

# Cragg News

ISSUE 9  
AUTUMN 2015



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Hebden Royd Town Council

## BETTER BROADBAND

Following years of frustration with lack of decent internet speeds in Cragg Vale, a community meeting was held in July to seek a solution.

It would seem BT have no plans to provide a network any time soon, so alternative solutions are being considered. One option being tested higher up Cragg Vale, is sharing the existing Leased Line internet link at The Craggs Country Business Park. This link supports all businesses on the site, plus around 10 other homes and businesses via wireless links, with speeds between 20Mb and 50Mb. Chris Bingham, MD of Craggs Country Business Park, offered to look at a full roll-out of the network to cover anyone who wanted it within Cragg Vale. Since then, discussions have been held with BT, Daisy (the ISP), Calderdale, SuperFast Broadband West Yorks and a range of suppliers who might help build the wireless network. Chris said: "We now know the network can be built, but before committing investments to move ahead (the set up bill will be around £15/20k) I need some commitment from people in Cragg Vale who would

benefit from such a service. Please can as many people as possible say if they would like the service, assuming I can get enough support to make it viable"

He is not expecting anyone to formally commit at this stage, but, on the basis of a high quality, stable internet link service provided via a wireless feed at speeds of between 8Mb and 20Mb, unlimited, for a cost of around £30 +VAT per month (with potential to provide other packages with lower and higher costs and speeds), how many businesses and residents would want to take part? He said "I'm looking at various

funding options to reduce costs and risks, but the more commitment we get, the better the chance of getting the numbers to add up. What I can say is that I've no doubt this project can work, regardless of levels of funding available, I just need to get enough people on board to support it!"

If you would like your home or business to be included in the project, please register your interest on the Craggs website - [www.thecraggs.net/contact](http://www.thecraggs.net/contact) Fill in the contact form, use the subject "Fast Broadband" and Chris will collect the details.

*"I just need to get enough people on board to support it!"*

## AUTUMN EVENTS

### SEPTEMBER

**Friday 4th September Broadhead Clough**, volunteers needed to help improve the habitat. Meet at 10am, contact Helen Pedley YWT, 886195 for information

**Thursday 17th September Cragg Vale History Society** 'An evening with Frank Woolrych', 7.30pm in the Steiner School

**Sunday 27th September Cragg Vale Heritage Treasure Hunt Walk** Free event for all ages, 2pm meet at the Hinchliffe Arms, collect question sheets, follow part of the Heritage Trail & return to the Hinchliffe Arms by 4pm for prizes

### OCTOBER

**Thursday 1st October Traffic Campaign Follow-up** Meeting at 7.30pm in the upstairs Community Room at the Robin Hood with Calderdale's Lead Officer and Cllr Simon Young - EVERYONE INVITED!

**Friday 2nd October Broadhead Clough**, volunteers needed to help improve the habitat. Meet at 10am, contact Helen Pedley YWT, 886195 for information

**Saturday 3rd October Bike Fun 'n Games** Free event for children aged 4yrs to 11 yrs, 10am - 12 noon, the Hinchliffe Arms car park with refreshments for children and any audience. Contact CVCA Secretary Marianne Hood [marianne.hood@which.net](mailto:marianne.hood@which.net)

**Thursday 15th October Cragg Vale History Society** 'Guideposts, Crosses & Causeways' with Geoff Boswell, 7.30pm in the Steiner School

### NOVEMBER

**Friday 6th November Broadhead Clough**, volunteers needed to help improve the habitat. Meet at 10am, contact Helen Pedley YWT, 886195 for information

**Friday 6th November Community Bonfire**

**Wednesday 11th November The Ark Open Day:** 9am - 4pm.

**Thursday 19th November Cragg Vale History Society** Percy Shaw 'The Cats' Eyes Man', with Glenda Rosemount, 7.30pm in the Steiner School

**Sunday 29th November 'Festival of Lights'** Cragg Vale Park, 3.30pm, special community event with singing, mulled wine, soft drinks, and cakes, all ages invited - bring a lantern!

### DECEMBER

**Friday 4th December Broadhead Clough**, volunteers needed to help improve the habitat. Meet at 10am, contact Helen Pedley YWT, 886195 for information



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at the ark

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**BE YOURSELF**



## STORY BOARDS UNVEILED!



On the afternoon of Thursday, 2nd July, over 70 people including residents, business representatives, teachers, and children from our two schools, the Cragg Vale J&I School and the Calder Valley Steiner School, came to see the unveiling of the Cragg Vale Heritage Trail story boards.

Three local Councillors officiated: Cllr June Cammack from Hebden Royd Town Council, local Calderdale Councillor Simon Young and Cllr Steve Sweeney, Calderdale Council Cabinet Member for Communities. It was not until Cllr Sweeney called out the names of the children that details were finally revealed of whose pictures had been

chosen! All the children's pictures, whose ages ranged from 5 to 11 years, were on display in the pub and a presentation was made by CVCA to each of the schools to thank them for the children's excellent work.

Refreshments were provided by the Hinchliffe Arms and JW Lees Brewery, CVCA would like to thank them for helping make it such a special and successful event. We also want to thank Hebden Royd and Calderdale Councils and Craggs Energy for the financial support that enabled us to produce the boards and to say a very big thank you to all the children for all the lovely pictures!

## TACKLING SPEEDING TRAFFIC

Following the petition we circulated and the discussion organised by the Community Association in April, we've organised an open meeting for all residents on **Thursday 1st October** in the upstairs Community Room at the Robin Hood at 7:30pm with the Lead Officer from Calderdale and Cllr Simon Young. This is your chance to make sure the Council and the Police tackle the traffic issues in Cragg Vale.

**"ALL THESE FACTORS MUST BE ADDRESSED BY THE COUNCIL AND THE POLICE TO ENSURE THE ROAD IS SAFE FOR EVERYONE TO USE"**

The nature of road users through Cragg has changed over recent years, with a big increase in cyclists, walkers, and horse-riders. We now also have two well-attended schools in the village with more young children near or on the road. The introduction of the Cragg Vale Heritage Trail is likely to create further increases in numbers of people walking along the road. All these factors must be addressed by the Council and the Police to ensure the road is safe for everyone to use.

Come to the meeting and help us make Cragg Vale safer for everyone.

### THE PROBLEMS YOU TOLD US ABOUT INCLUDE:

- **Traffic exceeding speed limits, especially along stretches of road with no pavement, and dangers for people with children and pushchairs.**
- **Lack of enforcement of current limits.**
- **Dangerous overtaking by bends and blind corners.**
- **Inconsistency of current speed limits and inappropriate changes in limits.**
- **Damage to parked cars by reckless drivers.**
- **Increases in the number of very large vehicles trying to use the road.**
- **Increases in traffic on the 'top road' (Sowerby New Road) and lack of proper passing places on single track stretches.**

All issues raised are passed on to the Council and the Police.

## HERITAGE TREASURE HUNT

Come and find hidden 'treasure'! Our Heritage Treasure Hunt on Sunday 27th September starts from the Hinchliffe Arms. You can drive and park at the pub or catch the 901 bus and walk down Church Bank. The route begins at the historic Hinchliffe Arms, originally the Cragg Vale Inn, whose details feature on the story board outside the pub. As you follow the clues you will discover a little more about our history and heritage, and, if you are lucky you might see some of the birds and animals depicted on the boards.

Treasure hunters are invited to arrive at around 2pm to collect quiz sheets. The route, which will take no longer than 1 ½ hours, is not too taxing but good walking shoes are recommended as the ground is rough and might be muddy in places! Prizes will be handed out back at the Hinchliffe at around 4pm, so don't be late! For any further information contact CVCA Secretary Marianne Hood  
[marianne.hood@which.net](mailto:marianne.hood@which.net)



## BIKE FUN 'N GAMES!

Following the success of our 'Bike Fun 'n Games' events, and in response to popular demand, Calderdale Council's Bikeability Team has agreed to run another event for the Community Association. This time it will be held in the car park at the Hinchliffe Arms from 10am until 12 noon on Saturday 3rd October

Youngsters can come to improve skills and demonstrate just how well they can ride and control their bikes. Maybe we will be able to develop our own 'team' for the Tour de Yorkshire! Everyone is welcome, refreshments will be provided for anyone coming to watch and parking for cars will be available

There will be a special track and obstacle course, and some 'balance bikes' available for any young people just learning to ride. Children aged from 4 to 11 years of age are invited to attend. Please let the Secretary of the Community Association, Marianne Hood (tel 01422 885224, email [marianne.hood@which.net](mailto:marianne.hood@which.net)) know who wants to come and their ages. Places will be limited to the first 20 children on a 'first come' basis



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# ERRINGDEN DEER PARK

In Medieval times, Erringden Deer Park, on Erringden Moor above Broadhead Clough, was home to hundreds of deer. It was established around 1331 by descendents of Sir William de Warenne, who fought with William the Conqueror at the Battle of Hastings in 1066.

A deer park was probably the ultimate Medieval status symbol. Erringden, covering 3,000 acres of hillside above Hebden Bridge, was one of the largest in the country. The park was ditched and paled around its perimeter to keep deer in and intruders out. Deer, kept mainly for the hunt, belonged to the Lord of the Manor, venison could not be bought or sold locally.

The park was not popular with people struggling to make a living from the land. "Park-breakers" would deliberately trespass but penalties for trespass or poaching were severe!

Within the deer park boundary, to the east of Erringden Moor, is possibly one



of the oldest settlements - Bell House thought to exist as far back as the 1300s. It is said a bell was used to call the deer together for feeding, and this gave the name to Bell House, famed as home to the leader of the notorious 'Cragg Vale Coiners'.

It is still possible to see clear signs of the boundary features that formed the deer park such as ditches, banks, and some of the S marked boundary stones.

**Roy Collinge, Cragg Vale Local History Society**

# NEW HEAD FOR CRAGG VALE SCHOOL

Cragg Vale bid 'farewell' to Carole Lobley, who retired as Head of Cragg Vale J&I School at the end of the Summer Term, and welcomed in Kate Shepherd as the new Head. Kate, who previously taught in Leeds, has been teaching in Cragg Vale School for six years. She said "I am delighted to be Headteacher for the next academic year. Cragg Vale is a vibrant and unique small school at the heart of the local community and I am looking forward to working with the pupils, staff and parents to continue the school's successes and fulfil our school motto of 'helping pupils be all that they can be.'



Kate with children from Cragg School in the 'Great Cragg Bake Off', a school fund-raising event for Children In Need

# NEWS FROM THE ARK

With the end of the summer in sight, thoughts turn to returning to school. At The Ark Nursery, we will be opening our doors again on September 7th to our funded Pre-schoolers. The government currently provides up to five three hour sessions for children between the ages of 3 and 4 years. This free care is only available during term-time and commences the term following the child's third birthday.

At The Ark, we offer the possibility to do two sessions a day and stay for lunch, providing care from 9am - 4pm and giving the children the opportunity

to start preparing for a full school day and the challenges it can bring. With the addition of Forest School twice a week on Mondays and Fridays for pre-school, the children benefit from spending time outdoors, learning about the environment and developing confidence and independence.

Along with highly qualified staff, our Pre-school room also has an Early Years Teacher. Early Years Teachers plan and carry out activities in line with the requirements of the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS). Their

## Cragg Vale LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

All meetings start at 7.30pm and are held in the Steiner School, charge for visitors is £3 - or why not become a member?

For details contact Jane Frchette Tel 882619

### UPCOMING EVENTS

**17th September** An evening with Frank Woolrych.

**15th October** Guideposts, Crosses & Causeways' with Geoff Boswell.

**19th November** Percy Shaw 'The Cats Eyes Man', with Glenda Rosemount.

## Calder Valley Steiner School

## parent & child group

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role is to develop the social and communication skills of children and provide a safe and secure environment in which the child can learn. Focussing on optimum child development and preparation for a successful transition to primary school education, our teacher plans and assists staff in developing activities to motivate children and imaginatively using resources to help them learn, focussing on learning through play.

Our doors are always open should you want to come and see the Pre-school Room in action. Alternatively why not come along to our Open Day on Wednesday 11th November 9am - 4pm.



SPOTLIGHT ON  
BUSINESS IN CRAGG VALE



# The Hinchliffe

**H**ere at The Hinchliffe we are proud of our freshly cooked and imaginative dishes brought together by our fantastic team of chefs and our front of house colleagues. The products are sourced as local as possible some being from the Cragg Valley itself. We always ensure our food is freshly cooked, tasty and delicious. Our food and drink can be enjoyed in front of one of our open fires in the winter or in our outside dining area in the summer – we're set up for all seasons and the inclement British weather.

The Hinchliffe Arms itself was built around 1820 on the original site of The Cragg Vale Inn, which was demolished to build the present day country pub. Our cellar is older than the current pub and dates back to the early 1700's, when the original pub was built.

In the same decade as The Hinchliffe was built, a mill owner called John Lees built the JW Lees Greengate Brewery. JW Lees is wholly a family owned brewery based in Middleton, just 18 miles from Cragg Vale. JW Lees Bitter was first brewed nearly 180 years ago and is still their most famous beer to this day, the range has grown and now they brew six permanent cask ales and eight seasonal beers, all using the very



finest ingredients including malted barley from Yorkshire.

The name of the pub comes from the Hinchliffe family, who were the mill owners in the valley and lived at Old Cragg Hall which is set just up behind the pub, there are pictures in the hallway of our pub if you want to take a look. The heritage and history of the pub are very important to us but we also recognise we must move with the times, so this autumn we are going to give the pub a sympathetic makeover ensuring we are enhancing its best features and also keeping the pub looking well loved.

We very much hope you take a moment to visit The Hinchliffe Arms and enjoy our homemade food and real cask ales in a unique and historic country inn.



## Yorkshire Wildlife Trust

### Broadhead Clough August 2015 update

I hope everyone is taking the opportunity to get out and about when the weather allows it? All the rain has made grass and leaves grow lush and abundant, the grass in the fields is so high it's quite hard to spot the five cows from Stirley Farm who are currently with us. They are barely keeping pace with it growing as fast as they can eat, and sometimes are completely hidden from view when lying down!

The bracken is back with a vengeance – despite our best efforts it is really high this year but providing great cover for fawns, as well as Woodcock, and possibly Twite.

I completed the Breeding Bird survey again. Most of our usual birds remain present, including the Cuckoo which was in good voice again. One new species spotted was the Tree Creeper who lives up to its name running up trunks and along branches of mature trees – only the movement gives them away. Another elusive bird left signs of its presence – the plucked feathers and beak of a blackbird showed a Sparrowhawk had been about.

Autumn is always a good time to visit the reserve for beautiful coloured foliage and fungi. Now the Community Heritage Trail has board 6 at the start of the track up to the reserve, why not take a look if you've never been before. Keep walking up the concrete track following the MWA children's roundels until you reach the sign board.

For anyone interested in helping improve the habitat we meet at 10a.m. on the first Friday of the month: September 4th, Friday 2nd October, Friday 6th November and Friday 4th December.

**Helen Pedley, 886195**

[www.ywt.org.uk](http://www.ywt.org.uk)

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