

Tour de Cragg

TURN YORKSHIRE YELLOW FOR LE TOUR

Everyone in Cragg Vale, young and old, gardeners and non-gardeners, is being urged to 'Turn Yorkshire Yellow' for the Grand Départ in July. The Royal Horticultural Society has put together a guide to help you choose the best plants for every sort of display including window boxes, hanging baskets and tubs. More information is available from www.rhs.org.uk

Plants can be raised from seed in trays and pots in March and April to flower for June until July. As we can have frosts as late as the start of June, it is probably best to grow plants on a window-sill, in a conservatory or in a greenhouse until they are big enough to harden off outside and are ready to flower. You can then create an instant display of yellow flowers for 6th July!

Hardy annuals or annual wildflower seeds can be sown direct in April and May where you want them to flower at the start of July. Plants can also be bought as plugs or in 2½" - 3½" pots in March and April to grow-on somewhere frost free such as a greenhouse or conservatory.

There are many yellow-flowered plants that do well here including yellow poppies and begonias. plants recommended by the rhs include marigolds and french marigolds, daisy-like coreopsis and rudbeckias snapdragons, and california poppies.

Come on everyone, let's have glorious yellow displays throughout Cragg Vale!

BIG SPRING CLEAN UP

The dates for this year's Hebden Royd Town Council's annual big spring clean will be Saturday 29th and Sunday 30th March 2014. The Community Association tries to organize two or three teams - so we are looking for volunteers please!

For every team of 6 people who take part, the Town Council will donate £60 towards local community projects.

Please let the Community Association Treasurer Shirley Daniel know if you can help: tel 01422 883707 or email shirley@jsd.me.uk



CELEBRATING SPAW SUNDAY

You can find Cragg Vale's Spa by taking the tarmac footpath leading down to Spa Laithe Farm from Cragg Road, opposite Spa Terrace. Renovated in 2009 by a team from Leeds University, the Spa is reputed to be at least 300 years old.

In 2010 the Community Association reintroduced what had been a traditional celebration known as 'Spaw Sunday'. With a 'blessing' followed by music and dancing led by Ryburn Longswords, a picnic in Cragg Vale park, and Grand Finale at the Robin Hood Inn, this is an event for everyone, especially families.

Please come and join the celebrations on Sunday 4th May, meeting at the Park at 2pm, and help keep our old tradition alive!

BUY A YELLOW BIKE!

To raise money for their project, **Calder High School East African Playgrounds Uganda Project Visit** this summer, the sixth form students at Calder are selling yellow acrylic versions of our iconic yellow bike in two sizes A5 for £5, or small keyring (6cm) for £1, available from Robin Hood pub and Hebden Bridge Tourist Information or contact - Jake Smith: 07402 605605 theoriginalyellowbike@hotmail.co.uk



SPRING EVENTS

MARCH

25th March Steiner School Open Day

2.30 - 4.30 invitation to all to visit the School

27th March - 21st April Amateur Art

Exhibition (about bikes, cycling & Cragg Vale) in the Robin Hood Inn

29th - 30th March Big Spring Clean-up

teams of volunteers needed, see newsletter

APRIL

5th April Bike Fun 'n Games 10am - 12 noon: for children, at the Ark

The Grand Departs 12 noon: from St Michael's Myholmroyd. Guinness World record attempt, grand piano towed by cyclists up the Cragg Vale hill. Stops by the Ark, Robin Hood Inn and Cragg School/Hinchliffe Arms

Have a Go Bike Day 2pm - 4pm: bike event for adults, meet Robin Hood, 2pm

10th April Easter Café 12 - 2pm: to raise funds for Steiner School in third world countries - come and sample the food!

12th April - Tour de Cragg Treasure Hunt circular walk from the Hinchliffe Arms. Meet from 1.30pm-2pm at the Hinchliffe Arms to collect route and quiz sheets

21st April - 16th May - Photographic Exhibition in the Robin Hood Inn

MAY

4th May Spaw Sunday: meet 2pm at Cragg Vale Park to walk to the Spa. Music, dancing & picnic, grand finale at the Robin Hood Inn

16th May - 10th June Art Exhibition by children and our schools, Robin Hood Inn

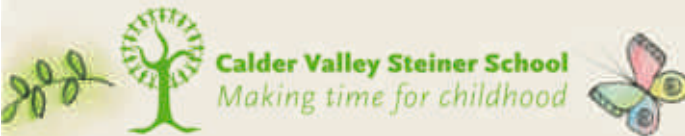
JUNE

10th June - 5th July - Art Exhibition Professional/experienced artists: exhibition in the Robin Hood Inn

20th - 21st June - Longest Ride on the Longest Day: 24 hour cycle event

21st June - Longest Choir on the Longest Day on the Longest Hill from 11am, starting by Cragg Vale Park. World Record attempt to sing the cyclists on their way!

Reg. charity no: 1090119



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100 Days of Art

in Cragg Vale

Calling all artists and potential artists!

As part of the 100 days cultural festival for the Tour de France across Yorkshire, we are holding our own '100 Days of Art' here in Cragg Vale. There will be four exhibitions, with paintings, photographs and illustrations all about bikes, cycling and, of course, Cragg Vale! The exhibitions will start on 27th March and each category will last for 25 days in a major display in the Robin Hood Inn and possibly other venues in Cragg Vale.

27th March to 21st April : Amateurs

In any media but it must be two dimensional

21st April to 16th May: Photographs

Must be printed and good quality

16th May to 10th June: Children & Schools

In any media but it must be two dimensional

10th June to 5th July: Professionals

For professional/experienced artists

All work must be presented ready for hanging with strings on the reverse side.

Work can be handed in at the Robin Hood Inn.

The best work from each of these exhibitions will form an exhibition to run from 6th July to the end of the Tour itself.

For more information, please contact Elaine Warwick Simpson at ews@craggvale.co.uk

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BROADHEAD CLOUGH – MARCH UPDATE

It's a while since I did an update and quite a lot of work has been done in the background rather than visible changes to the habitat. We have started surveying for the baseline of the reserve's 5 year management plan. Over the years the records will show whether the work done to the habitat has had an impact on the wildlife living in it.

Between April and July I tried to put into practice my bird identification skills and carried out the first "Breeding Bird Survey" to find out which species live there. On a very wet training day I learnt how to document not just the bird but its activity and if flying, in which direction. I felt reasonably confident but putting it into practice proved much more difficult. Once the leaves appeared you can't see very far and I had to learn to listen hard for unfamiliar birds. It helps that some do say their name, like "chiff-chaff", but telling a wood warbler from a willow warbler was tough! Listening taught me a lot more about the wood and despite my inexperience I recorded 33 different species with blackcaps and woodcock



amongst the more unusual. In 2012 a fungi survey found the meadows were a nationally important site for waxcaps. Last October YWT organized a fungi walk so volunteers could help seek them out. Although the grass had grown too long over summer for ideal conditions we found Parrot, Scarlet and many other waxcap species, smoky and orange fairy clubs and a spikey puffball. In the next few weeks the YWT are bringing in cows from their herd at Stirley Community Farm to graze it back. When cattle are here volunteer "stock checkers" will keep an eye on them each day. If you are interested in joining the rota I can send you details, or they can be found on posters on the track to the reserve, and in the notice board.

Workdays in the reserve will begin again in April. Dates will be posted on the web site www.ywt.org.uk/volunteer nearer the time. Click on the left hand tab for "Workday calendar -Volvox" to find the latest edition of the volunteers quarterly newsletter. Anyone not keen on practical tasks but interested in helping with surveys would be very welcome to help in 2014. Also if you want details about the stock checking please do get in touch. **Helen Pedley - 01422 886195**

HAVE A GO BIKE DAY

Many people have been enthused by the build up to the Tour de France's visit to Cragg in July. Some of the non or lapsed cyclist have expressed interest in having a go at riding all or part of the hill.

Interested? Craggvolo and sixth formers from Calder High School East

African Playgrounds Uganda Project are going to bring a small fleet of hybrid bikes to the Robin Hood and team you up with one of the experienced local riders to show you how to get going and guide you on your journey.

Contact: Jonathan Emberton of Craggvolo to book a place, **tel: 07792900971**

HELP: GARDENING PARTY NEEDED!

Once again we need a 'Gardening Party' to help with some weeding and planting in our Community Garden next to the Cragg Vale Park. We have been donated some lovely plants, all potted-up ready for planting, by a family who are emigrating to Australia! The garden has sprouted weeds again since our last efforts and these need to come out as

soon as possible. We also have some areas that could do with a bit of re-planting and some 'tender loving care'.

If you can spare any time at all – even a half hour helps – please contact Shirley Daniel email Shirley@jsd.me.uk or telephone **01422 883707**

NEWS FROM THE HINCHLIFFE

Valentines day has come and gone and Mother's Day is next on the calendar. The nights are getting lighter down here though and the first hardy birds have returned. The start of the year has been quite sad, we have held four Wakes already, it has been nice to see how well attended they have all been, and people seem to have been celebrating lost life instead of mourning their passing.

However, we have a new face, Deborah, to welcome to the Valley. She is from Tuscany and is staying with us for a few weeks to try and learn English a little better. I'm not sure if Cragg Vale is the right place for that. I am sure everyone will welcome her, and if there is anyone out there that can speak any Italian it would be really good for her to hear her native language.

Cheers all, Miles Laprell

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STEINER SCHOOL: NURTURING A SENSE OF WONDER

In the fast pace society we live in today so many profound and deep experiences get watered down by the hectic 'been there and done it' experience of the 21st century. In Steiner Schools we slow things down and remember the little but essential things in life: love, security, care of the environment, rhythm, respect and deep lasting relationships. The teachers help to enrich the children's minds through a broad curriculum of subjects imbued with stories, painting, nature, games and poems. The arbitrary aspect that can sometimes cloud learning is far away, as the classes approach each day with enthusiasm, joy, curiosity and a sense for the wonder of life.



www.caldersteiner.org.uk or look for Calder Valley Steiner School on Facebook.

Open Day Invite, March Tues 25th from 2.30 – 4.30pm

Prospective parents and local residents are invited to visit our lovingly restored home in the old Sunday school at St John's in the Wilderness, Cragg Vale. Staff and parents of current pupils will be on hand to show you round, and answer questions. Examples of children's work will be on display, and there will also be activities to join in with, and refreshments.

Rooms for hire

The School is happy for the rooms to be hired out, outside of school hours, for use for events or functions, evening classes, meetings etc. For details contact the school or **Jan Taylor: 07504 693497**

If you would like more information about the school or receive updates and information see:

LONGEST CHOIR ON THE LONGEST DAY

Calling anyone and everyone (all ages!) who fancies singing the cyclists on their way as they tackle the longest cycle ride on the longest day! Sign up for the longest choir in the world. Come and join the Association of British Choral Directors for a world record attempt. This will be a unique event for everyone in our community to form a line of singers along part of the route of the Tour de France. Meet at 11am on Saturday 21st June at Cragg Vale Park. Singers can form

their own groups led by a number of 'choir leaders', under the direction of Olwyn Pierce of Secret Singers Choir. Songs will be provided by email to learn ready for the day. The choirs will line the pavement at the Park and pavements along Cragg Road, hopefully as far as the school. Guinness World Records are fully involved – so come and help set a world record! You can reach the park and other points on the road on foot or by bus. To sign up and for further information contact **abcd.yorkshire@outlook.com**

THE GRAND DEPARTS 5TH APRIL 2014

How many cyclists does it take to pull a grand piano up Cragg Vale? We can find out on 5 April, when The Grand Departs takes up the challenge as part of the 100 day Yorkshire Festival celebrating the Tour de France's visit to the county this summer.

The brain-child of Hebden Bridge Piano Festival and Yorkshire-based arts company Imove, The Grand Departs is putting together a team of cyclists and pianists to take on this epic and musical feat of strength and endurance. A specially composed piece of music is being written to be performed throughout the climb by pianists of all levels of ability.

David Nelson, Director for the project said: "What better way to welcome 'Le Tour' to Yorkshire than with an audacious musical pedaling crazy adventure? This has never been done before – probably for a very good reason – but we're up for the challenge." A bespoke vehicle called a PianoPorté is being designed and built for the occasion by local sculptor Andy Plant. It will be powered by cycles, with a grand piano in tow, and will probably be as long as an articulated lorry.



The Grand Departs will start with a starting event at St Michael's Church in Mytholmroyd, from 11am on 5 April. It will start the climb up Cragg Vale at 12 noon and could take around five hours to reach the top. Rest and refreshment stops will be arranged for the journey, including at the Ark, the Robin Hood, and by Cragg J&I School (refreshments from the Hinchliffe)

You could even take part in the challenge. If you're a keen cyclist, a pianist, or would like to help out on the day, you can register to take part by contacting grand@imovearts.co.uk or visit www.imovearts.co.uk for more information.

CRAGG VALE LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

Many thanks to all for your continued support over the last year, we hope there's been something of interest for everyone in another very varied programme – Medicine and Magic, Part 1 of the Hinchliffes of Cragg Vale, The Lost Prince and the Girl from Halifax, a fascinating visit to Old Cragg Hall – to mention just a few! And the next (seventh) year's programme again promises entertainment, interest and good company!

THIS YEAR'S DIARY

March 20th 'World War 1 on the Home Front' with Ian Dewhurst

17th April Annual update (Subscriptions due!)

15th May 'Wainstall Waifs' with Kym Wynn

19th June Visit (to be arranged)

July No meeting

August No meeting

18th September 'The Hinchliffe family part 2' with Shirley Daniel and Roy Collinge

16th October Salts Mill & Saltaire with Maria Glott

20th November 'Stranger than fiction' with Joan Laprell

18th December 'Christmas Crackers'

PHOTOGRAPHS FOR 2015 CALENDAR

Would you like to support your local calendar – 2015 edition? Do you know some interesting/intriguing/quirky facts (or fiction) about our Vale? Have you any interesting/intriguing/quirky photographs, or could you take some?

Our plan for the 2015 calendar is to showcase the area especially for all the additional visitors and tourists expected to be attracted here because of the Tour De France. We want this 7th edition of the calendar to celebrate our community as much as is possible. We want to cover all the history, good and bad, ancient and modern, spiritual and secular.

We plan to have the calendar printed by June 2014 so need to have most of it finalised by May 2014.

So, if your answer is YES to one or more of the above questions please contact Margaret on 885068, or email marianne.hood@which.net with your ideas or contributions. Let's make this the best calendar yet!

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CRAGG BUILDERS LTD

In December of 2012, Harriett Sunderland took over the daily running of Cragg Builders Ltd from her father. So our spotlight is on Cragg Builders Ltd, a successful and well respected local building business and one of the few firms in the construction industry with a woman at its helm!

The Sunderlands have lived and farmed in Cragg Vale for several generations but in 1980 Trevor Sunderland changed direction and set up Cragg Builders. Growing from 'just a handful of workers', it is now a limited company employing 14 local people. Harriett started working there in 2008 and says she has "no idea" what made her move into this male-dominated industry. With a first degree in business and marketing, she talked it over with her dad and decided to find out if she'd like the work and be any good.

Initially employed as an estimator, Harriett studied for and gained a degree in Quantity Surveying – whilst at the same time giving birth to her son! Now in charge of the day-to-day running of the business, her work includes giving estimates, sorting out work schedules, and setting out details of how work is to be done. The



company's work ranges from small jobs, such as pointing or repairing gutters, to full conversions including work on listed buildings, and new build. With a NEBOSH ((National Examination Board in Occupational Safety and Health) Certificate in Health and Safety, she also oversees health and safety for all sites.

Harriett says an aim is to keep developing skills "in order to put something back into the community" and therefore apprenticeships are being developed, with two apprentices currently employed, one aged 16yrs and a 21yr old who has been with the company since he was 18 years of age. It's been important to her to be able to take the business forward because she knew that although her dad wanted to retire, he wanted the business to continue. She says that whilst she wants to develop the company, she doesn't want it to grow so big that it loses touch with the workforce, because knowing all the employees and their families has helped the business develop successfully.

Harriett says what she enjoys most is "seeing everything come together at the end of a job" and "the relationship with our customers". She carries out the important inspections at the end of the work herself to make sure it is what the customer wants: "Our relationship with our customers is the key to giving a personal service and to delivering the very best quality". Although proud of what she does, Harriett has one regret and concern – the lack of women applying for jobs! Although a woman is employed as a decorator, no women have applied for any recent jobs: "It's the 21st century but people are still surprised when a woman turns up to discuss and organise the work". She knows of women architects working in Hebden Bridge but hasn't met other women working in the construction industry. Whilst she hasn't been bothered about working in what she sees as a male dominated industry (she says this might be because at Cragg School she was the only girl in her class and when she did her degree there were only 3 other women!), she gets a bit irked when people assume she is taking over from her dad because she is an only child, or when people ask why her brother didn't take over the business!

She'd like to help children learn about possibilities for women as well as men to work in an industry so important to our economy and is keen to get the message out that there's no reason why women can't work in construction. She says "It's important for girls as well as boys to look at the possibilities for working in this industry" and would welcome an opportunity to go and talk to children in schools.

Finally, Harriett and everyone at Cragg Builders Ltd are looking forward to 'Le Tour' coming through the village "I'm very excited, it's a once in a lifetime opportunity, I think it'll be of great benefit to the local economy – and we want to support efforts to break the world bunting record!"



CHANGES IN OUR CHURCH UPDATE ON THE MAJOR RE-DEVELOPEMENT

A new chapter in the history of St John the Baptist in the Wilderness, Cragg Vale, is finally under way, after several years of discussion and planning. This is another major transformation to have taken place since it was built in 1839, as a replacement for the very first Chapel of Ease, opened in 1815, adjacent to our old Sunday School, now owned by Steiner. Our present church, in those early days, featured plain glass lancet windows; a different East window; three-sided gallery seating; some rather mediocre wooden boxed pews; a central three-decker pulpit and coal fired stove. A small organ was situated, with the choir, on the central rear gallery.

Around the late 1850's the original small organ was replaced by a larger Ward organ, purchased from Halifax Square Chapel. A new Vicar, the Rev. Brookes, appointed to

the parish in 1882, felt some updating was needed, such as re-pewing the church; and replacing the organ and the plain glass windows. In Oct 1886 work carried out included the removal of side galleries; enlarging the West gallery; altering the original Pulpit; and providing a platform for the organ, our current larger Abbott instrument, donated by the Hinchliffe family in memory of their children.

Changes incorporating new pews, new East window and stained glass lancet window and the reredos followed. The 1900's saw provision of electricity, choir vestry and later the re-order of the back of church.

In planning for the future, we want to maximise the use of the church as a place of worship and an asset for the community. A major factor in planning was the size of the

organ. It has been agreed, at Diocesan and National organ advisers level, that this organ could benefit from use in a larger building. Consequently we were allowed to get permission for it to be installed at an old Abbey church in central France, located in the Lot area, at Marcelhac sur C  re. This area is increasingly popular with English tourists, who will in the future benefit from our old organ. We expect it to be safely installed in its new home in March.

We are now almost in a position to start internal work along the lines of the plans and artist's impressions on display in the church, together with provisions for a smaller pipe organ. We'll have both modern church and community facilities, such as meeting rooms; catering facilities; and all services necessary for the next generations, as we progress into the 21st century.

Hugh Morgan

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'YEAR OF THE HORSE'!

On Friday 31st January, Cragg Vale Community Association welcomed in 'The Year of the Horse' by combining their Annual General Meeting with Chinese New Year celebrations in the upstairs room of the Robin Hood. Decorations including coloured glass, paper fans, dragons, horses, lanterns, and pictures, were made by Children from the Ark and the Steiner and



Montessori Schools, and food was provided by members and friends of the Association. All proposed amendments to the Articles of Cragg Vale Community Ltd, including reducing the required number of Committee Members and meetings, were passed unanimously. Several new members were voted on to the Committee: Judith Schofield who is helping with the 'Treasure Hunt' walks, Jan Taylor who is making sure our schools link into community activities, Kevin Cutts who, amongst other things, is continuing to keep an eye on the bus service, and Cllr Scott Trickett who provides a useful link into Hebden Royd Town Council.

A vote of thanks was given to those members stepping down after many years on the Committee, including Roy Collinge, Jude Hamlin and Liz Smith.

CRAGG BUSES: USE THEM OR LOSE THEM!

Thanks to the responses from Cragg Vale residents to Metro's bus consultation, we have got a good result for our buses. We have kept the Sunday service, the evening services, and some early services go into

Hebden Bridge station. But beware – Metro will fund this minibus network until August 2015 when value for money will be assessed. So if we don't use the buses we may lose them!

BIKE FUN 'N GAMES

Following the success of our first event last October, Calderdale's Bikeability Team has agreed to run another 'Bike Fun 'n Games' with the Community Association. It will be held as before in the car park at the Ark

(Dean Hey Farm Business Park) on Saturday 5th April from 10am until 12 noon. Children aged from 4 to 11 years are welcome and some balance bikes will be provided. There is car parking space and refreshments will be

TREASURE HUNT

We're having another 'Tour de Cragg Treasure Hunt' on Saturday 12th April, starting at 2pm. This time it will go around in a circuit, starting and finishing at The Hinchliffe Arms. The walk should take between 1½ and 2 hours. Quiz sheets will be available to collect from the Hinchliffe Arms from 1.45pm until 2.30pm and you must arrive back no later than 4.30pm.

Along the route there are small bikes to spot, indicating a stopping place to solve a puzzle and possibly find small rewards! All you have to do is spot each little bike, work out answers to the clues, and enjoy the hidden goodies!

The trail goes through some historic areas of Cragg Vale, through the woods and alongside the river with some steady, but not too energetic, uphill walking.

Refreshments, including tea, coffee and cakes, will be available at the Hinchliffe Arms when you return. You can park in the Hinchliffe car park or if you are walking and want to get the bus back home, the timetable will be available in the pub. Sturdy footwear is recommended for the stony and sometimes muddy tracks.

provided. Please let Marianne Hood 01422 885224; marianne.hood@which.net know who wants to come and their ages, as places will be limited to 20 children on a 'first come' basis.

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