

Cragg News

ISSUE 6
WINTER 2014



Kindly supported by
Hebden Royd Town Council

CHRISTMAS 2014

ROUND ROBIN RIDES AGAIN

Back by popular demand! Once again, on Saturday 20th December, cyclists are invited to join the 'Round Robin' Christmas spiral.

Starting and finishing at the Robin Hood Inn Cragg Vale, this 75 km road ride gives cyclists the option of climbing the Cragg Vale hill once, twice, or, for the really keen, three times, returning each time through 3 different Sowerby hillside lane routes. There are options to 'bail out' at 25km or 50 km at the Robin Hood Inn in Cragg Vale where refreshments are being served throughout the day

Starting at 9am from the Robin Hood Inn Cragg Vale, the first spiral goes up to Blackstone Edge, then to Baitings, the Beehive, Mill Bank, Sowerby, Scout Road, back to Cragg Vale passing the Robin Hood (1st 'bail out opportunity!') and up to Blackstone Edge again, on to Baitings, Hollin Lane, Cottonstones, Hubberton,



Sowerby, Scout Road, Cragg Vale (2nd bail out chance!), Blackstone Edge, Baitings, Blue Ball Lane, Coal Gate, Hathershelf, Scout Road and finishing in Cragg vale at the Robin Hood for refreshments!

For further details contact Jonathan Tel 07792900971, craggvelo@gmail.com

FESTIVAL OF LIGHTS

Sun 30th Nov 2014 3.30pm – 5pm
Cragg Vale Park & Community Garden

Special Community Event to unveil the plaque in memory of Sylvia Hunt

LANTERN PROCESSION & SINGING
Bring a lantern – 'goodies' for each child with a lantern!

FREE REFRESHMENTS
Mulled wine, hot chocolate, mince pies

MEET IN
THE PARK
AT 3.30PM

WINTER EVENTS

NOVEMBER

29th Nov Cragg Vale J&I School Christmas Fair

11am – 2pm, Entry Free

29th Nov Calder Valley Steiner School Advent Fayre

11am – 3pm, Hebden Methodist Church

Cragg Cakes at Heptonstall Festival!

30th Nov 'Festival of Lights' & unveiling plaque

Cragg Vale Park, 3.30pm – 5pm: bring a lantern!

DECEMBER

Robin Hood Inn

Throughout December, special Christmas menu

5th Dec Christingle

St John's Church 6.30pm followed at 7.15pm by switching on the Christmas lights. Mulled wine, soft drinks, mince pies – everyone welcome!

18th Dec History Group Christmas Get-Together with a quiz, mulled wine and mince pies, 7.30pm

19th Dec Christmas Flower Festival

6pm St John's Church

20th Dec Round Robin spiral cycle ride

Starting 9am at the Robin Hood Inn

24th Dec Children's Crib Service

4pm St John's Church

31st Dec Special New Year's Eve steak night at the Robin Hood Inn

JANUARY

15th January History Group Movie Memorabilia with Nick Wilding. St John's Church, 7.30pm

24th Jan Burns Night

at the Robin Hood Inn, don't forget to book!

28th Jan CVCA Annual General Meeting

and 'Cragg Vale Quiz'

7.30pm Robin Hood, free buffet

FEBRUARY

14th Feb Valentine's Night at the Robin Hood

19th Feb History Group 'My Dad' with Yvonne Broadbent. at the Robin Hood

Cragg Vale Christmas Fair

Sat 29th Nov 11am – 2pm

Cragg Vale J & I School

Mulled wine and mince pies / Creative crafts with Julia Ogden / Face painting
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AUTUMN TERM 2014 CRAGG VALE SCHOOL

REDACRE PLANTING PROJECT

Cragg Vale School made the first of three visits in September to the Redacre site in Mytholmroyd to begin work on a planting project. Each class is going to research and decide on which plants will attract insects, particularly bees. The photograph shows one of our classes looking at the plot where their plants will grow and discussing a design



The 3 winners, Mabel, Sam and Tom.

CHILDREN IN NEED

The boys and girls at Cragg Vale supported this national fundraising day by dressing as Cooks and Chefs in support of our theme this year which was 'Be a Hero and Bake'. A cake decorating competition was held and the theme was 'Heroes'. Mrs Robertshaw, our school Kitchen Supervisor, kindly agreed to be the judge and prizes were awarded to the winners in each class.



A VISIT FROM THE MAYOR

On 23rd October Councillor Pat Allen visited school to present all the boys and girls who took part in the June Tour de France singing event in Halifax town centre with a special certificate. The School Council received the award.

NEWS FROM THE ARK

When the Cragg Vale Toddler group were looking for a new home, The Ark Day Nursery were delighted to be able to help. Since September, the play group have been using the sports hall at the nursery, giving the children plenty of room to run around! The play group takes place here at The Ark every Friday during term-time from 9.30am – 11.30am and everyone is welcome. For more details please call Cathy on 07720 715418 or Pip on 07939 085625.

The Ark Day Nursery chose to support the Forget me Not Children's Hospice earlier this year and have been raising funds through family barbeques and raffles. Several of the staff decided to enter the Major Series 5km obstacle trail race in September in order to boost funds further and they endured several very muddy hours, overcoming hills, water, obstacles and mud! This outstanding effort raised a further £600 to help a very deserving charity.



CRAGG FEST 2014

On Saturday 27th September hundreds of people had "the greatest day ever" enjoying 'Cragg Fest' in the field behind the Robin Hood Inn. The weather was perfect and the bands played music that got young and old alike up on their feet to dance! And, due to popular demand, the event will be repeated next year, so if you missed it.....!

"We want to say a big 'Thank You' to all the bands, the bands of helpers, and especially to our customers who made this event such a great success"

Elva, Roger and Joanne, the Robin Hood Inn

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COME AND HANG OUT AT

Bookings now being taken for the Christmas holiday!

Space

at the ark

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105 years ago...

An incident, where an accident happened and nearly involved Mrs Simpson-Hinchliffe, occurred in 1909. A portable engine was being taken on a wagon down Church Bank Lane, at the foot of which runs the brook, divided from the road by a wall.

Owing to the check chain on one of the wheels snapping, the horse was overpowered by the engine, which weighed over 4 tons. The driver, Mr E Crossley, did all he could to turn the horse round the bend in the road, but he was not successful. He just managed to jump over a low wall within a few feet of the brook and a moment later the horse and engine

crashed through the wall into the stream, the animal being killed.

Mrs Simpson Hinchliffe was being driven along the same road in a motor car at the same time, and as the chauffeur (Durdy) got round the bend in the road he was alarmed to see the engine coming down the incline towards him at a great speed. Seeing the danger, he promptly reversed his motor and backed into a place of safety just as the engine dashed through the wall. A moment's hesitation would have involved him and Mrs Simpson-Hinchliffe in the accident.

“the horse was overpowered by the engine, which weighed over 4 tons.”

CRAGG VALE HERITAGE TRAIL

The Cragg Vale History Society has been working with Pennine Heritage to develop a 5 mile walk from Sykes Gate to Mytholmroyd. This is one of a series of 'e-trails' developed by community groups around the Calder Valley. Each trail is available as an App which can be downloaded to a Smart Phone or Tablet and includes a map, walking directions, historical images, and audio commentary to take on the trail. A downloadable printed copy of the commentary is also available.

The Cragg Vale Heritage Trail takes you on a route that follows a wooded stream where you can see remnants of the area's rich industrial heritage.

You'll find out about: a site where, 10,000 years ago, Stone Age hunters were firing flint arrowheads; the importance of 13th Century rabbits, and 1930s chicks; and the Million Pound Church! You'll see how this tranquil valley pulsed with industry, noise and smoke from 11 busy mills; and you'll be brought right up to the present day with the new business park made from chicken sheds!

The paper guide will be available at Hebden Bridge tourist info and The Bookcase, the Robin Hood pub, and other places locally, and the App (with map, walk directions, audio commentaries and historical photographs) will be available to download. For more info see: www.pennineheritage.org.uk/Trails/Download-a-Trail

Cragg Vale LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

When Cragg Vale Community Association was formed we, the locals, were asked what we would like to be involved in. Several people suggested the history of our area and thus the History Group was formed. We agreed that if, some time in the future, we ran out of ideas for talks, the Group would be wound up. That was six and a half years ago!!

Our 'Year' keeps the same format: ten monthly meetings excluding July and August (the holiday season) with a visit to a local house in June. We've been to Old Cragg Hall, Higher House and Peel House in Luddenden. In December we have a festive Christmas 'Do' with a quiz, mince pies and mulled wine.

The History Group is very informal with some talks researched and given by our committee members. Topics have included the Hinchliffe family, Withens Reservoir, and the valley's mills. Meetings start at 7.30pm and we ask speakers to talk for about an hour. Then we have tea, coffee, biscuits, and a chance to catch up with friends and neighbours.

We appreciate that the dark nights and transport problems might put people off but lifts can be arranged so no-one is excluded. What does all this cost I hear you say? Membership is £10 per year or if you'd like to try us out it's £3 as a visitor. You can see that membership is a bargain! Members come up from Mytholmroyd as well as Cragg Vale so how about giving it a go? All are welcome and we'd love to see you.

Jane (Frechette) Tel 882619

WINTER DIARY

We'll be in the Church for the foreseeable future, 7.30pm start, lifts available if required, tea & coffee afterwards.

18th December Christmas Get-Together with a quiz, mulled wine and mince pies.

15th January Movie Memorabilia with Nick Wilding

19th February 'My Dad' with our very own Yvonne Broadbent

19th March the annual return of Ian Dewhirst. He hasn't told us what he'll be talking about but he's always very amusing.

BROADHEAD CLOUGH

November update

The mild weather this autumn has meant muted colours rather than brilliant red and yellow leaves, but I was surprised to see a vivid blue harebell and a red clover in the meadows in October.

One great advantage flowers have for most nature lovers is that once you see them, they stay still, and often flower in the same place year after year. Unfortunately, this is declining and the wildflower meadows which older "Craggers" remember are now much rarer. Changes in land use, climate and invasive species are all affecting our native flora. Here are three different ways that organisations are trying to help flowers in our area.

1. BLOOMING MEADOWS

Since the 1940s the UK has lost 97% of its wildlife-rich grasslands due to agricultural improvement, neglect or development. However, what remains can be incredibly wildlife-rich if managed in the right way. The charity for wild plants, Plantlife is celebrating surviving meadows and aims to create at least one new one for every county- see <http://coronationmeadows.org.uk/about>. YWT already manages the designated "rich" meadow for West, South and East Yorkshire: now Rossington Carr fields at the trust's Potteric Carr reserve has been nominated as a recipient meadow. Stirley Community Farm is also restoring and creating 25 hectares of its wildflower meadows. Spreading "Green hay", harvested seed or cattle dung from donor sites will all help spread the flora onto

recipient sites. Having their cows to graze here might improve our meadows too.

2. ROADSIDE VERGES

The Royal Horticultural Society is campaigning for councils to make improvements in the management of roadside verges. These strips of land are seldom disturbed and wild flowers can thrive if left to grow and set seed before they are cut. Wakefield council has already signed up – let's encourage Calderdale too!

3. INVASIVE SPECIES

Unfortunately all this can be undone by non-native "thugs". One or two "pretty" plants can spread from seed or any tiny portion of root or stem. The two biggest culprits are Himalayan Balsam and Japanese Knotweed. They are so concerning that the Environment Agency has launched "Plant Tracker" to spot and pay to destroy them from river courses. I saw a team by Dauber Bridge setting out with chemical injections for Knotweed that could get in the Calder catchment.

We have a new reserve officer Kara Jackson who has fixed a regular workday. This will be the first Friday of the month unless it's affected by bank holidays and so in January 2015 it will be on the 9th. There's always a lot to do, so we hope to have some volunteer led work parties to do the easier tasks without Kara. Keeping the path in good condition and bracken control are never ending so a little and often is best. If you'd like to help for a couple of hours do get in touch.

Helen Pedley, 886195

CVCA ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING & 'CRAGG VALE QUIZ'

Come and join us at 7.30pm in the Robin Hood Inn for a free buffet and take part in our 'Cragg Vale Quiz'.

Find out about the work of CVCA, what we have planned so far for 2015 and help us to identify priorities for action.

One of the projects we hope to complete in late Spring or early Summer is the installation of some 'story boards' along the Cragg Vale Heritage Trail. This trail, from Sykes Gate to Mytholmroyd, provides opportunities to see not only remnants of the many mills but also the many birds, trees, and flowers that make Cragg Vale such a special place. Children in our local schools have been asked to help provide some of the pictures to illustrate the boards and the History Group and Pennine Heritage are helping with historical background information.

The other priority, in response to numerous requests following the Tour de France, is for us to organise some 'fun' events to bring everyone in the community together again in the summer.

New Committee Members are always most welcome, but if you would like to help – in any way at all – we would love to hear from you!

RE-LIVING THE SPIRIT OF TDF IN CRAGG VALE

So many people came together and had such a good time on 6th July that the Community Association has been asked to try and organise something for the summer of 2015. So far we've received a whole raft of ideas for 'fun' events. Details of suggestions will be coming out in the New Year once the Christmas festivities are over. We'll be looking for ideas for activities - and for people to get involved from Mytholmroyd to Cragg Vale --- watch this space!!

Meanwhile, if you are interested or have ideas, please let CVCA Secretary Marianne Hood know: 01422 885224, marianne.hood@which.net



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