

Cragg Vale Community Newsletter No 17

March 2012



Turvin Mill Dam

Photographed by Roy Collinge

This is March's picture on the Cragg Vale 2012 'History and Heritage' Calendar. We still have a few left so speak to Margaret if you are still trying to get one. This is Turvin Mill Dam, Cragg - one of our relics from the once strong textile industry in Cragg Vale.

Hello.

Happy New Year to you all. We hope you have survived a rather wet and windy winter....but some may say this was a bit better than the snow of last year.

Hopefully now the worst of the weather is behind us and the joys of Spring are starting to



appear. The bulbs we planted in the Park are just peaking up and we will soon have a fantastic display of yellow. Thanks again to all those that helped to plant them.

We have a great year planned, packed with community events celebrating Cragg Vale Junior and Infants 125th Birthday, the Queens Diamond Jubilee and much, much more, read on for the initial details. As always if you have any ideas or fancy organising a community event, let us know and we can be sure to help.

Our first event will be Spaw Sunday in May. A great excuse to blow of the cobwebs and enjoy a short walk, a blessing and some great food and drink. Everyone welcome to this unique event.

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 June, contributions welcome (mid April deadline).

Happy Easter.





Here are some of the Cragg Vale events planned by the Association so far, for this year:

<u>6th May - Spaw Sunday</u> - Join the walk from the Church to the Spa for the traditional Well Blessing, hopefully with music and

dancing from Ryburn
Longswords. This
year the picnic will be
in the Park (or
upstairs at The Robin
Hood if the weather
is bad) - don't miss it,
it's a feast! Look for
posters nearer the
time in the robin and
The Hinchliffe, at
Church and in the
noticeboards.

5th June - Diamond
Jubilee Picnic-inthe-Park - join
together to celebrate
with a "Bring-YourOwn-Picnic" - and
share a Jubilee Cake,
with soft drinks and
beer available!



30th June Mytholmroyd Gala - more details in the next newsletter, but in the meantime, if you're having a "clearout" please save anything suitable for Tombola prizes.

End July/Early September (Date to be agreed with the schools) -

Event in the Park to showcase all the work produced by children from the Cragg Vale schools, working with local artist Sarah McDade, and Joanna Heyes from Calderdale Council. Look forward to seeing the childrens' drawings, photos, art, pieces of sculpture, wind chimes etc, in the Park and garden. Watch this Space!!

October (Date to be confirmed) - Daffodil Bulb and possible tree/hedge planting - and Barbecue!!

If you have any other ideas or want to help with any of the events, please get in touch, info@craggcommunity.co.uk We are trying to get a regular calendar of events together to encourage the community to get together throughout the year, and also respond to your requests to have more going on in Cragg Vale. We hope you can make as many of these as possible.





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Liz's One Bowl Gooey Chocolate Brownie Cake.

This recipe is delicious and so simple with very little washing up. Prep 15 mins. Serves 6 -8 easily.

You'll need:

100g butter

175g caster sugar

75g brown or muscovado sugar

125g Chocolate (plain or milk)

1 tbsp golden syrup



1tsp vanilla extract (optional)

100g plain flour

 $\frac{1}{2}$ tsp baking powder

2 tbsp cocoa powder.





Method:

- 1. Heat the oven to 180C/fan or 160C/gas4. Grease and line and 20cm cake tin.
- 2. Place the butter, caster sugar, brown sugar, chocalte and golden syrup in a pan and melt gently on a low heat until it is smooth and lump free.
- 3. Remove the pan from the heat.
- 4. Add the vanilla extract, flour, baking powder and cocoa powder to the chocolate mixture in the pan and mix it up a bit
- 5. Creak the eggs into the bowl and whisk with a fork and add these to the chocolate mixture and give it a good mix.
- 6. Pour the mixture into the greased and lined tin and place on a baking
 - tray in the middle shelf of the oven. Bake for 25 to 30 mins. Don't worry if the skewer tests shows is a bit gooey it does harden, before removing it should have a crust on top but not look burnt!
- 7. Remove and allow to cool for 30 mins before cutting into wedges and serving. It goes nice with ice cream and plenty of fresh fruit. If you want it on its own just dust with icing sugar.

ENJOY



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News from Cragg Vale Park!

You have probably noticed a tall tree stump on the slope at the left hand side of the park above the road - the main part of this Ash Tree has been removed because it had become infected with Honeysuckle fungus (a fungus which can attack and damage a wide variety of plants and trees). A large portion of the tree has removed for safety reasons, but the stump has been retained because it is an important natural feature within the landscape.

The plan is to have a professional sculptor to carve into the tree, and to develop the pathway around the tree so people will be able to explore the carvings at close quarters.

At the moment a local artist is working with children at the 3 schools to discover the history and stories behind ash trees and then create their own ideas for a sculpture. Some of the children's work is being displayed in both noticeboards - at the park and across from the Robin Hoods.

This is a fantastic opportunity for the whole community to be involved in creating something very special and unique for Cragg Vale so please let us have your ideas too!

Take a look at the stump and see what it "suggests" to you! The carvings may go around the tree and could depict a story of some kind - something dramatic, something about Cragg Vale and it's history, flora and fauna, the Cragg Vale giant etc - the more ideas, the better! The sculptor, Mike Williams, will be very involved with the Community Association in the final choice of subject and plans to begin the work in May.

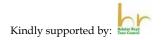
So please get in touch with your suggestions (in words and/or pictures) - by the end of March! info@craggcommunity.co.uk or to any committee member.



Just to get you inspired for the sculpture completion, here are the titles received so far...

Rabbit sculpture near the leaves in the flower garden
Insect and bird houses with fairy sculptures on the top
Sitting area with wooden sculptures hanging down
Pond with frog sculptures
Sculpture of Peter Rabbit and Mr McGregor
Statue of a bird in the lower garden
Duck on wheels
Statue of a horse and rider

Shortly after half term, the children of Cragg Vale J & I School, the Steiner School, and Montessori School will be working with local artist, Sarah McDade. We will be doing clay work, producing wind-chimes to hang in the trees, and a sculptural artwork for our community garden.



Have you seen 'Freddy The Fox'

He was happy in the Park, watching the world go by; but sadly, he went missing from there before Christmas. We don't think he has been taken for firewood as someone went to the trouble of digging him up complete with his concrete fixings. Perhaps they fancied him in their own garden, or thought they could earn themselves a bit of pocket money.

SO IF YOU SEE HIM OR KNOW WHERE HE MIGHT BE -

PLEASE GET IN TOUCH - HE IS VERY MUCH MISSED BY ALL THE CHILDREN - AND QUITE A FEW ADULTS.

info@craggcommunity.co.uk

Many thanks.







Broadhead Clough - March update

2012 has arrived but it's still not the start of a new growing season here in the reserve. Part is shaded by the north facing slope, and in the bottom the peaty wet soil takes some drying out before things starts up again. The OS map describes the reserve as "Spring Wood": doubly appropriate as there are plenty of springs feeding water into the valley bottom and late Spring with the bluebells and return of the birds is the best time to see its splendour. I'm trying to prepare this year by really learning to listen to birdsong so I can hear each new species as it arrives with the better weather... even if I can't always see them!

If you visit this Spring you might find the reserve busier than usual as it is the subject of the "Focus on" feature in the next YWT members' magazine. There's a short history, habitat notes and a description of the walk up from Dauber Bridge to the moor and back taking the other path beside the meadows, below the skyline to return down Hoo Hole Lane. I've also been talking to Mytholmroyd Walkers Action group who have successfully approached the council to improve the walkers' experience along this route with a new footbridge, and Stefan has put in a new stile. MWA are hoping to encourage more children and family walking in the area. They will run another "Walk on the Wildside" in

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conjunction with Calderdale council here on May 12th (date to be confirmed so check their website nearer the time).

Everyone who visits our little reserve realises how much variety of habitat it holds in a small space and there's something new to see each day. As part of my New Year's resolution I've been visiting a couple of other reserves which caught my eye in the YWT magazine and reserves brochure. Two of these have enough volunteers to run a monthly or even fortnightly workday and the difference in habitat improvement they have been able to make was really noticeable. One of our regular volunteers has just moved to Anglesey so if anyone wants to help us maintain our progress or even increase what we can do, we'd love to see you. We will continue work on the path replacing steps and board walks and clearing scrub, meeting 10am at the reserve entrance on:

February Tuesday 28

April Tuesday 3, and Friday 13

May Tuesday 15, and Wednesday 30

June Tuesday 26

A final thank you to all who signed our "fish petition" for marine conservation zones at the CVCA stall at Cragg School Christmas fete. Anthony Hurd, YWT Living Seas Centre Officer writes:

"It is great we have so much support and it is not only coastal communities that feel strongly about our marine environment. As an island nation I think most of us value the sea for the many, and varied, ways it impacts our lives."

Helen Pedley, 886195

www.ywt.org.uk Love Yorkshire, Love Wildlife



CRAGG VALE CALENDAR

A big thank you to all who have supported the Cragg Vale 2012 Calendar - "the best yet" many people have said! If anyone was unfortunate enough to miss buying a calendar, there are a few remaining (leave a message at the Robin Hood, ask any committee member or email info@craggcommunity)

And now we're beginning to think of the 2013 calendar (would you believe - some of the distributors tell us that visitors are looking for calendars as early as May each year!!!) The theme is "Our Special Places in Cragg". Tell us with photos (and words if you wish) what YOU think is special about this valley we live in! There's lots of scope - it could be the history, the people, places, favourite views, animals, unique features - and many more, the choice is yours! Photos old or new welcome from anyone aged 5 to 105!! Just keep those photos coming!

The closing date this year is 31st July - please send entries to info@craggcommunity.co.uk

Happy snapping!



working in and for the south pennines

THE wild moors of the South Pennines have offered artists inspiration for centuries and this year a landscape filmmaker will bridge the gap between the Brontes and the twenty-first century.

Taking Top Withens, the ruined farmhouse thought by many to be the inspiration behind Emily Bronte's Wuthering Heights, as his focal point Simon Warner, artist in residence for the Pennine Prospects Watershed Landscape Project, hopes to explore the literary landscape of the South Pennines and people's connections to it.

Through a three-part exhibition Simon will bring together his own landscape video films shown on miniature screens, the work produced through his collaboration with community groups and a photographic history of the progressive ruination of Top Withens by showcasing the iconic images taken over the decades by landscape photographers, including Bill Brandt, Fay Godwin and Alexander Keighley. The exhibition will be shown at the Bronte Parsonage Museum this autumn and will coincide with a symposium at West Lane Baptist Church, Haworth, on October 6.

"The symposium will be an exploration of how we understand landscape," explained Simon. "I have invited a diverse range of presenters at the event including a local historian, geography professor, writer, landscape artist and performer. A symposium is like a pack of cards; it's my job to bring it all together and engage a wide audience. There will be some people there for the intellectual ideas, some there for the art and some for the landscape. I'm hoping by bringing them all together they will make connections and share their inspirations."

Simon is the fifth artist in residence for the Watershed Landscape Project, which is funded through the Heritage Lottery Fund and managed by Pennine Prospects. His work continues on from that of Char March, Angie Rogers, Andrew McMillan and Sally Barker. All the artists have taken their inspiration from the South Pennines as a whole, examining different aspects of the area; Simon's work will concentrate on the watershed moorland between Haworth and Wycoller, with a particular focus on Top Withens.

As Simon explains, Top Withens, which sits 1,377ft above sea level, has a resonance of its own, not necessarily linked to the Brontes. "The more people know I'm interested in Top Withens the more they want to tell me their stories. It's a special place to so many people: ashes have been

scattered there and I know of at least one person who has proposed to his girlfriend at Top Withens," said Simon.

"But why is it so important? Obviously it has the Brontes link, Ted Hughes and Sylvia Plath both wrote poems about the site and many photographers have captured the scene over the years. But is there more to it than that?" Simon questioned.

Some people travel half way around the



world to visit the ruin, with many Japanese tourists among them; others pass it while hiking on the Pennine Way, but many may just be out for a Sunday afternoon walk with their dog. Working with a group of tourism students to conduct a survey Simon hopes to find out why people hike to the remote spot above Haworth.

"From Top Withens and the Alcomden Stones not far away you can see for miles. There's a feeling of being on the top of the world and despite its remoteness there's a connection with the continent with an unbroken line direct to the Urals. Maybe the human desire to stand on the highest point relates to our survival instincts. I'm hoping that this survey will give us some insight into people's motivations to make the journey and their feelings when they arrive."

Despite the fact Simon has lived only an hour's hike from the ruin since 1983 and walked there many times it has never become familiar. Maybe it's the change in altitude, vegetation, or the remoteness of Top Withens that prohibits familiarity? Maybe this is its appeal and what continues to draw people there? Simon hopes to find out.

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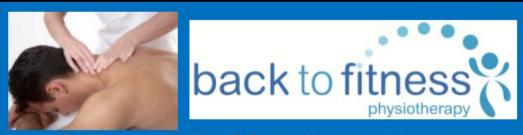
Cragg Vale Tennis Club

Just a reminder to all members that the Spring league is already underway. If anyone fancies a game get in touch with Alex. The Spring League runs from the end of February until the end of April.

We also have adult and children's coaching during the Spring and Summer months. Members, more details to come via email. If



anyone else is interested or fancy some coaching, you don't need to be a member, let us know and we'll try and make this work with our coach. If you want to know more then get in touch with Emma at emma.parkin@brigmail.co.uk



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- 1. What's the proper name for a Daddy Long Legs?
- 2. Where is the only place that the American flag flies 24 hours a day never raised, never lowered, and never saluted?
- 3. In Bingo, which number is known as The Brighton Line?
- 4. In literature, who sailed to the land where the bong tree grows?
- 5. The song "I'll be there for you" is the theme to which TV show?
- 6. What is the correct name for a rabbits tail?
- 7. How many hearts does an octopus have?



See answers on the second to last page. Good Luck

Cragg Vale Local History Group Have you joined yet?

By the time you are reading this we will again have been greatly entertained by Ian Dewhirst MBE, and his intriguingly titled "Kruger's Coffins and the Great Humming Beetle"!

However, you'll be just in time for the last evening of the 2011-12 season on 15^{th} March with Allan Stuttard's talk entitled "From Water Wheel to email"

It's been four very successful years for the group, with meetings reflecting Cragg Vale's long and diverse past, and the wider history, which through the years has greatly influenced the lives of the people of the valley. But don't think it's all been serious - we've had lots of fun and good company too!!

Plans for the programme for the group's fifth year are now well under way. The first meeting of 2012-13 - the History Group's Annual meeting - is on Thursday 19th April; a short "business bit", then - are you up for the challenge? Can you identify some of Cragg Vale's old features and monuments - as you've probably never

seen them before!



All welcome to the meetings, look for details each month in the noticeboard, St John's Church, the Robin Hood Inn, Hinchliffe, Duggie Mansfield's and Mytholmroyd Post Office.

If there is a subject you'd like to see covered, or you'd like to be more involved in the group, please get in touch at info@craggvalecommunity.co.uk

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JOKES

- 1.) Two Aerials meet on a roof fall in love get married....
- 2.) XXX
- 3.)

Check out the back page for the punch lines.



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Guided Walks in and around Calderdale in March

Fancy getting a breath of fresh air and some exercise:

<u>Sunday 4th March</u> Titus Salt and T' Wheel 'Oile

Meet Jan and Chris Buckley at 10.30 on Lightcliffe Stray (by the War Memorial, off the A649). Lightcliffe for a ramble around this locality with a bit of history thrown in.

Friday 9th March Southowram Stroll

Meet at Chris Sutcliffe at 13.00 at the War Memorial on Pinnar Lane in Southowram for a 4.5 mile stroll around this historic hilltop village. Route includes one steep climb. Bring a hot drink and a snack.

Wednesday 21st March
Calderdale Way 10

Meet Alan Greenwood at 11.00 at the bus turnaround in Wainstalls, follow paths and tracks through valleys, Local Nature Reserves and farmland before picking up the Calderdale Way to return to the start. 7.5 miles.

Sunday 25th March
Hills, Lanes and Water

Meet David Norcliffe in Mill Fold car park, Ripponden at 10.00 for a 6 mile walk to experience the old lanes, reservoirs and the upper part of Ryburn. Suitable for families with children aged 11+.

For more information go to

http://www.calderdale.gov.uk/leisure/openspaces/walks/walks -march.html

What's on Guide Spring.

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

24th & 25th March - Big Spring Clean Up



Sunday 25th March 11am - Sponsored walk from Knowl Barn to Stodley Pike. All ages welcome.

Thursday 29th March 1pm - 4pm - Easter Cafe - delicious home-made vegetarian food, cakes & refreshments. Fundraising for a Kindergarten in Nepal. Calder Valley Steiner School, St John's, Cragg Vale

Tuesday 3rd April - Broadhead Clough Working Party met at the reserve entrance at 10am.

Friday 13th April - Broadhead Clough Working Party met at the reserve entrance at 10am.

Sunday 6th May - Spaw Sunday. Setting of from St John's, time tbc.

Monday 7th May - May Day Fete and Famous Duck Race, St John's Church 12-2pm.

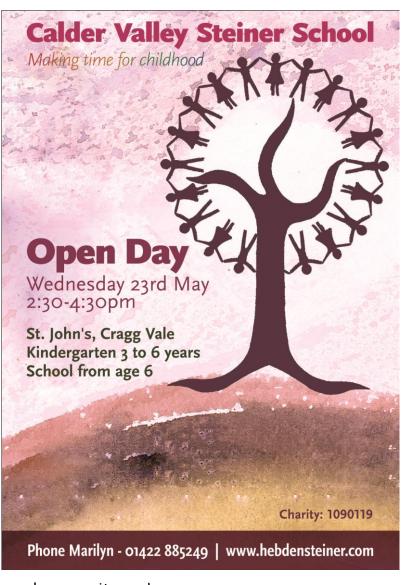
Tuesday 15th May - Broadhead Clough Working Party met at the reserve entrance at 10am.

Weds 23rd May - Calder Valley Steiner School Open Day, St John's, Cragg Vale, 2.30 - 4.30pm. <u>www.hebdensteiner.com</u>. For more info contact Marilyn: 01422 885249

Wednesday 30th May - Broadhead Clough Working Party met at the reserve entrance at 10am.



FEW MORE DATES FOR THE CALENDAR TO COMPLETE



www.craggvalecommunity.co.uk



Anyone fancy a dip!

Did you know that we will soon have a new swimming pool in Cragg Vale. A



swim stars pool is opening on the new Craggs Country Business Park (where Little Valley Brewery is). It is a very small (max. 4 per class) swimming school helping adults and children to learn to swim.

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http://ukswimstars.com/index.html

Good luck Swim Stars.





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Trivia Answers:

1. Crane Fly 2. The Moon

3. 59 4. The Owl and the Pussycat

5. Friends 6. Scut

7. 3

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Joke answers:

1.) The ceremony was rubbish but the reception was brilliant.

2.) X

3.



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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.