

Cragg News

www.craggvalecommunity.co.uk



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Town Council

ISSUE 12
SUMMER
2016

Spaw Sunday in the Rain

In spite of the weather, people gathered at the Hinchliffe Arms to watch Ryburn Longswords perform their intricate dances with intertwined swords.

The procession made its way from the church, across the field and down to the spa. Once again, the sun broke through in time for the blessing from Reverend Cathy Reardon and then our Community picnic with more dancing. The event held its grand finale at the Robin Hood pub – where everyone shared the remains of the picnic!



SUMMER

June

Friday 3rd June Broadhead Clough

Volunteers needed: Meet at 10am, contact Helen Pedley YWT: 886195 for information

Thursday 16th June Cragg Vale History Society.

Annual trip: evening guided tour around Saltaire. For information call Jane on 07733326866

Wednesday 22nd June Cragg Vale Community Association.

Talk from Dave Wilson, Calderdale Council 'Balsam & Invasive Species, 7.30pm, Robin Hood, upstairs room. All welcome

Thursday 23rd June FOCUS (Friends of Cragg Vale School). Ladies night, 7pm, at the School. Look out for posters for more information

Saturday 25th June. Mytholmroyd and Hebden Bridge 'Alternative Christmas Day'

Saturday 25th June. Mytholmroyd Gala From 12 noon

Wednesday 29th June, Cragg Vale Fell Race

7.30pm, start & registration Cragg Vale Church. Age limit 14+, entry fee £4.50. Organiser Jackie Scarf 882555. Refreshments in church. Sponsored by Little Valley Brewery.

July

Friday 1st – Sunday 3rd July. Hebden Bridge Arts Festival for information: www.hebdenbridgeartsfestival.co.uk

Friday 8th July Broadhead Clough. Volunteers needed: Meet at 10am, contact Helen Pedley YWT: 886195 for information

August

Friday 5th August Broadhead Clough

Volunteers needed: Meet at 10am, contact Helen Pedley YWT: 886195 for information

September

Friday 2nd Sept Broadhead Clough. Volunteers needed: Meet at 10am, contact Helen Pedley YWT: 886195 for information

Saturday 10th Sept Cragg Fest 1pm – 11pm. On field behind the Robin Hood; bands, bar, food stalls. Entry: Free of charge

Thursday 15th Sept Cragg Vale History Society. Cragg Coiners with Shirley Daniel & Roy Collinge, 7.30pm in the Steiner School

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

THE ROBIN HOOD PRESENTS
CRAGG FEST 2016
SATURDAY 10TH SEPTEMBER 2016
OUTDOOR FESTIVAL / BAR & FOOD / LIVE BANDS

FREE ENTRY

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RESUE

Successful May Fair



The Bank Holiday Monday rain cleared by the time dancers from Cragg Vale Junior and Infant School gathered around the Maypole. Children of all ages took turns to make intricate patterns with their ribbons – and nothing got too tangled! Despite the weather, the stalls and the duck race raised £1,400 for the school and as the ducks took to the river the sun came out!

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Established in 2008 **Dynamite** prides itself on providing quality clothing suited to our valley lives and weather.

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News From The Ark: Mud Kitchen!!!

Mixing soil and water and a range of other natural materials have a foundational role in early childhood.

This has a vast importance for learning and development as well as endless possibilities for well-being. At The Ark, mud kitchens are becoming a part of our continuous provision outdoors. The children have the freedom to explore, play and learn to their full extent.



They are encouraged to feel the textures of materials with their fingers, transfer liquids from one container to another, splash, stir, squeeze, measure and produce sticky mud creations, exploring its endless adaptations; how about a chocolate mud pie, decorated with yellow dandelions? Or a luscious cupcake sprinkled with sand and cherry petals!

MAGICAL CHILDREN'S NURSERY

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- o Forest School - Mondays and Fridays
- o Large outdoor playground & sport hall
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- o All meals cooked in our 5* kitchen

Come and say hello!

The Ark, Dean Hey Farm, Mytholmroyd, HX7 5RU
 www.thearkexperience.co.uk T 01422 882010
 Open 51 weeks, 7am-6.30pm

COME AND HANG OUT AT SPACE

at the ark

Out of school & holiday club
 Xbox - music area - wii - crafts - sports hall
 & more. Lots of fun for 4 - 14 year olds

THE PLACE TO BE

Dirt, sand, water, bits of plants, and cooking utensils comprise a timeless play kit for the mud kitchen, other suggested resources are: pots, pans, jugs, funnels, cake tins, rolling pins, large spoons, bowls, containers of various shapes and sizes.

Why not give the mud kitchen a try? Enjoy nature's famous invention material—mud!



Steiner School News

Steiner School children wrote and illustrated their own articles for this newsletter to tell us what they have been doing in school. Class 4 & 5 have been working on Cragg Vale Park's garden. "It's improved a lot since we have started. In the garden we have been weeding, saving plants, and putting dead leaves and branches in the compost. We also have a garden at Swan Bank, the farm up the road from Calder Valley Steiner School where we grow vegetables". Another article gives details of a recent visitor from St

Augustine's. "She used the first chapter of Paddington Bear to give us a taste of what it would be like to be a refugee like Paddington. She said in St Augustine's, the refugees, when they arrive, are hungry and tired and are often in bad situations. In St Augustine's they do things like go on long walks and have big lunches together." The Easter Café raised £300 for St Augustine's and Sisonke School in Africa. The final article was about a school trip to watch 'A Midsummer Night Dream': There's lots of music and comedy and all the music is live (not on a disc). It was very funny and well-acted and exciting"

“
**The Easter Café
 raised £300 for
 St Augustine's**
 ”

Cragg School News



A lot has been happening at Cragg Vale J&I School recently. Class 1 took part in the 'Children's Food Trust Big Cookathon', getting together with their families to prepare and cook cottage pie. Class 2 spent a day as Victorian school children at Heptonstall Museum, learning what life was like by writing on slates, using a nib and ink, and experiencing a Victorian Headmaster! Throughout the school, children have also been writing scripts, building sets and creating stop-animation films with the help of Mr Oliver, Chair of the Governors.

CRAGG FEST 2016

Following the success of the last two fantastic years, Cragg Fest is back on 10th September 2016, from 1pm until 11pm, on the field behind the Robin Hood. This year's event promises to be even bigger and better. There'll be bands, a bar, food stalls and fun for all the family. Entry is free of charge and all the bands and staff are giving their time for free. A percentage of all the takings will go to Calder Valley Search and Rescue in recognition of their sterling work. Roger, Elva and Jo want to thank all who helped with previous events and hope everyone will join them again for another great 'Cragg Fest'!





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Cragg Vale and the Industrial Heritage

It is hard to imagine today that this pretty tree lined valley, called Cragg Vale, 200 years ago was at the heart of the industrial revolution in England.



Picture courtesy of Cragg Vale History Group

Cloth making, as a cottage industry, had long been practised in the valley. Use of the river to power water wheels for milling flour, and for fulling the woollen cloth, were in existence from medieval times.

When the mechanised spinning jenny was invented by James Hargreaves in the 18th century, it didn't take long for people in the valley to realise that their situation was ideal for industrialisation. The water from the fast flowing Turvin Brook was harnessed to provide power for the rapid development of cotton spinning mills down the length of the valley.

"The dark side was that women and children were forced to work in the mills often for 14 hour shifts"



Raw cotton, from the USA and Caribbean, was imported via the port of Liverpool, and delivered by canal barge and horse drawn carts to the mills in Cragg Vale. During this period, at one time or another, there were 11 such mills built. Workers were needed and the population increased dramatically. Cottages were built close to the mills. Often these

cottages became overcrowded. It was common for a two-roomed cottage to house two families with up to ten occupants.

Whilst vast fortunes were made (and lost) in this period, the dark side was that women and children were forced to work in the mills often for 14 hour shifts, in what were dangerous and unhealthy conditions. Fires were commonplace, cotton dust was highly inflammable and easily ignited by an upset candle.

In Cragg Vale one family came to dominate the cotton spinning trade. These were the Hinchliffes, and whilst it is fair to say they created employment, their exploitation of women and children was harsh. Hinchliffe Hinchliffe vigorously opposed the 10-hour Bill put to Parliament, which proposed to limit the daily hours worked by children under 9 years of age to 10 hours.

As the industrial era progressed, steam power replaced water. Railways replaced canals. Valley locations like Cragg Vale were no longer economical, and gradually the mills closed, became derelict, collapsed or were pulled down for the stone.

Nowadays anyone passing through Cragg Vale would have to look hard to find any evidence of its industrial past. But it is there - mill dams, weirs on the river, the cottages strung out on the roadside as it winds up the longest uphill climb in England, and one remaining mill chimney, standing intact and proud as testament to Cragg Vale's heritage.

Roy Collinge, Cragg Vale Local History Society

Cragg Vale LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

As usual, all our meetings start at 7.30pm and are held on every third Thursday of the month in the Steiner School – BUT PLEASE NOTE – we will have our Summer Break in July and August so no meetings in July and August!

We provide tea and coffee, the charge for visitors is £3 – or why not become a member? For details, contact Jane Frechette, Tel 882619

UPCOMING EVENTS

16th June Annual Trip This year we will have an evening guided tour around Saltaire. For

more details, call Jane on 077333268666

July/August Summer Break.

15th September Cragg Coiners with Roy Collinge and Shirley Daniel.

20th October Railway Heyday with speaker Noel Coates

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Cragg Road, Cragg Vale

Thornber Properties to the Rescue!



Yorkshire
Wildlife Trust

Following the floods on Boxing Day, Thornber Properties have been helping some of those affected. After Christmas, Scout Road School moved into 2 classrooms created at Dean Hey and are also using 'Space at the Ark' with a lovely new play area for the children. The school had to be closed after a landslip exposed asbestos from an old tip. The school will remain unusable until the land is secured and the asbestos safely removed, so, for now they are enjoying their new, temporary, home at Dean Hey.

Metropolis Interiors

It wasn't only the School who were rescued. On the morning of the floods, Metropolis Interiors selling upholstery, curtain fabrics and yarn, owned and run by Hayley Clayton, moved into Unit 4E at Top Land. Hayley said "My unit on Scout Road ended up under 5ft of muddy water with my stock ruined. The team from Thornbers helping clear up after the floods gave me the key to this Unit at Top Land. At 8am the following morning I moved in! I just sat on the floor and cried, it was so fantastic I just couldn't believe it. I sell all over the world so many of my customers had no idea about the flooding in the Calder Valley. Some things weren't destroyed and the reps helped me re-stock as soon as I had the interim flood payment.



Most of my trade is on the internet so I was able to make it look like a holiday! I only missed one day and was back working again after just a month. These new premises are fantastic, lighter, brighter, really well maintained with much better amenities. I remember coming here as a child 45 years ago when it was all chickens! In spite of the unsocial hours I work, there are always people around and I can go for walks at lunchtime, it's wonderful!" Hayley has a motto "Life isn't about waiting for the storm to pass. It's about learning to Dance in the Rain". Metropolis Interiors are open to the public on the 1st Saturday of every month from 11am – 3pm, or by appointment.

"Life isn't about waiting for the storm to pass. It's about learning to Dance in the Rain"

Dynamite

'Dynamite', run by Kate Grant, selling stylish clothing from socially responsible and sustainable brands, was based in Hebden Bridge when the floods wrecked her shop. Kate managed to retrieve some stock but everyone in Hebden Bridge was looking for accommodation and everything suitable was 'just snapped up'.



Thanks to Thornber's, she finally found premises, Unit 1C, Dean Hey Country Business Park. Kate said "I live just off Scout Road and really like it here. The views are beautiful and the shop is more spacious, lighter and brighter, much better for display – and there's good parking as well! Thornber Properties are easy to work with, they're very welcoming and unbureaucratic. The only down side is that there is no 'passing trade', although having people going to and from the School, the Nursery and the Hairdresser is good. I'm going to have to work hard to let people know I'm here so I'm working on a new website, I think I might call it 'Adapt or Die'! Dynamite is open Wednesday to Friday from midday until 7pm and Saturdays 8am until 5pm.

Carbolts

is a totally different business, rescued by Thornber's. Selling car parts and accessories, the business had only just moved into Tenterfields when the floods struck. The owner, John Arnott, said "I live nearby and the day after the floods I got on the 'phone to Thornbers and was able to move into Top Land straight away. My trade is on-line so it hasn't been too difficult. I've just moved into the Unit next door where there's more space – it was a very easy move! Business is really good now. I like being here in a community of other businesses and there are great views!"

The range of businesses on the sites is very varied including a food laboratory, Central Band Uniforms (the only manufacturer of band uniforms in the UK), and Unum Mori, who design and work in leather. They won the Jimmy Choo Accessory Designer of the Year 2015 award. All this amazing talent based here in Cragg Vale!

Broadhead Clough – June 2016 update

Spring sees the woods looking at their best and the damage from the floods is being softened with new growth covering up the scars. The fallen tree has become log piles, the muddy path is drying out and the diversion amongst the bluebells is well established. Whatever causes an impact - nature will respond. In 2015 I wrote that cutting the rushes in the meadow might encourage flowers to reappear, and when we repeated the task last week we found several marsh violets. Unfortunately I wasn't as pleased when deer responded to my gardening by biting the head off every tulip. I'm now trying a new tactic: plant what they don't eat. They've left hellebores, aquilegia, honeysuckle and foxgloves well alone - perhaps because these native plants have various in-built defences. The charity Plantlife celebrates wild flowers and can help you choose what's right for your particular conditions. I remember buying "Jacob's ladder" (polemonium caeruleum) at our May Fete a few years ago and now learn that it's actually very rare in the wild so coincidentally I'm helping its survival.



This is something the Wildlife Trusts encourage in their 30 Days Wild project. More than 18,500 people took part for the first time last year committing around 300,000 Random Acts of Wildness. These are different ways to connect with, experience, and take action for nature. The impact study was surprising, "people reporting their health as excellent increased by over 30%. And that improvement in health was influenced by the improvements in happiness and connection with nature." This year they're aiming for one million such Acts, listing 101 fun and intriguing ideas and it's free. Check out #30DaysWild to see more. Why not blow a dandelion clock? Or, join us for part of a day in the summer.

Usually we meet at 10a.m. on the first Friday of the month so June 5th, but watch out for July when it's **8th July**, then **August 5th** and **September 2nd**.

Helen Pedley, 886195

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