

Cragg News

ISSUE 11
SPRING
2016

www.craggvalecommunity.co.uk

SPAW SUNDAY 1st MAY

Since medieval times, people in Cragg Vale have had no need to travel to spa towns such as Buxton, Harrogate or Bath to "take the waters."

We have our very own 'spaw' (northern dialect), right here, reputed to be at least 300 years old! It was the custom for people to gather at the spa in early spring, whether or not the (sulphurous!) water had a medicinal effect is debatable but there are anecdotes of its curative and restorative properties.

"reputed to be at least 300 years old! It was the custom for people to gather at the spa in early spring"

In 1906, a report of a pilgrimage to the Cragg Spa noted numbers were becoming fewer and only 500 people went on to the White House where the Hebden Bridge Band was playing!

On 1st May 2010 Cragg Vale Community Association restarted 'Spaw Sunday' as an annual event with music, dancing, a blessing of the water and a community picnic. We're not likely to see 500 people at our celebrations on Sunday 1st May 2016 - the Community Association would have difficulty feeding them all! However, everyone, of any age, is invited to join in - and you don't actually have to 'take the waters'!

Meet at the Hinchliffe Arms at 2pm for music and dancing from Ryburn Longswords, then join the procession from St John's Church across the field, to the Robin Hood, and on to the spa. If anyone wants a shorter walk, simply wait at the Robin Hood Inn until the procession comes past and join us for a short walk down the path to Spa Laithe Farm and the spa.

The blessing takes place at around 2.30pm, followed by the picnic before going to the Robin Hood for more music and dancing.

BIG SPRING CLEAN UP!

Once again, Cragg Vale Community Association is taking part in the Big Spring Clean.

Organised by Hebden Royd Town Council, this year's event is on Saturday 19th and Sunday 20th March 2016.

For every team of 6 people who take part, the Town Council donates £60 to the Community Association. We'd

like to organise two or three teams to help clean-up Cragg Vale - so we are looking for volunteers!

Let's get together and make sure Cragg Vale looks its best for Easter.

Please put the date in your diary and let the Community Association's Shirley Daniel 01422883707 or Secretary Marianne Hood 01422885224 know if you can help.

SPRING EVENTS

March

Friday 4th March Broadhead Clough, volunteers needed. Meet at 10am, contact Helen Pedley YWT: 886195 for information

Sunday 6th March - Mother's Day Special menus, Robin Hood & Hinchliffe Arms

Thursday 17th March Cragg Vale History Society 'Salt's Mill Part 2' with Maria Glott, 7.30pm in the Steiner School

Saturday 19th & Sunday 20th March 'Big Spring Clean Up' Volunteers needed, contact Marianne Hood 885224 or Shirley Daniel 883707

Sunday 27th March Easter Sunday Special menus, Robin Hood & Hinchliffe Arms

Monday 28th March Hinchliffe Arms Easter Bonnet Competition and Parade, with PRIZES for the best bonnets!

April

Friday 1st April Broadhead Clough, volunteers needed. Meet at 10am, contact Helen Pedley YWT: 886195 for information

Sunday 10th April Cragg Vale Heritage Treasure Hunt Walk. Free event for all the family. Meet 2pm, Hinchliffe Arms, follow trail to arrive Robin Hood Inn 4pm for prizes! Contact Marianne Hood, CVCA for information: 885224

Thursday 21st April Cragg Vale History Society Annual Update, with speaker Ian Dewhirst, 7.30pm in the Steiner School

May

Sunday 1st May Spaw Sunday, meet 2pm at the Hinchliffe Arms, process to the Spa for 2.30pm for picnic, then to the Robin Hood, with music and dance from Ryburn Longswords

Monday 2nd May Cragg Vale J&I School, May Day Fete, duck race, Maypole dancing, hog roast, lots of stalls from 11am

Friday 6th May Broadhead Clough, volunteers needed. Meet at 10am, contact Helen Pedley YWT: 886195 for information

Thursday 19th May Cragg Vale History Society Yvonne Broadbent 'St John's Church' 7.30pm in the Steiner School

For more news and information see our website www.craggvalecommunity.co.uk

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News From The Ark: If you go down to the woods today...

The recent bad weather hasn't stopped the Pre-school children from going to Forest School!

Watching from a safe distance, the children have been fascinated by the changes in river height and each visit they try to predict whether the river will be up or down.

The heavy rain leaves the site quite boggy at times, but mud never stops children from having fun! They love the mud slide they helped to make and have just as much fun trying to climb up the muddy sides to the top before whizzing down. Whilst the staff take tarpaulin to Forest School to create

shelters for the children, they have been busy building a wooden den to play and hide in.

It's not just the children who need a place to shelter, the Forest School fairies need a new home after all the bad weather blew their old house away! The children collected sticks and twigs and carefully built them a new home and the fairies even appeared to say thank you.

"the Forest School fairies need a new home"

Despite the cold and wet weather, the children found a lone daffodil at Forest School in the middle of February – a sure sign of better things to come!

CVCA NEWS

Committee Members

At the Annual General Meeting on 27th January, we reluctantly accepted the resignation of one of our longest serving Committee Members, Hugh Morgan. Hugh has been a dedicated supporter of all our activities since our formation, providing a valuable link to St John's Church. Although he will no longer be a Committee Member, Hugh promised to continue to help whenever he can – and our special 'thank you' present to him should mean we see him regularly in the Robin Hood! However, although we lost Hugh, we gained a new Member, Pete West, who many will know from his stalwart efforts with the bunting project! We are very pleased to welcome Pete who has helped get our website

www.craggvalecommunity.co.uk into much better order!

Bid for Charitable Status

The AGM agreed unanimously that we should go ahead with our bid for charitable status. In order to take our bid forward we had to change our constitution to make sure our 'objects' are charitable. This involved moving some details into our 'powers' – so we will still keep to all the commitments we gave – via a 'Special Resolution' which was also passed unanimously. Thanks to everyone who came to give us their support – and a very big THANK YOU to Jonathan Emberton who livened up the evening with an excellent 'Cragg Vale Quiz'. As Jonathan has agreed to help us again we promise we will run another Quiz in a few months' time!

Springtime Heritage Treasure Hunt: Sunday 10th April 2016

We are having another 'Cragg Vale Heritage Treasure Hunt' on Sunday 10th April, starting at 2pm at the historic Hinchliffe Arms, originally the Cragg Vale Inn, whose details feature on the story board outside the pub. Treasure hunters are invited to arrive at around 2pm to collect quiz sheets.

This is a free Treasure Hunt for all the family, especially children. 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!

As you follow the clues you will discover a little more about our history and heritage, and, if you are lucky, see some of the birds and animals depicted on the Heritage Trail boards.

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



It is not too taxing but sturdy footwear is recommended as the ground is rough and might be muddy in places!

The route, which will take between 1 ½ and 2 hours, ends at The Robin Hood. You must arrive no later than 4pm for your completed answer sheets to be entered into the prize draw. Refreshments, including tea, coffee and cakes, will be available.

For further information, contact CVCA Secretary Marianne Hood
marianne.hood@which.net



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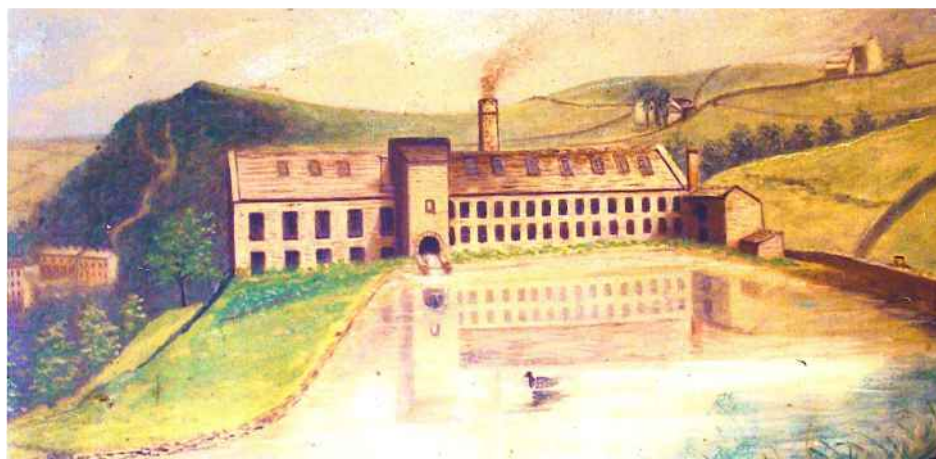
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Cragg Vale and the Hinchliffe Industrial Heritage

Having a good supply of water from the moors, Cragg Vale was always a likely home for industry based on water power. From 1740 to the early 20th Century, around 11 mills existed in Cragg Vale with the Hinchliffe family prominent amongst the owners.



Picture courtesy of Roger Hellowell

In the 1700s Samuel Hinchliffe of Pudsey married Mary Thomas, daughter of a well to do farmer, Richard Thomas of Sowerby. Their son Richard, born 1750, married Mary Sutcliffe of Midgley and they lived at Redacre, Mytholmroyd. In 1773 their first child Samuel was born and soon afterwards the family moved to Castleton, near Rochdale, where Richard ran the Blue Pitts Inn. It was here that Richard became interested in newly invented textile machinery and the potential to use water as a source of power.

“He inherited a considerable amount of land and property from his maternal Grandfather, including land at Washfold, Turvin, in Cragg Vale”

He inherited a considerable amount of land and property from his maternal grandfather, including land at Washfold, Turvin, in Cragg Vale and in 1785 he and his growing family moved to Washfold where he set up a primitive water wheel in the Turvin Brook which

powered a spinning frame. He is believed to have produced the first mechanically spun thread in Cragg Vale.

“By 1799 for various reasons including the lack of water in the Turvin Brook, Richard had moved with his now large family of 11 children, down the valley to live at Upper Clough Foot.”

By 1799 for various reasons including the lack of water in the Turvin Brook, Richard had moved with his now large family of 11 children, down the valley to live at Upper Clough Foot. By this time his eldest daughter Hannah had married John Greenwood, who operated a Paper Mill, on a site near where Paper Mill Cottage now stands. Whether or not Richard influenced Hannah to marry John Greenwood is not known, but Paper Mill had a water wheel and a good supply of water, and was soon being used to spin cotton. This might have been a joint venture or Richard might have rented space from his

Cragg Vale LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

All meetings start at 7.30pm and are held on every third Thursday of the month in the Steiner School, charge for visitors is £3 – or why not become a member?

For details contact Jane Frechette Tel 882619

UPCOMING EVENTS

17th March Salt's Mill Part 2, with Maria Glott

April 21st Our Annual Update with speaker Ian Dewhirst

May 19th Yvonne Broadbent talking about St John's Church

son in law. Nevertheless, the operation was successful.

Soon Richard built a new mill, just down river from Paper Mill, on land near where the Robin Hood Inn now stands. This mill was called Lower Mill, and later became Cragg Mill. By 1802 he was a successful mill owner and cotton manufacturer. Indeed, Richard is described in official documents as a Yeoman, a person of some status in the community. He died suddenly in 1817, forcing changes in the business and sons George and Joseph took over running Lower Mill.

“The last of the Mill Masters was Mr Hinchliffe Hinchliffe”

The last of the Mill Masters was Mr Hinchliffe Hinchliffe, born at Marsh Grove in 1823. When his father died in 1859, Hinchliffe inherited New Mill. He also bought up the part-built Victoria Mill (a failed co-operative venture), and, in the 1870s, the ruins of a mill destroyed by fire. He completed and restored them both to full production.

Roy Collinge, Cragg Vale Local History Society

Little Valley Brewery's 10th Anniversary



SPOTLIGHT ON
BUSINESS IN CRAGG VALE

Little Valley has launched its premium barley wine ale to celebrate its 10th anniversary. Based on a traditional English brewing method, LVB X is fruity and malty, with a 10% ABV and is perfect for enjoying during the long winter months.

A traditional English Barley Wine is a strong beer – usually around 8-12% and dates back to the 18th Century. Originally brewed for the upper classes as an alternative to Claret, Little Valley has drawn on this to create its guide to enjoying the little luxuries of life whilst supping a glass of LVB X.

It's time to forget the stein

To really enjoy LVB X, or any traditional barley wine, try pouring it into a Snifter – typically used for serving brandy or cognac. This will provide space to enjoy the aromas of the beer, whilst making you feel pretty classy at the same time.

Beer and cheese – a perfect couple

Beer experts know that a classic barley wine goes perfectly with Stilton cheese. But if you really want to step up the luxury, enjoy it with a piece of

Pule – produced in Serbia and retailing at around £734 per kilogram, it's the perfect pairing for such a magnificent drink. Or if Serbia's too far to travel remember that we have some grand cheese choices from Pextenement Farm in Todmorden!

Ditch the cosy blanket

If you're enjoying your barley wine on the sofa in front of the telly, then channel your inner Cleopatra with the finest silk throws and velvet cushions. The 18th Century upper classes wouldn't have settled for anything less,

so why should you? For extra fancy-points, keep your little finger out while you take a sip.

Wim van Der Spek, Master Brewer and Co-owner at Little Valley, says:

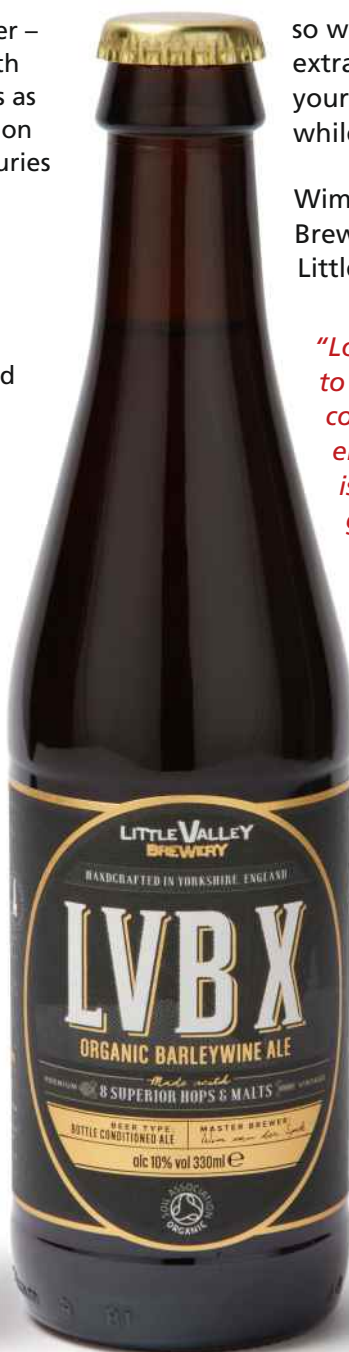
"Lots of people think they know how to enjoy a good beer, but they don't consider every factor that goes into enjoying the perfect pint. A barley wine is just too tasty (and too strong!) to be guzzled down and needs to be treated properly. With the launch of LVB X, we want to show beer drinkers everywhere that sometimes the old ones are the best and they don't always need to turn to the new brews, or international craft beers, for something different!"

Little Valley locals can buy and collect direct from the brewery shop at £5.95 each.

Open Monday to Friday 9am – 5pm, not including Bank Holidays. Visit the Little Valley website at: www.littlevalleybrewery.co.uk or Follow the brewery on Twitter @LittleValleyAle and on Facebook.

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Broadhead Clough – February 2016 update

Although the reserve is a tiny part of the Calder river system it too was hit by the December floods. Once again the impact of storm water running off the moors quickly turned the clear stream to a chocolate brown river carrying leaves & silt, cutting corners over and under existing meanders. On Dec 28th we found the pinch point on the path (where the stream comes closest and the water drains from the meadows) had subsided. On the far bank there was severe erosion and on the near side several trees had been undermined and the bank partially collapsed. Long cracks had opened up parallel to the path, and up the slope were some mini landslips.

The immediate concern was The Hebden Challenge a long distance event which uses the route. Emergency tape and cutting back some holly saved the day and at February's workday we made a permanent solution. The path is diverted 30m over a ruined wall (stones now turned into steps) and hedged with holly so it is obvious until it re-joins the normal route. Below we built a "leaky" dam in the stream to try and slow the water down and prevent future problems.



However, everyone should be wary that the full impact is still being felt. As the ground settles and dries out it can reveal weakness. A month later we discovered a large oak tree outside the reserve had toppled. It was caught by its branches in other trees and is resting on the fence.



The path is currently passable but with great care. The YWT will be coming to fell and clear it and will widen the survey for tree safety to check for other hazards on the whole slope below the moors as soon as possible.

As Spring approaches we will be cutting scrub, clearing rush and walling to make the meadows ready for the cows return. As always we meet at the signboard entrance to the reserve 10a.m. on the first Friday of the month: 4th March, 1st April, 6th May, and 3rd June.

Best to ring before the day to check if sturdy boots or wellies are needed!

Helen Pedley, 886195

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