planters? Spare time to litter pick/tidy the environment? Any creative ideas? Or perhaps you'd just prefer to make a donation to brighten up our village. Give the idea some thought and get in touch with Jackie 882555 or email [thescarfs@hotmail.com](mailto:thescarfs@hotmail.com) . Jackie will wait to see if anyone responds!!!

## **Cragg in Bloom!**

Sue Hoyle, a local 'In Bloom' judge has given us quite a few hints and tips for getting going [if we have enough interest in Cragg]. She suggested going for the 'Neighbourhood Award' and taking things slowly. Yorkshire in Bloom is all about environmental quality and community involvement. She's done a lot of work in Luddenden; including bulb planting, using split and donated perennials [not just annuals], bird boxes, square planters, compost bins [to create soil], recycling etc. They used scarified lawns to fill line hanging baskets, got locals to sponsor wooden boxes, bushes or trees and incorporated local heritage wherever possible. It's a good idea to take lots of before and after photos and to use pesticides sparingly, as wildlife must be encouraged. We could get more ideas from Copley and Barkisland, who enter themselves in the small village category. Is there enough interest in Cragg- let anyone on the CVCA committee know.

\* Neighbourhood Watch – **Input awaiting from Viv or Jackie**



*Joke answers:*

- 1. Santa walking backwards*
- 2. Season's bleating*



Thanks to all those who support us and advertise in the newsletter:

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More support required, so if you too would like to advertise for a small fee - please get in touch with Liz - see details below.

[info@craggvalecommunity.co.uk](mailto:info@craggvalecommunity.co.uk) or 881182

Thanks to all our volunteers who help us to deliver the newsletter to you all. If you would like to help us with deliveries (only 4 times a year) please get in touch with Liz.