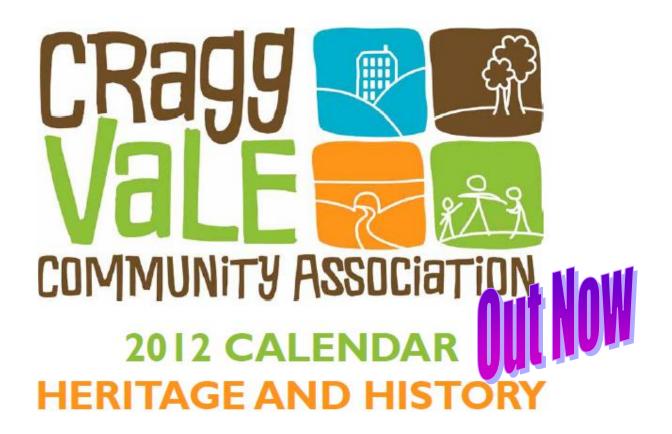


Cragg Vale Community Newsletter No 16

December 2011



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."

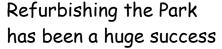
Available from The Robin Hood, The Hinchcliffe, Calvag, Mytholmroyd Post Office, Mansfield Cycles, Hebden Bridge Visitor Centre, The Pot Stop, Little Valley Brewery

Or

Phone Margaret 885068 or Shirley 883707 or email info@craggvalecommunity.co.uk

Hello.

Well it is that time of year to close down loose ends, reflect on achievements and look forward to a new challenge. We've had a lot to reflect on as it has been a busy one.





Photographed by Roy Colling

and thank you for so many of you coming to our Open Day. For those of you who missed it, please read on for a recap on the day.

Our calendar is out again. It's a fabulous summary of our heritage and history. Please support us and buy one this year. The photo above is our January photo. £6 each or 2 for £10.

Now on to our challenge - what next? It has become clear from recent questionnaires and feedback at the AGM that our community want more opportunities to meet neighbours and catch up with friends, so we're going to try and make this happen - check out the what's on guide for this quarter events and more to come through the year.

We hope you enjoy this newsletter - thanks to our sponsors for their continued support. It's much appreciated ©. Our next newsletter is due out in March, contributions welcome (mid February deadline).

Merry Christmas.



Cragg Park Refurbishment

In our last Newsletter we reported that work had begun on refurbishing the park. The new park was launched on schedule on the 10th September, with a fun launch event attended by over 150 local adults and children. Feedback on the works carried out has been very positive - if you haven't already visited the new park, please try to call in and take a look at the new equipment and sensory garden.

The park is now much more visible from the road, with the carved animals leading the way in up the path. A new stone monolith really emphasises the presence of the park.



Our observant readers may have noticed that the large green shelter on the site of the park, overlooking the main road, has recently disappeared. Unfortunately it was in very poor repair and was becoming increasingly dangerous. It will shortly be replaced by a brand new shelter being constructed of green oak by Calderdale Council craftsmen.

The CVCA team are currently creating a plan of events for 2012 which will help to encourage further use of the park by children and adults.



Further funding to support these events is being sought from Community Spaces.







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Ingredients

For the pre-soaking:

5 fl oz (150 ml) oloroso or other medium sherry

 $1 \times 411 g$ jar Marks & Spencer luxury mincemeat

4 oz (110 g) ready-to-eat prunes, roughly chopped

2 oz (50 g) glacé cherries, quartered

6 oz (175 g) dried mixed fruits

2 oz (50 g) whole candied peel, chopped

For the cake:

8 oz (225 g) wholemeal flour

3 teaspoons baking powder

5 oz (150 g) butter, softened

5 oz (150 g) dark brown soft sugar

Quarterly Recipe

Last-Minute Sherry Mincemeat Cake

If you've been meaning to make a Christmas cake but haven't got round to it, fear not - this one can be made at the last minute. In fact, you could bake it on Christmas morning and it would be ready for tea in the afternoon. For the topping, you can use any combination of nuts you like - or even (if you can make it week earlier) replace the nuts with almond paste. Makes one 8 inch (20 cm) round cake.



grated zest 1 small orange grated zest 1 small lemon 2 oz (50 g) brazil nuts, roughly chopped 2 oz (50 g) mixed chopped nuts 3 large eggs

For the topping:

approximately 18 walnut halves
approximately 18 pecan halves
approximately 23 whole brazils
1 heaped tablespoon sieved apricot jam
1 tablespoon brandy

Pre-heat the oven to gas mark 3, 325°F (170°C). You will also need an 8 inch (20 cm) round cake tin, lightly greased, the base and sides lined with baking parchment.

Begin the cake a few hours before you want to make it and simply place all the pre-soaking ingredients into a bowl, stir really well, then cover with a cloth and leave in a cool place. When you are ready to make the cake, take a roomy bowl and simply place the soaked ingredients, plus all the rest of the cake ingredients, in it, all in one go.

• Now, using an electric hand whisk, beat everything together as thoroughly as possible, which will probably take about 1 minute. Then pour it into the prepared tin, smooth the top and arrange the whole nuts in rows across the surface - one row of walnuts, one of brazils, one of pecans, and so on. Finally, cover the top of the cake with a double circle of baking parchment with a hole the size of a 50p piece cut in the centre. Then place the cake on the centre shelf of the oven and bake it for 1\frac{3}{4}-2 hours, or until the centre springs back when lightly touched. Then let it cool in the tin for 30 minutes before turning it out to finish cooling on a wire rack. The finishing touch is to heat the apricot jam and brandy together and brush the nuts with the mixture to give them a lovely glaze. Store the cake in an airtight tin and it will keep beautifully moist for 3-4 weeks

ENJOY



Bulb Planting.

As always we've been busy planting bulbs around the new park, so watch out for these popping up in Spring. Thanks to all those young and old who came and got a bit muddy helping to get these in.

Keep an eye out for future planting sessions and let us know if you have any suggestions for future spots that need a bit of colour in Spring.





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Also check out our new stone monolith with some of our volunteer bulb planters.



Co-operative Community Fund

Community Fund grants, between £100 and £2,000 are awarded to community, voluntary, or self-help groups to run projects that carry out positive work in the community to address community issues, provide long-term benefit to the community, support co-operative values and principles and ideally be innovative in its approach:

http://www.co-operative.coop/membership/localcommunities/community-fund/funding-selection-criteria/

JOKES

- 1.) What did Adam say on the day before Christmas?
- 2.) Why does Santa have 3 gardens...
- 3.) Father Christmas lost his umbrella but he didn't get wet! Why not?

 Check out the back page for the punch lines.







<u>Broadhead Clough - November</u> <u>update</u>



During the autumn we've continued cutting back overhanging branches and scrub growing in the mires deep within the reserve. This habitat will be richer when it is varied: little clearings, shade and pockets of cover rather trees of all the same age. Twice it has been too wet to work and so February 28th 2012 will be our next volunteer day. However, the reserve is always open and it's a great starting point for a walk to Coiners' Barn or the Pennine Way.

We may not see our field officer Karen on site for a few months but the Yorkshire Wildlife Trust is still busier than ever. A couple of people have asked me how the trust works and what it does. I went to the annual Volunteers Conference and found out more.

The trust is 65 years old and works throughout Yorkshire. It was founded in 1946 to manage its first reserve, Askham Bog which had been saved from development by York chocolate makers Sir Francis Terry and Arnold Rowntree. There are 33000 members, around 600



regular volunteers and 75 staff. YWT now has 85 reserves covering every type of habitat from limestone pavement on Ingleborough to saltmarsh and mudflats at Spurn Point, featured on Autumnwatch a few weeks ago. The most recent initiative at Stirley Hall, Huddersfield is not a reserve. Here the land will be managed as a wildlife friendly community farm with a traditional beef herd and vegetable growing. Broadhead Clough is part of the same "South and West" team so we share a reserve manager and field officer with Stirley, Potteric and 17 other sites. Other staff work on projects across the whole region e.g. wet woodlands, river bank management for otters and water voles, running events or education resources.

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month

The trust still depends on its members' subscriptions but also works in partnership using funds from other organisations. It monitors and challenges planning applications threatening habitat or works to improve it with land owners or developers using grants from organisations like the Environment Agency. Sometimes this benefits everyone: the M18 was re-routed away from Potteric Carr which has become YWT's flagship reserve for birdwatchers, whilst its wetland is managed to avoid flash floods in Doncaster.

YWT acts with the other 46 local trusts as "The Wildlife Trusts" an umbrella organisation to lobby politicians at home, in Europe and globally to save habitat. You may not know that the UK government has

signed up to a global convention to protect biodiversity in at least 17% of its land mass. Currently England's percentage is only 12%. The Chairman of YWT was asked to lead a committee to address the issue by 2050. In the report "Making Space for Nature" he recommends our green spaces be "more, bigger, better and joined". However, recent government proposals do not seem to be

making any progress at all. Following the Marine and Coastal Access Act 127 marine conservation zones were identified but the government are now proposing as few as 30 will ever be established. The Wildlife Trusts are petitioning against this and are also closely watching what will happen after the sale of public forests was postponed earlier this year. They are also worried about the impact of the proposed new planning framework which presumes economic development takes precedence over any other land use.

We are lucky to have our local reserve in Cragg Vale. However the South Pennines area around us is the only upland landscape in England not to have been recommended as a designated landscape – such as National Park or Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB). It therefore does not yet have the added protection and resources that this brings. As part of Yorkshire's wildlife trust we can affect what happens on a wider scale such as our local moorland, throughout the county and even the country. Everyone is welcome if they are passionate about living things, whether you visit, work or play in the landscape and no matter how much or how little you know. YWT sum this up as "Love Yorkshire.... Love wildlife".

Why wait for February 28th? Feed the birds; identify what you see on your walk; read a reserve blog; go to an event; sign up as a member or tweet your support for a campaign. Check out the website below and enjoy doing something for wildlife in 2012.

Helen Pedley, 886195

www.ywt.org.uk

Love Yorkshire, Love Wildlife





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ANYONE FOR TENNIS?

Cragg Vale Tennis Club, tucked away behind the Hinchliffe Arms invites any new players to join. Membership runs from January to January and is only £40 per member or £60 for a family. New players always needed for the Calderdale League!

We have big plans over the next few years to enhance the club and offer a wider use of the club to the community. If you want to



know more then get in touch with Emma at emma.parkin@brigmail.co.uk

Members note - Christmas Party on the 22nd December

Deep and simple

massage



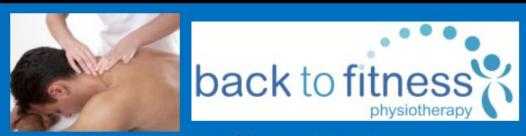
At The Hope Centre, Hebden or Cragg Vale £30/£40/£50 per session Introductory offer £25

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- 1. When do most Europeans put up a Christmas tree?
- 2. Who was the first president to decorate the white house Christmas tree in the United States?
- Triveci
- 3. If you received all of the gifts in the song
 "The Twelve Days of Christmas," how many gifts would you have?
- 4. In Mexico, what would you wear on New Year's Eve to bring you new love in the upcoming year?
- 5. What was a traditional Christmas dinner in early England?

See answers on the second to last page. Good Luck

Cragg Vale Calendars

The 2012 calendars are here and they are fabulous. Make sure you're not the only one who doesn't have a copy and doesn't know what's in them.

They're £6 each or two for a £10 and make a great Christmas pressie. They are available from The Robin Hood, The Hinchcliffe, Calvag, Mytholmroyd Post Office, Mansfield Cycles, Hebden Bridge Visitor Centre, The Pot Stop, Little Valley Brewery

Or

Phone Margaret 885068 or Shirley 883707 or email info@craggvalecommunity.co.uk

Let's forget not special thanks to our sponsors who are key in making provision of the calendar possible each year, the photographers that produce such splendid photographs of our beautiful valley, the hard working team that put it all together and you for buying copies to share with all of your family and friends.

Don't forget to send them to all of those far flung family and friends to remind them of what they're missing.



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What's on Guide Winter.

Friday 2nd December - Christingle and Lights switch on - St John's 18:30.

Everybody welcome - bring the whole family to celebrate the big Christmas light switch on outside of St. Johns the Baptist in the Wilderness. A long tradition (initiated in 1967), not to be



missed, in support of the Childrens Society, for which a collection will be made. Refreshments, provided by the community association will be available.

Saturday 3rd December 11am - 1pm - CV J&I School Christmas Fete Monday 12th December 7:30pm - Yorkshire Countrywomen's Association Christmas Dinner. Visitors are welcome to attend any of our meetings (£1 incl. supper) and to become new members (annual subscription £6). Meetings are held on the 2nd Monday of each month in the church room at St. Johns the Baptist in the Wilderness. Contact Anne Beard.

Thursday 15th December 7:30pm - 'Christmas Crackers!', history group Sunday 18th December 5:45 pm - Contribute to the Carol Singing - join in and / or pay up. Everyone welcome, you don't have to be able to sing - you could collect the money or watch out for cars that pass to close. Meet at the Hinchliffe. Contact any Jackie Scarf for more information.

Monday 18th December 5:45 pm - Carol Singing reprise. If the non-payers thought that they'd escaped on Sunday then Jackie's going to make sure she hunts them out this evening. As per Sunday.

Thursday 22nd December - Xmas flowers and music/buffet, St Johns Church - contact Pam Talbot for more details

Thursday 19th January 2012 7:30pm- 'Photo Memories' by Frank Woolrych and Ann Kilby, history group

Wednesday 1st February – Calder Valley Steiner School Open Day 2-4, St John's Centre

Thursday 16th February 2012 7:30pm - An evening with Ian Dewhirst, history group

Thursday 15th March 2012 7:30pm - 'Water Wheel to E-mail' by Alan Stuttard, history group

An update on what's going on at Turkey Lodge

Earlier this year Heidi and Chris Bingham along with her parents Ralph and June Thornber became the new owners of part of Turkey Lodge Farm.

Work has been underway since April and the site, newly named as The Craggs Country Business Park, is now home to two businesses.





The first to be launched was Thornber Energy - a brand new fuel oil distribution company thornber energy supplying heating oil and other related products to local homeowners, farmers and

commercial enterprises.

Thornber Energy promises a fair deal, with price on delivery guaranteed to be the same as quoted on order. A prompt and reliable service will be given by tankers in their smart new livery and a custom built Land Rover 4x4 to access those homes and farms with even the most challenging access, whatever the weather.

To place an order please call Val or Denise on 01422 882500 or, if you prefer, order online, visit the modern, user friendly website www.thornberenergy.co.uk.

Thornber Energy is also in the process of launching its Renewable Energy Division offering a wide range of services and installations to enable property to become energy efficient.

The second business launched just this month is Craggs Storage which offers secure custom-built self-storage units to rent in various sizes and at reasonable prices. A collection service is available and customers will be able to access their individual units whenever they require with an independent electronic access system. With 24 hour recorded CCTV, climate control and packaging available, Craggs Storage offers a complete, practical and convenient solution for householders and businesses finding themselves short of storage space. For more information call 01422 888444 or visit www.craggsstorage.com

Future plans for The Craggs Country Business Park include the provision of ultra-modern serviced offices, business services and support, with hot desking and meeting rooms available for hire. For more information visit our website www.thecraggs.net or call 01422 888450 to speak to a member of our team.





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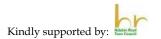
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Withens Clough update

We would like to thank residents and visitors to Withens Clough Reservoir for their continued patience whilst we carry out the final phases of our project.

We expect to complete the construction of the new spillway by March 2012. In April and May, when the weather is hopefully better, we'll carry out the necessary reinstatement works. On



completion of the project, we'll be leaving a new, lectern style sign in the car park for visitors.

This will include information about the recent investment and the walks available around the reservoir. If anyone has any historical information or old photos that they feel would enhance this, then please feel free to email me at john.bond@yorkshirewater.co.uk





A Great Year for Neighbourhood Watch in Cragg Vale!

What is Neighbourhood Watch?

Neighbourhood Watch (NHW) is an active partnership primarily between the community and the police. Its aim is to work to reduce crime and disorder and the fear of crime, whilst making communities safe places to live. NHW schemes provide a sense of community spirit and enable members to make a difference in their area. For internet users there is information about NHW in Yorkshire on the following site: http://www.mynhw.co.uk/regional/yorkshire-index.php

What's Been Happening with NHW in Cragg Vale?

Originally, there was just one NHW group - "Cragg Vale West" - roughly speaking the areas around and above The Hinchliffe and Withens Clough Reservoir, though this now has a wider coverage being simply the areas accessed by vehicle via Church Bank Lane. This group has grown well over the last few years with the increased use of email making it much easier to send round information and alerts, also for sharing information with our Police Community Support Officer Edward Webb. The coordinator for this group is Lynne Roberts.

A year ago, two more groups were introduced in Cragg Vale:

NHW Elphin - this group is co-ordinated by Vivien Aspey. Broadly speaking this group has incorporated houses along and above Castle Gate, a lane which branches off on the right hand side of Cragg Road just above the Robin Hood as you go up the hill. The group includes the Robin Hood and some houses on Cragg Road which back onto the Castle Gate area.

NHW East - this group is co-ordinated by Jackie Scarf and incorporates all houses on the top road across to Sowerby, including Coppy Nook Lane and Turkey Lodge.

Updates over the last year have ranged from prowler or suspicious vehicle sightings to significant thefts of machinery, vehicles and oil. They have also included more general community matters including alerts re missing pets! Members without email receive prints of updates passed on by one of their kind neighbours. In urgent cases, information may be passed on by 'phone.

Apart from providing a service to more residents in Cragg Vale, the setting up of the two new groups has meant that the three groups can share alerts etc. thus giving a much more extensive range of information and sense of community.

Through word-of-mouth, the groups continue to attract more members and it is clear that other areas of Cragg Vale could also benefit from NHW. With the focus on email updates, residents on the main Cragg Road and any offshoot lanes not already

covered are invited to join one of the existing three groups. In addition, residents in the areas already covered who have not yet joined NHW may wish to get involved!

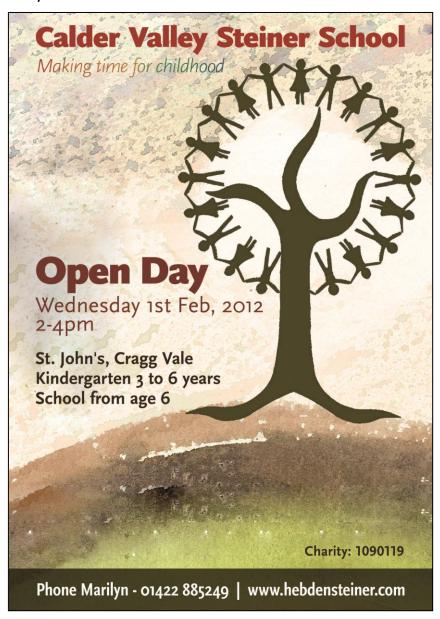
Would you like to join Neighbourhood Watch?

If you would like to join NHW in Cragg Vale please just email your name, full address and home telephone number (a mobile number can also be useful if you would like to provide this) to: lynnedroberts@talktalk.net

Lynne will see how new members can best be added into one of the three groups, depending on location.

If you are not an email user please leave a message for Lynne on her answer phone (01422 883394), giving your name, telephone number and general area of Cragg Vale and she will contact you as soon as possible.

If you are interested in becoming a volunteer NHW co-ordinator for an area of Cragg Vale that does not already seem to have one please include this in your message as more help is always welcome!





Trivia Answers:

- 1. Christmas Eve
- 2. Franklin Pierce
- 3. You would receive 364 gifts.
- 4. Red underwear.
- 5. A head of a pig prepared with mustard!



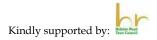
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Joke answers:

- 1.) It's Christmas, Eve!
- 2.) He likes to ho...ho...ho
- 3.) Because it wasn't raining!



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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 or 881182

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