

# Cragg News

ISSUE 5  
AUTUMN 2014



Kindly supported by  
Hebden Royd Town Council

## TOUR DE FORCE!

So many events, so many people, so much fun – and so much money raised for good causes!



### BYE, BYE, BUNTING

We did it! At 12,115m 83cm (39,750ft 1in), Cragg Vale holds the current Bunting World Record. The record was achieved on the 15th June 2014 at Craggs Country Business Park where the bunting had to be hung in one continuous piece and verified by independent adjudicators! It was then taken down and loaded onto large wooden drums before being hung the length of Cragg Vale in time for the Tour de France passing through the village. Special thanks goes to Craggs Energy for all their help, support, and use of their premises

Over 200 people contributed lengths of bunting to get the record, with the largest donation from Mrs Doris Hirst of a mile! A tremendous sight, it caused quite a stir,



with people visiting the valley just to see it and perhaps spot their piece. The stretch across the moor looked spectacular and was the subject of many photographs on Facebook. And having put it all up, it then had to come down, most of it on one of the wettest days in recent memory! Bunting collected was sold off at the Cragg Vale Country Fair, raising over £700 to be go to the Calder Valley Search and Rescue Team.

The bunting was a great success – bringing the community together, making the valley stand out as part of the Tour de France, attracting media coverage of the valley and bringing much-needed funds to a local cause. A huge thank you and well done goes to all those who took part.

## DONATION TO YORKSHIRE AIR AMBULANCE

The donations generously given by local residents making use of the parking spaces on 6th July provided by Roland Ramsden at Vale Mill raised £67.46 for the Yorkshire Air Ambulance Charity. The Yorkshire Air Ambulance operates two helicopters, one based at Nostell Air Support Unit near Wakefield, and one at RAF Topcliffe. Wherever the air ambulance lands in Yorkshire there is a hospital within 10

minutes flying time. This means that injured patients can be taken quickly and smoothly to hospital for specialist care. The Charity said "It is the goodwill, sponsorship and charitable donations that keep this vital service flying and therefore we are extremely grateful for all your support – without the generosity of people such as yourself we would be unable to continue this valuable work."

## AUTUMN EVENTS

### SEPTEMBER

**Cragg Vale J&I School** begin planning their environmental project at Redacre Mill

**10th Sep Broadhead Clough Working Day**  
Contact Helen Pegley 886195

**20th Sep Spooky Ghosty Night**  
Elva's party at the Robin Hood Inn

**Cragg Cakes at Heptonstall Festival!**

**27th Sep 'Cragg Fest'**  
Outdoors at the Robin Hood Inn from 1pm; food, bar, live bands

### OCTOBER

**1st Oct to 12th Nov Cragg Vale J&I School, after school**  
every Wednesday, signing classes for families

**2nd Oct Acoustic Music Session**  
Every 1st Thursday at the Robin Hood Inn, from 8.30pm, all musicians welcome

**11th Oct Garden Working Party**  
Cragg Vale Park from 2pm: all volunteers most welcome!

**21st Oct Steiner School Open Day**  
Steiner School from 2.30pm

### NOVEMBER

**12th Nov Pre School Open Day**  
The Ark, 9am to 4pm

**14th Nov Fund raising for 'Children In Need'**  
Cragg Vale Junior & Infant School

**30th Nov 'Festival of Light'**  
Cragg Vale Park, special community event with mulled wine, soft drinks and food, all invited – bring a lantern!

## 2015 "SO MUCH TO SEE" CALENDAR

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at the ark



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## FOREST SCHOOL AT THE ARK

Forest Schools provide a unique and fun learning experience.

Originally developed in Scandinavia to teach about the environment and the world around us, they provide stimulating, memorable and exciting experiences for children. Forest Schools have been recognised for helping children understand the importance of being healthy, staying safe, enjoying activities and making a positive contribution.

Forest School has been a great success at The Ark Nursery. Sessions take place in a woodland area which is in close proximity to the nursery and the Pre-school children can't wait for Mondays and Fridays to come round. They enjoy the wild open space, playing in the river, climbing trees, hiding in the willow den and best of all - playing in the mud! The children gain first-hand experience of learning about the seasons, wild life, plants and also have the opportunity to use a variety of different tools such as a bow saw and secateurs. Cooking outdoors is also great fun and very necessary after an hour or two

playing outside! The children have made a variety of delights on the open fire: garlic bread using hand-picked garlic from Mr McGregor's garden, scones, pancakes, roasted apples and even a chocolate cake baked inside an orange!. The Pre-school children have even had lunch at Forest School - sausages, jacket potatoes and gravy made in the Kelly kettle!

The children enjoy Forest School whether rain or shine. In the rain the tarpaulin is put up and the children can huddle together and keep warm, with a nice warm cup of hot chocolate.

The Ark also offers Holiday Club and Out of School care for children aged 4 – 14. Many of the Holiday Club children have also spent time at Forest School and thoroughly enjoyed their time there.

Forest School gives children a fabulous opportunity for active outdoor play and discovery and allows them to explore and develop their social, physical, intellectual and creative skills. Forest School also focuses on helping a child to develop independence, self-confidence and emotional skills.



## CRAGG VALE COUNTRY SHOW

Cragg Vale Country Show returned to the village and the Hinchliffe Arms for its second outing on Saturday 16th August. The drier weather was a big improvement on last year, although with gusting winds there were one or two exciting moments as marquees attempted to take off, and on one occasion a superb 'farmyard' entry in children's handicrafts from The Ark's pre-school group did prove that pigs could fly! Chris Chittell (Eric Pollard from Emmerdale) returned to open the show, and due to a slight misunderstanding - the organiser's brief was for 'short announcements' - Duncan McKie also returned this year as Master of Ceremonies. Teams from Cancer Research UK and Guide Dogs joined in the fun, along with the world-record bunting team who were selling by the metre for Calder Valley Search and Rescue.

Dawn Hartley took 'Best in Show' for 2014 with a very impressive tray of mixed vegetables and whilst overall, entries were down on last year, the calibre of entries this year was of a very high standard indeed.

Heartfelt thanks to absolutely everyone who contributed towards making our second Cragg Show happen. So whether you were organising, sponsoring, building, entering, cooking, serving, tidying up afterwards or investing your precious time in attending -THANK YOU - you helped ensure that over £1,000 was raised for our four charities on the day! Miles Laprell

## SUMMER TERM AT CRAGG VALE SCHOOL

The summer is always a busy time in school but it was especially so this year as we joined in the celebrations for the Tour de France. The children made bunting to donate for the Guinness Book of Records challenge, created some fantastic art work for the banner which we hung at the front of school and made four cyclist models to complete the display. A photograph of the final display appeared in The Telegraph.



On 21st June several children and their families participated in the longest choir event in Cragg Vale and the school choir formed part of the musical event held in Halifax town centre. The Tour was a fantastic, memorable experience for the children.

Noah and Luca Kelly, pupils at Cragg Vale, played a specially arranged piece on the piano that was pulled up Cragg Road prior to the Tour. They are pictured here with their piano teacher Mr David Nelson who composed the piece.

Reg. charity no: 1090119

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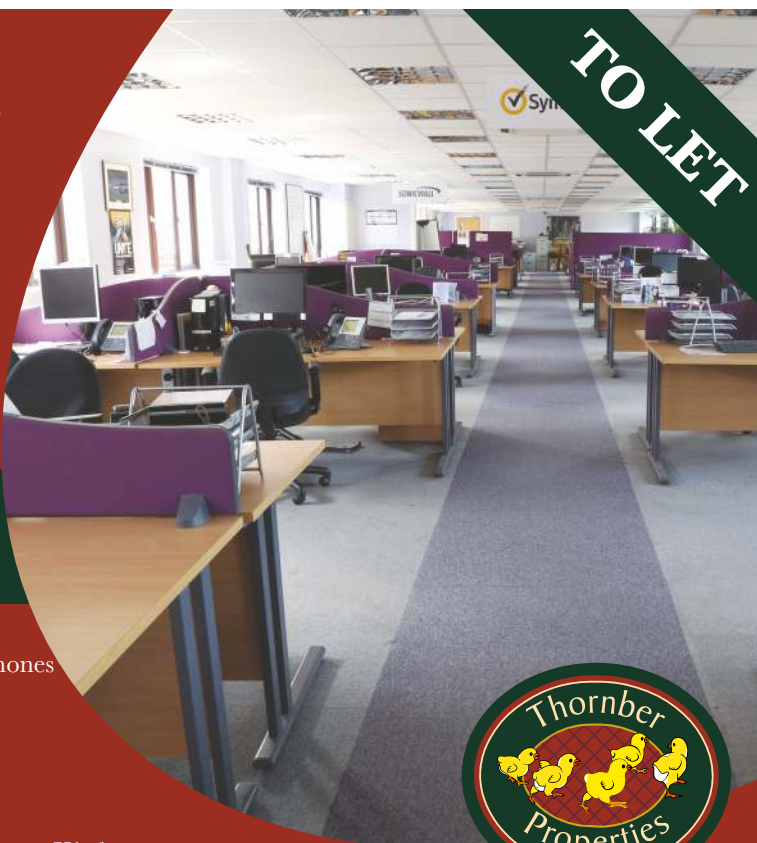
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# TURKEY LODGE TOUR FESTIVAL

Who would have thought it, an ex-pig farmer hosting a festival on his land at Turkey Lodge Farm to celebrate the Tour de France coming to our beautiful Cragg Vale!

Turkey Lodge Farm was once home to Stuart Rowntree's pig farming business, and the neighbouring Lloyds Animal Feeds chicken farm, formerly Thornber Chicks. Now a rural business park, owned by Mr Rowntree and sons, and the Bingham-Thornbers, it plays host to a range of businesses of all types and sizes.

The Turkey Lodge Tour Fest, organised by Little Valley Brewery, with a little help from their friends, brought together a mix of food and drinks businesses, live musical entertainment and over 500 visitors to Turkey Lodge. Sponsorship, both cash and in-kind was raised from a whole host of companies.

Little Valley was supported by Craggs Cakes, Suma Wholefoods, Royd Ices, The Real Cider Company, Porcus, Sweetie Memories, and Eat Me Drink Me who provided a range of delicious food and drink on the day.

The Suma Wholefoods truck acted as the stage for the live bands against a fantastic backdrop of Yorkshire moorland. The diverse musical acts were brought together by Dave Boardman of Doddnaze Artists. Southbound Attic Band kicked off the show, followed by Des Horsfall's Kushty Rye; then a brilliant debut by our very own Cragg Vale artist

James Oliver. The party really kicked in when the Terry Logan Band walked on stage; with the dancing continuing through for Mad Jack and the Hatters ending what was a perfect day!

Proceeds from the festival amounted to just over £860. This is to be donated to five groups in Calderdale. They are the Cragg Vale Community Association, the Todmorden Food Drop In, the Forget Me Not Trust, The People's PA, and Calder High School's Uganda Project.



Sue and Wim, owners of Little Valley, said of the experience: "our aim in organising this event was to put on a show that people would remember, and in doing so help bring together business owners, residents and visitors to the area. We're delighted that we managed to cover our costs and, therefore, raise a surplus to support the work of local groups. We could not have done this without the help and support from the festival sponsors, our fellow

business owners, people locally and our brilliant team of staff at the brewery. If Le Tour ever comes here again we may just hold another one. Never say never!"

Little Valley would like to thank: 4 J's Country Workspace, Print Bureau, Suma Wholefoods, Cresswells, NFU Mutual, Calder High School, Craggs Energy, Craggs Builders, George Sunderland, and members of Cragg Vale Community Association.

## CRAGG VALE LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

Well here we are once again off on another exciting blasts to the past with a full diary of speakers all willing to fill our appetite for the history of Cragg Vale and surrounding areas.

We set off in September with our own Shirley Daniel who will be telling us about the second part of the history of 'The Hinchliffe Family' in Cragg Vale.

Followed in October when Maria Glott speaks about the birth of 'Salts Mill', over in Shipley, Bradford.

November may be cold and dark but Mrs. Joan Laprell will brighten our evening with a talk on 'Stranger than Fiction' !!!!

As usual we celebrate the Christmas period in December with our extravaganza evening of 'Christmas cake, Crackers and Carols' and of course the usual mulled wine, mince pies and quiz.

January brings us Nick Wilding speaking about 'Movie Memorabilia' and his connection with the film industry.

'My Dad' in February is a look into the lives of some of the Fathers of Cragg Vale how they came to be there and what they got up to.

March winds may blow and we will be blown away with whatever Mr. Ian Dewhurst entertains us with as the subject is to be arranged.

And then there we are in April back to the beginning with our A.G.M. this time bringing in some Archaeology into the mix.

Things to come: Cragg Vale Tennis Club, Causways & Gate post and an insight to Percy Shaw of cats eyes fame.

So why not come and join us Membership is just £10.00 per year

We look forward to seeing you there  
The Team

### AUTUMN DIARY

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

**16th October** Salt's Mill and Saltaire with Maria Glott

**20th November** 'Stranger than Fiction' with Joan Laprell

**18th December** 'Christmas Crackers'

## BROADHEAD CLOUGH — SEPTEMBER UPDATE

This summer has been a welcome return to normal after the dreadful wet one of 2012 and the really cold spring in 2013. During the summer workdays we've mainly concentrated on bracken control in the top mire and in the grasslands to stop its spread and encourage the bilberry, heather and grassland flowers. Without the flowers and fruit for insects and small rodents there is no food chain to support the birds and larger mammals. The Wildlife Trusts management of habitat helps other wildlife charities achieve their aims. Here is one good example this year.

Yorkshire Barn Owls—2013 was a disaster - vole populations collapsed and there were many reports of dead owls and chicks. This year the Trust campaigned to restore grasslands used by barn owls for hunting and purchase new nestboxes. So far, thirty are being put up on YWT reserves and another twenty nestboxes are on order. Some will be passed to the Barn Owl Conservation Network for private landowners. There is one on land

near our reserve... will it attract them?

If you spot a barn owl anywhere in Yorkshire log the sighting at  
[www.barnowls.ywt.org.uk](http://www.barnowls.ywt.org.uk)

This summer I repeated the breeding bird survey in Broadhead. The series of 6 visits resolves itself into a pattern so each sighting of a familiar blue tit or a blackbird reveals their territory as the summer wears on. We still had a breeding pair of jays and a family of long tailed tits: but both had moved to different sites from last year. I heard woodpeckers again, (although this year their nest wasn't visible), but no tawny owl hoots even though they'd been there all winter. There was a literal "flying visit" from a pair of buzzards who didn't stay. Things change but overall it shows how our management is helping the bird population.

The next workday is Friday September 12th and the cows will be back during September



to graze off the grass before the fungi begin to spore. Other autumn dates will be posted on the web site

<http://www.ywt.org.uk/volunteer> nearer the time.

Helen Pedley, 886195  
[www.ywt.org.uk](http://www.ywt.org.uk)



**Yorkshire Wildlife Trust**



# ELAINE SIMPSON, PERSONAL TRAVEL COUNSELLOR

SPOTLIGHT ON  
BUSINESS IN CRAGG VALE

In 1976 Elaine came to live in Cragg Vale, with her then boyfriend, now her husband, Rod Bailey, and today she works from home as a Travel Counsellor.

Elaine has been a travel agent for over 38 years and self-employed for 21 of those years. She began in this field working for the Students' Union, running travel offices in Bradford and Salford Universities, booking travel for students and home travel for foreign students. She received training via the Students Union in Salford and by the time she finished she was a Manager responsible for 4 employees. Elaine said "the work just grew".

*"Elaine has been a travel agent for over 38 years and for 21 of those years she has been self-employed."*

For twenty years she worked in Hebden Bridge, running Progress Travel, her own business and for the last six years she's worked from home in Cragg Vale as a Travel Counsellor. 'Travel Counsellors' is the biggest and most successful travel home-working business in the world. Started in Bolton in 1994 by David Speakman, who is still the Chair, it is still a family business but now it exists in 7 different countries. With around 1,300 experienced travel agents as home-working Travel Counsellors, the organisation has won numerous awards,



the most recent was the 'Queen's award for International Trade'. Voted 'best travel agency' on many occasions by Guardian readers, it is highly respected throughout the travel industry. The majority of Elaine's business is to Australia. She is a Premier Aussie specialist, with clients referred by Tourism Australia, a country she has visited more than 20 times. She says "Australasia is a region with something for all tastes and budgets". The most unusual requests she has helped with were arranging visits to Ethiopia and Outer Mongolia, finding all the places around the world where someone could dive with sharks and all the places with

*"All her custom comes through referrals and Elaine has received 100% satisfaction for the past 12 months"*

geothermal activity!. With all her custom through referrals, in the past 12 months Elaine has received 100% satisfaction – in spite of her key involvement in the local bunting project! She said she really enjoys the work "you're always learning something, it changes all the time as people's desires change, it is never boring!"

Many people in Cragg Vale know Elaine through her interest in art – and of course the bunting project! She went to Art Colleges in Rochdale and Coventry, studying Fine Art, but 'dropped out', mainly because she didn't want to teach and couldn't see it leading to any work she wanted to do. However, she has kept up her interest in painting and drawing and used to run a life drawing class in the upstairs room of the Robin Hood Inn. She says the idea for the bunting happened "over a drink in the Robin Hood, it got out of control but has been fabulous!" Now the bunting work is over, she continues to be involved in the pub's art exhibitions where her aim is to have a 'rolling exhibition' involving other artists on their own or in groups and would like to do more involving the schools. Fulfilling the old adage about asking a busy woman, in spite of her other interests, Elaine doesn't see herself retiring for being a Travel Counsellor any time soon because she enjoys the work too much!

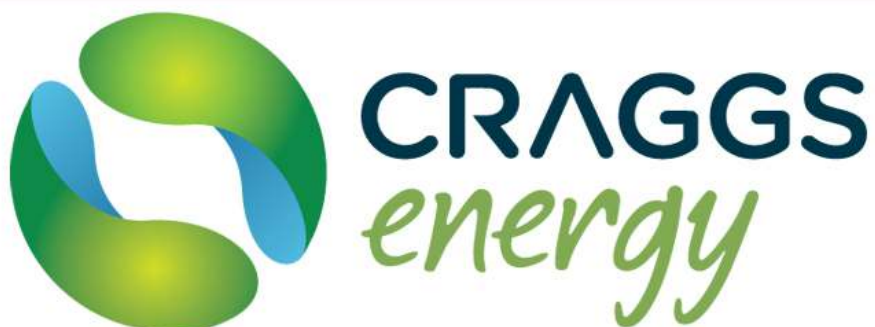


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