

Cragg Vale Community Newsletter No 18

June 2012



**Ready for the grand unveiling of the new tree sculpture?
Put the 4th of July in your diaries**

Hello.

Summer is upon us and following the blessing at the Spaw we are all promised a lovely sunny summer (well that's what I wished for anyway). It is lovely to see change in the season and with so many lovely walks and heritage spots in Cragg Vale as well as our own nature reserve at Broad Head Clough I encourage you all to get out there and take in the beauty of where we live, we really are very lucky. Remember your sun hat and sun cream though.



We have a busy diary of activities over the summer with the Cragg Vale Junior and Infants 125th Birthday, unveiling of our new tree sculpture in the Park, Mytholmroyd gala and much, much more, read on for further details. Don't forget if you have any ideas or fancy organising a community event, let us know and we can be sure to help.

As always with summer time and holidays fast approaching just a reminder to be vigilant and keep an eye for any strange activities - we do always seem to have an increase in crime this time of year. We have our 3 neighbourhood watch groups actively running to aid you, so please do use them.

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 September, contributions welcome (mid August deadline).

Happy Holidays



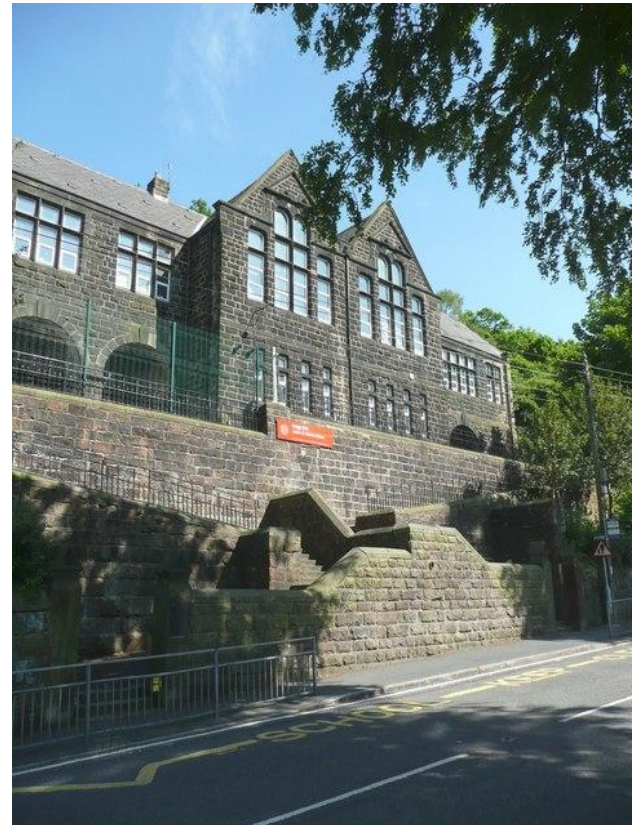
Cragg Vale J&I School

Counting down to the 125th

Birthday....

At school we are gearing up for our big celebration on Friday 15th June 2012.

In the morning the whole school will go back in time to 1887 - Rev. Allison will lead assembly and we'll have to do our lessons with slates not pencils and paper, before playing Victorian playground games. Costumes are being put together so we look the part too.



Take a "Timeline tour" of the last 125 years or watch our performance of music hall songs and ukuleles. Years 5 and 6 have been producing films to show on the day, a variety of titles are in production, including a documentary that showcases memories of days gone by from Cragg residents. A time capsule is being prepared to store memories of 2012 for future generations to open up on another anniversary. Contents and the capsule itself will be on display at school on the day, it will be sealed and buried on another day soon after our anniversary.

School is open for visitors both morning and afternoon, and we do need to keep an eye on numbers, so please reserve your space by contacting school and letting us know when you would like to come. Also do let us have any information that we might find interesting or anything to loan for display on the day itself.



For more information call 01422 883747 or email craggvaleschool125@hotmail.co.uk.

Welcome to Miles and Linda - the new owners of the Hinch

As you have most probably heard (with the lightning fast gossip in Cragg) the Hinch has been taken over by Miles Laprell. Here's Miles thoughts on his new business:

"Our view is to run a country pub where everyone feels comfortable whether it be to eat some of our home-cooked dishes or to sit in the bar and drink from our ever changing beer line up. We believe that the pub should be the heart of the community and we will strive to make this so.



Well-behaved dogs are welcome in the bar area as are well behaved children and adults.

Come and sit by our fireside and share the Cragg news."

Miles Laprell

Good luck to Miles and the team.

Please support both our local pubs the Hinch and the Robin - they really do provide a great place for us all to meet up and catch up with old and new friends. Have you been to the Robin's secret pub garden yet?

5th June - Queens Diamond Jubilee - Picnic in the Park

A quick apology but unfortunately we have decided not to do the Picnic in the Park for the Queen's Jubilee. There are a lot of volunteers away that weekend and it seems that many of you too are planning to go away, or have a party or go to one of the many local attractions being celebrated that day. Obviously you can still meet friends in the Park if you fancy. Further on in this newsletter is a guide for some of the events locally which may interest you.

30th JUNE - MYTHOMROYD GALA

Mythomroyd Gala is a great day out for all the family with floats, entertaining shows, local stalls, tombolas, bouncy castle and rides, food stalls etc etc. The CVCA has a tombola stall and wildlife boxes to sell - the money raised goes back into our funds to help us make this newsletter, hold events like Spaw Day and fun days in the park, so please come and support us and the gala.

If you're having a "clear out" please save anything suitable for Tombola prizes -- let us know and we'll come and collect.

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CRAGG VALE FELL RACE: Wednesday 27 June 2012

Every year we run the local fell race, which can attract over 100 runners and raise over £700 for Cragg church. The race is sponsored by Little Valley Brewery.

HELP is needed! Could you marshal a gate or stile?

The race is only 4 miles [6.4k] and starts from Cragg church at 7.30pm. The course record is only 26.27mins!

It goes past the tennis courts and up via High Green on to the moor, then back down through Sunderland pasture, to finish at the Gatehouse.

There are also children's races in the woods by the river.

Perhaps you could bake a cake or help with the refreshments in church or help with registration of the runners.

Do get in touch. **Jackie Scarf 882555 e-mail: thescarfs@hotmail.com**

Good Luck to all our runners

Quarterly Recipe

Lemon Pudding

This is one of my family's favourite desserts that has been on the go for as long as I can remember. My Mum had the original - I think it probably came from a 60's or 70's women's magazine recipe supplement; it is easy to make and is just the thing when you feel the need for something slightly indulgent, for a special occasion or for something different when you have guests around. Beware, this is probably not a recipe for a low fat or low calorie diet! However, as with many of these things that are not the most healthy, it tastes great, and everyone deserves an occasional treat!! (and it does contain lots of lemons to count as at least one of five a day!)

So the ingredients for this yummy lemon dessert are:

- A packet of Sponge Fingers aka Boudoir Biscuits or Lady Fingers
- Half a jar of Lemon Curd
- 2 Eggs
- A small pot of Cream (or large if you prefer!)
- One Lemon



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Method

The first thing to point out is in order for this pudding to taste at it's best you should make it the night before you serve it. It may be difficult to resist eating it for 24 hours but it is so much better when the lemon mixture has soaked into the biscuits.



Also please be aware that it contains raw eggs, so the usual precautions apply.

So, to begin - separate the eggs so that you have the yolks and the whites in different containers. Then whisk up the egg whites until they are stiff.

In a large bowl, mix the half jar of lemon curd with the two egg yolks. Grate the rind of the lemon and add this too, taking care not to get any bitter pith in the mixture. Once these are mixed together, fold in the egg whites. Use this combined mixture to layer with the sponge fingers in a high-sided dessert bowl. Put in one layer of sponge fingers and then cover this with the lemon curd mixture. Keep doing this until you have run out of mixture - hopefully you will have about 3 layers of the biscuits.

Leave this in the fridge overnight to allow the mixture to soak in and when you are ready to serve, whip up the Cream and put a layer on top of the pudding. You could also garnish with a slice of the lemon or two!

Enjoy!

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ART IN THE PARK!

Wind chimes and ground sculpture

Shortly after Spring half term, children of Cragg Vale J & I School, the Steiner School, and Montessori School began work with local artist and sculptor, Sarah McDade, to make 'Art for the Park'.

The children have been doing clay work to produce wind-chimes to hang in the trees, and a sculptural artwork for our community garden. Lots of colourful ideas have been developed by the children working with Sarah for the ground sculpture and many of the drawings are already on display on our Notice Boards on the road and at the Park entrance and also in the Robin Hood pub.



Although the final design that has been chosen will remain a closely guarded secret (as long as all the children can keep it secret!) Cragg Builders have generously agreed to make the base, which will be completed by the children with all their mosaics. A prize will be given to the school who produced the chosen design and other prizes will also be given for the designs selected as 'our favourite pictures' by Sarah and Marianne Hood, CVCA Company Secretary who has been working on this project for the community

Calderdale Council will help hang the wind chimes high in the trees and all will finally be revealed at a special event **on 4th July** when the final design, covered with the mosaics made by the children, will be unveiled at a special launch event - to which everyone is invited!

Tree sculpture

The ash tree trunk at the front of the Park (the poor old ash tree caught honey fungus and died!) is now being carved by artist Mike Williams. Once again ideas and inspiration for the carvings came from local residents and children in the local schools.

The side of the trunk that faces the road will have details based on the ending of child labour in our local mills and the side facing the park will have images developed from pictures produced by the children - some of which are shown here! When the work is finished, Calderdale Council will complete all the outstanding work to make the Park and Garden somewhere for everyone to enjoy!



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Fancy a day out at Whitby?

Midgley Community Forum runs a "Seaside Visit" by coach in July every year, and there are sometimes spare seats on offer. This year the destination (on 7th July) is Whitby (think beaches, boats, Dracula, Magpie!!), leaving Midgley at 8am, calling for a comfort/bacon butty stop at The Highwayman Café on A64 and leaving Whitby for home at 5pm .

Anyone interested please get in touch

(tel 883707 or email

craggvalecommunity.co.uk)

to check for spare seats.



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Broadhead Clough - June update



Yorkshire
Wildlife Trust

The wet April has really showcased the work we have done in the

reserve over the past two years. The boggy bits are really boggy with sunlight glinting on patches of open water, and the paths are still walkable with most of the water draining across them rather than down. This year the bluebells have put on a great show. Did you know that the bluebell was overwhelmingly voted the nation's favourite flower in a "Plantlife" survey? People really love its bright blue bells and strong scent heralding Spring. The UK has around 50% of the world's population making our bluebell woodlands internationally important and we have our own part of this precious habitat in Cragg Vale. Even with the late warmth this year they are usually over by the end of May. If you haven't been to see them act quickly - some shady spots might hang on until June!

About a dozen people "Walked on the Wildside" on May 12.th. What I like about a wildlife trust reserve is that it is "wild" : you can never guarantee what you'll find in it on any visit. The variety of life the habitat it supports is its strength. These visitors spent around an hour in the reserve and here are their highlights of a sunny Spring day.

Walking along the stone path we spotted a tiny common frog (3cm) hopping between the cobbles. This one was green but they can be brown, or even yellow and red. Overhead the jay was "laughing", the curlew's plaintive call came down from the moors and the chatter of tits and blackbirds' whistles all showed it was a busy day for eating, building and breeding.

We passed through bluebells, and bilberries whose pink flowers bode well for good berries later in the year. The buckler ferns are all unfurling their fronds now: the smaller "Hard" ferns along the edge of the steps are at their best. The nuisance fern of this family, Bracken, is still very low but we will soon have to battle with its energy as it sends up fronds up to 6 feet high in places. Dancing above the plants were the common Peacock butterflies and at the two lower entrances to the reserve in the damper

wooded areas we spotted a male "Orange Tip" which is much smaller and only seen in Spring. Both of these will visit your garden, but the Orange Tip is particular about food for its caterpillars. If you want to attract them add a patch of the pretty pale pink wildflowers of "Ladies smock" otherwise known as "Cuckoo flower" which appear between April and June. Our work cutting and raking the reeds out of the meadows will encourage more of these flowers to grow.

Finally I explained why we leave the old wood in piles to provide shelter for small mammals and birds and food for the various beetles. A long dead skull and scattered leg bones alongside the path outside the reserve showed the work of scavengers on what many months ago was a lamb.

To keep this varied habitat and provide the conditions for all the species that live here we have more working days in the summer. We will continue work on the steps, clearing reeds and scrub. Some of these dates are in the holidays so children and teenagers are welcome to try it if they bring their own adult. Ring me for more information and/or meet 10am at the reserve entrance on:

June	Tuesday 26
July	Monday 16 th and Tuesday 24 th
August	Tuesday 21 st

Helen Pedley, 886195

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Queen's Jubilee

There are a lot of local events being held for the Queen's Jubilee including the lighting of the beacons on Scout Rocks and at Stoodley Pike.

There is a park party in Luddenden, Have a look out in the local paper for all the details.

Queen's 60 Jubilee

FRIDAY 1ST JUNE

7-30pm - Jubilee Royal Quiz @ St Michael's Centre

SATURDAY 2ND JUNE

3pm - AFTERNOON TEA

Hedden Bridge Band - Free Welcome Drink

TICKETS - 01422 833155 or 01422 886375

SUNDAY 3RD JUNE

11am - JUBILEE SONGS OF PRAISE

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12-30pm BRING AND SHARE STREET PARTY

On the square or in the hall, bring your own food for music and games and a special souvenir for everyone.

MONDAY 4TH JUNE

9-45pm - Jubilee National Chain of Beacons:

Gather on the square or in the hall to watch the beacon lit on Scout Rocks.



Cragg Vale Local History Group Programme 2012-13

Meetings held in the Top Room at The Robin Hood at 7.30pm

21st June Proposed Visit to Gibson Mill - (follow-on from Trevor Moody's talk) **PLEASE NOTE NOW POSTPONED TO LATER DATE.**

Instead, come and take "Pot Luck" at the Robin! Any items/photos to share please bring along

July Summer Break

August Summer Break

20th September The Hinchliffes of Cragg - by kind permission
of the family of late local historian and photographer,
Jack Uttley

18th October Jimmy Savile Yvonne Broadbent

15th November By the Side of the Road Neil Croft

20th December Christmas Do!

2013

17th January Songs of Praise in the Calder Valley Joan Laprell

21st February An evening with Ian Dewhirst

21st March Photo Memories Frank Woolrych & Ann Kilby

18th April 2013 AGM 2013 - 1st meeting of 6th year of CVLHG!

All welcome, Annual Subscriptions £10, Visitors £3

(annual subscriptions due April)

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1. The words “orange”, “purple” and “silver” cannot be rhymed
2. Scissors were invented by Leonardo da Vinci
3. In one night a mole can dig a 300 foot tunnel
4. The blood of a lobster is blue
5. In Switzerland it is against the law to slam your car door
6. The number of dimples a golf ball has is 336
7. The ear of a cat has 32 muscles
8. When leaving a cave bats always turn left
9. In the 1830s ketchup was sold as a medicine

A recruitment poster for 'little valley cleaners' featuring four panels of the iconic 'We Can Do It!' poster with Rosie the Riveter. The panels are colored yellow, green, blue, and red. A pink oval with the company name is in the center. A white banner across the middle reads 'ARE RECRUITING'. The bottom section is yellow with the slogan 'Together We're Stronger!' and contact information.

little valley cleaners

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Own transport and references essential. Contact Emily

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Cragg Vale Local History Group - the finances as we begin our 5th year

Statement of account April 2011 - March 2012			
Income		Expenses	
Subscriptions	£177.00	Room hire	£225.00
Visitors	£54.00	Speakers	£146.75
Donations - refreshments	£29.38	Refreshments	£102.97
"Windfall" donations:		Equipment	£113.17
Littleborough History Society	£25.00	Stationery	£0.00
("Power from the River" talk)		Visits	£0.00
CVCA - calendar 2012	£300.00		
Visits	£0.00		
cash brought forward 1 April 2011	£30.79	cash in hand 31.3.12	£16.42
		balance at CVCA	
bank balance bf 1 April 2011	£287.71	31.3.12	£299.57
totals	£903.88		£ 903.88

So you can see there is £299.57 in the bank, 16.42 cash in hand, total capital of £315.99 - a useful buffer for contingencies.

But, looking at the figures in a slightly different way - Running costs are approx £600, and (not including "windfall " donations - which we can neither expect nor rely on) income £300.

So, if everything had stayed the same, the likelihood is that the balance to carry forward next year would be 0 - or less!

To quote Mr Micawber:

"Annual income twenty pounds, annual expenditure nineteen nineteen six, result happiness.

Annual income twenty pounds, annual expenditure twenty pounds ought and six, result misery".

Members at the meeting were all in favour of increasing subscriptions now.

And to make it simpler, with just one figure for all - £10 per person for the year - still a good night out at £1!

All welcome - look forward to seeing you!

JOKES

1. What creatures worry about their weight?
2. Why is it not safe to doze off on trains?
3. Why is milk fast?
4. What athlete is warmest in winter?



Check out the back page for the punch lines.

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May Day Fete

Cragg Vale Junior & Infant School held its annual May Day Fete on Monday 7 May at St John's Church, Cragg Vale. A big thank you to all who turned out to support the event, despite the miserable weather!

The Fete was officially opened by former pupil and teaching assistant at the school Mrs Carol Wolstenholme, who donned her best hat especially for the occasion. Children took part in traditional maypole dancing, and there was a range of stalls and other activities including face painting and games. The main



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Map showing location: Cragg Vale, Scout Road, Cragg Road, Hebden Bridge, Topland Country Business Park.

event, the traditional Duck Race, saw 750 bright yellow ducks battle it out down the brook.

Hope to see you all again next year!

Here's some photos from the day



2012 Spaw Sunday on 6th May



As the Church clock on St John the Baptist in the Wilderness (what an appropriate name for Cragg Vale's church!) chimed 3pm the long procession set off across the fields to the spa. As the musicians and dancers from Ryburn Longswords and Ryburn 3 Step brought up the rear, more people joined as we went past the Hinchliffe Arms and the Robin Hood Inn. This year Cragg residents were joined by people from other parts of the Calder Valley - and from as far afield as Manchester! Our Canon Councillor James Allison had obviously put in a good word for us - the rain disappeared and the sun actually shone, although anyone standing near to the Spa did get a little damp as the 'blessing' of spa water was generously splashed around!

A picnic supplied by the Robin Hood Inn was provided in the Park with more music and dancing - this time everyone was encouraged to join in, just goes to show how rejuvenating the spa water is!

SPA W SUNDAY

Upper Calder Valley folk had no need to travel far afield to spa towns such as Harrogate, Bath or Buxton to "take the waters" - right on their very own doorstep they had their own local spa!

Cragg Vale Spaw (northern dialect), nestling in the beautiful Cragg Valley, is reputed to be at least 300 years old and has clearly been of some historic importance locally, hence many nearby places bearing its name - Spa Laithe Farm, Spa Terrace, Spa Wood, Spa Bridge and Spa Laith, and, at one time, a "Spa Tavern", all sited around it.

In medieval times and earlier, winter was a very difficult time for local inhabitants. The long season of cold and darkness, with limited food, caused hardship and ill health. Consequently, people looked forward to the onset of spring with warmer weather and more food. It was the custom in early spring for people to gather at the spa to drink the water and cleanse themselves of their winter ailments, and to give them strength to face the coming year. Whether or not the water had a medicinal effect is debatable, but the waters were a way of celebrating the passage of winter and the beginning of spring - and there are anecdotes from a number of local octogenarians of the curative and restorative properties of the Spaw waters, attributing their long standing to regular draughts of Spa water!





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In the 19th century this event usually occurred on the first Sunday in May and was called "Spaw Sunday". It was said that on this day the water at Cragg Spa took on "an especial different taste".

All you needed was a medicine bottle, filled with the spa water, liquorice was added (to make it more palatable for drinking) then the mixture was thoroughly shaken and - if you didn't want to look like a cissy! - swigged down in one. The sulphurous water from the spa was deemed to be excellent for making tea, although some recommended a pinch of bicarbonate of soda to take the edge off the "bad eggs smell".



Local children in their Sunday Best



As time passed these gatherings became quite popular, and attracted tourists and early socialists as well as local people. At the beginning of the 20th century the Independent Labour Party saw an opportunity to play an important part in the "spaw" celebrations locally, and the early religious orators gave way to those of a political nature. In 1906, a report on a pilgrimage to the Cragg Spa and then onto Blackstone Edge, noted that numbers at the event were becoming fewer and only 500 people went onto the White House where the Hebden Bridge band was playing.

The Second World War ended "Spaw Sunday" celebrations at Cragg Spa. Although the event was briefly revived in 1987 along the lines of a Well dressing celebration, this revival was only brief and the Spa fell into disrepair, becoming overgrown, unused and its presence unknown to many Cragg Vale inhabitants - until 2009 when work was undertaken to restore it to its condition at the turn of the 19th Century, with steps to give easier access, and landscaping to the area around. On 1st May 2010 Spaw Sunday was again revived, in a simple form, and it is hoped to build on the last two years' celebrations to firmly re-establish the old traditions!



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What's on Guide Spring.



Friday 15th June 2012 - Cragg Vale
Junior and Infant School 125th Birthday
Celebrations

26th June - Broadhead Clough working party

27th June - Cragg Vale Fell Race

30th June - Mythomroyd Gala

11th June - Yorkshire Country Women Cragg Vale - Speaker -
Paul Kenny - Subject : Destination ITALY

4th July - Grand unveiling of the 'sculpture in the Park'

7th July - Midgley Community Forum runs a "Seaside Visit"

9th July - Yorkshire Country Women Cragg Vale - Annual
Walk + supper (to be arranged)

14th July - Cragg Vale Tennis Club BBQ - from 3pm onwards. All
welcome.

16th July - Broadhead Clough working party

24th July - Broadhead Clough working party

21st August - Broadhead Clough working party

8th September - Picnic in the Park

TENNIS COACHING

Cragg Vale Tennis Club is offering tennis coaching on Wednesday evenings throughout the summer.

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Chris Moroney - mazza3@hotmail.com / 07817 740528

Emma Parkin - emma.parkin@brigmil.co.uk / 07718 525355



The Club is situated behind the Hinchliffe Arms.
Follow the path to the right of the pub for 300 yards and the courts are on the left.

www.craggvalecommunity.co.uk

CALLING ALL CRAGG VALE PHOTOGRAPHERS!!!

The theme for 2013 CRAGG VALE CALENDAR is

"Special Places in Cragg Vale"

Tell us with photos (and words if you wish) what YOU think is special about this valley we live in! There's a lot to choose from - it could be the history, the people, places, favourite views,



2013 CALENDAR
SPECIAL PLACES IN CRAGG VALE



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animals, unique features - and many more! 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!



Annibutt Lee

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Experienced, loving, round-the-clock care
Spacious, heated accommodation in stunning countryside location
Calm, stress-free, happy environment

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Joke answers:

- 1.) Fish – they never go anywhere without their scales!
- 2.) Because they run over sleepers!
- 3.) Because it is pasteurized before you see it!
- 4.) A long jumper!



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

Thornber Properties
Higher Clough Foot Barn
Bob Wild Grass Machinery Ltd
Little Valley Brewery
C V Pest Control
Calder Valley Skip Hire
Calvag
Calder Valley Steiner School
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The Ark Experience
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Benchmark Travel
Eternal Beauty Studio Ltd
Deep and Simple Massage
Craggs Storage
Fix Lifestyles
Little Valley Cleaners

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.