

# Cragg News

[www.craggvalecommunity.co.uk](http://www.craggvalecommunity.co.uk)

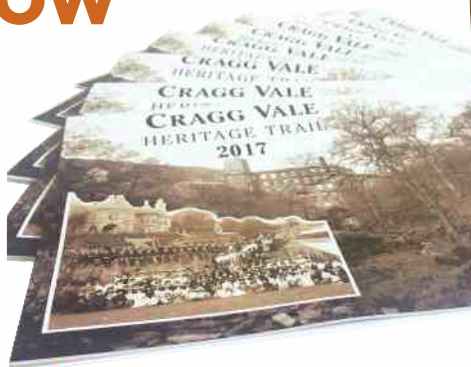


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ISSUE 13  
AUTUMN  
2016

## 2017 CALENDAR ON SALE NOW

The new Cragg Vale  
Calendar for 2017  
featuring our 'Heritage  
Trail' with pictures by  
local children and  
photographs from the  
Pennine Heritage  
Archive is on sale now!



The calendars cost £6 each, if you  
buy more you'll get them for £5 each, why not treat your family and  
friends! See the website [www.craggvalecommunity.co.uk](http://www.craggvalecommunity.co.uk) or contact  
Marianne Hood on 01422 885224 for details

## AUTUMN

### September

**Friday 2nd September Broadhead Clough**  
Volunteers needed: Meet at 10am, contact Helen Pedley  
YWT: 01422 886195 for information

**Friday 9th September Cragg Churchyard, 1 – 3pm**  
Tidying the churchyard, tea and cakes afterwards!

**Saturday 10th September, Cragg Fest 1pm – 11pm**  
field behind Robin Hood, bands, bar, food. FREE ENTRY

**Thursday 15th September Cragg Vale History Society**  
'Cragg Coiners' with Shirley Daniel, 7.30pm in the Steiner  
School

**Saturday 17th September Bike Fun 'n Games.**  
free of charge, 10am - 12 noon, The Ark, with  
refreshments. Contact Marianne Hood 01422 885224 for  
registration forms

### October

**Friday 7th October Broadhead Clough**  
Volunteers needed: Meet at 10am, contact Helen Pedley  
YWT: 01422 886195 for information

**Thursday 20th October Cragg Vale History Society**  
'Railway Heydays' with Noel Coates, 7.30pm in the  
Steiner School

**Saturday 22nd October Heritage Day Fund Raising  
Event for Flood Victims,**  
Salem Chapel Market Street Hebden Bridge, from  
9.30am, tea, coffee & lunch available

### November

**Friday 4th November Broadhead Clough** Volunteers  
needed: Meet at 10am, contact Helen Pedley YWT:  
01422 886195 for information

**Friday 4th November Cragg Vale Community Bonfire**  
6pm Field next to 'Springfield', bonfire lit at 6.30pm,  
fireworks at 7.15pm, refreshments

**Thursday 17th November Cragg Vale History Society**  
'Summat a' Nowt' with Steve Murty, 7.30pm in the Steiner  
School

### December

**Friday 2nd December Broadhead Clough** Volunteers  
needed: Meet at 10am, contact Helen Pedley YWT:  
01422 886195 for information

**Sunday 4th December 'Festival of Lights' Cragg Vale  
Park** Meet in the Park at 3.30pm, bring a lantern. Singing  
and refreshments, FREE

For more news and information see our website  
[www.craggvalecommunity.co.uk](http://www.craggvalecommunity.co.uk)

## Bike Fun 'n Games



The Community Organisation is running  
another 'Bike Fun 'n Games' event from 10am  
until 12 noon on Saturday, 17th September in  
the car park at the front of the ARK nursery.  
This is a free event for children from 4 to  
11years, beginners or learners are very  
welcome, balance bikes will be provided! We  
run this event with the help of Calderdale's  
Bikeability Team and good fun, as well as  
learning about safety, is guaranteed. If you  
have children who would like to take part,  
please let Marianne Hood know as soon as  
possible on 01422 885224.

THE ROBIN HOOD PRESENTS  
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**SATURDAY 10TH SEPTEMBER 2016**

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**FUNDRAISER FOR  
CALDER VALLEY  
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RESUE**

Once again we have our very own Cragg Vale festival for everyone of any age. On  
Saturday 10th September, in the field behind the Robin Hood, from 1pm until  
11pm there'll be fun, food (burgers, hot lamb or pork sandwiches, and veggie  
options) drinks, and music. Come and join us, whatever the weather it will be a  
great event – and all the funds raised will go to Calder Valley Search and Rescue.

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# News From The Ark

Phonic sessions form part of our daily routine in pre-school at The Ark, we believe it builds the foundations for early literacy, communication and language development. This agreed method for teaching reading and spelling in England, Wales and Northern Ireland involves learning to break down words into individual sounds (phonemes) and to blend individual sounds together to make words.



The Ark Pre-school follow the Letters and Sounds programme for teaching Phonics. Divided into 6 phases, we start by looking at Phase 1 to develop children's speaking and listening skills in preparation for learning to read. Phase 2 of letters and sounds is usually explored when a child transitions to Reception class at school. The phonics activities are taught in small groups through short informal

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**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**

games adapted from the Letters and Sounds programme. The activities are planned to be fun and play based, taking into account the individual stage of each child's learning. You can support your child in developing the skills for early reading by encouraging them to listen carefully and by talking with them about what they hear, see and do in their everyday routine and play.

# School Under Threat

**Cragg Vale J&I School is under threat as a review over the future of the school is under way. Cragg School has been part of the community for over 125 years, many in Cragg will have either attended it themselves or will have had children there. The school continues to provide a first-rate education within a caring, creative, and challenging environment allowing all pupils to thrive and succeed.**

Currently there is great leadership, both from the Headteacher, the Governing Board, and an excellent team, who have worked with the pupils to produce fantastic SATs results, pupils and parents rate the school highly.

However, being a small rural school in a deteriorating Victorian building has brought challenges resulting in the school no longer being financially viable in its current situation. Calderdale council will start a 6 week formal consultation in September over the future of the school. All options being considered will result in closure of the school site in Cragg Vale. The options under consideration are

- amalgamation with Scout Road or Burnley Road Academies;
- relocation of Cragg Vale School as a standalone school in the Calder High Sixth form building;
- relocation of Cragg Vale School to Calder High as part of a through school (3-16 years); or
- allow parents to move their children to other schools in the area.

It is likely a final decision on the future of the school will be made at the beginning of 2017.

Of these options the Governing Board, the school team, and the majority of the parents currently prefer the option of moving to the Calder High Sixth Form building as a standalone school to protect and continue the ethos of Cragg Vale School.

Calderdale Council have however stated that as part of the consultation process they will consider any options for the school as long as they are viable.

The consultation process from September will include the community and will involve public meetings allowing everyone to make their views heard.

If you would like more information or have any suggestions with regard to the future of Cragg Vale School please contact CVCA via email [cvcacraggschool@outlook.com](mailto:cvcacraggschool@outlook.com)

# News From St John's Church

**After many delays (beyond our control!), we are almost ready to start reordering inside church. This will provide a fantastic worship space and a resource for the whole community, with a catering quality kitchen, toilets, upstairs meeting room and a lift, for concerts, dinners, and meetings!**



As many of you may have noticed, part of the graveyard is a little 'unmanaged' at the moment! We want it to be beneficial for wildlife whilst keeping access to graves clear and keeping borders and edges neat and tidy. We would greatly appreciate some help to give it a big tidy up before autumn, please join us for our 'Gardening Afternoon' on Friday 9th September if you can spare a bit of time.

## Tidying Cragg Churchyard

Maintaining the churchyard and keeping it tidy is proving a bit much for our church at the moment. Volunteers are being called for to give a bit of tender loving care at an afternoon 'Gardening Party' on Friday 9th September, from 1pm to 3pm, followed by tea and cakes!

**If you can spare a couple of hours, please come and help. Please bring gardening gloves and secateurs – or even a strimmer if you have one!**





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# "MILL FIRE AT CRAGG"

**Between 1894 and 1898 Cragg Vale suffered three devastating mill fires. This report, of the fire in 1898, is from the local paper.**

"Last Saturday morning, January 27th, another addition was made to the list of mill fires which Cragg Vale has experienced within recent years, when Upper Vale Mill, owned and occupied by Mr. Hinchliffe Hinchliffe, cotton manufacturer, of Cragg Hall, was totally destroyed. The building was four storeys in height, and stood about sixty yards from Lower Vale Mill, which was destroyed by fire exactly four years ago. Last Saturday's fire originated in the third, or highest storey but one, this being the spinning room.

***The flames raced like wildfire along the piping the length of the room, igniting the greasy attic floor above.***

One of the lads employed at the mill was lighting up prior to commencing work at six o'clock, when the "fluff" with which the gas piping in rooms such as these is generally covered, at once took fire. The flames raced like wildfire along the piping the length of the room, igniting the greasy attic floor above. All efforts to subdue the fire with pails of water and small extinguishers - with both of which commodities every room is said to have been regularly equipped according to the conditions laid down by the insurance companies, were unsuccessful, and the heat and smoke compelled the workpeople to make a hasty exit.

***By seven o' clock the roof crashed through, bringing down a large portion of the walls, and an hour later the mill was only a smouldering mass.***

The flames quickly spread throughout the whole structure,

which was soon a mass of flames, the workpeople being unable to do anything towards saving the mill. A few bundles of material were rescued, however, and conveyed to a place of safety. By seven o' clock the roof crashed through, bringing down a large portion of the walls, and an hour later the mill was only a smouldering mass. The engine and the boiler, which were comparatively new, were not harmed, being in a building separated from the burning mill. An adjoining warehouse was also unharmed, though this would have been destroyed but for the efforts of the workpeople. There was some fear at first that the boiler would burst, but fortunately these fears were not confirmed. Part of the motive power was supplied by water wheel, there being a good supply of water immediately behind the mill. With no hose or jet, however, this force which might have saved much was useless, and the workpeople - practically the only spectators - were helpless.

***None of the mills destroyed by fire have been re-erected and the effect is that the village is gradually becoming depopulated.***

The mill was about the smallest in the valley, and thirty people will be thrown out of work. The damage is estimated at about £4,000. A peculiar, and noteworthy circumstance is that the mill had been insured for fifty years up to December last, when the insurance policy was allowed to lapse. None of the mills destroyed by fire have been re-erected and the effect is that the village is gradually becoming depopulated."

## Heritage Day

**Fund raising event for flood victims on Saturday 22nd October.**

A fund raising event for flood victims, organised by Hebden Bridge, Mytholmroyd and Cragg Vale History Groups is taking place in Salem Chapel, Market Street, Hebden Bridge with talks, walks, photographs, memorabilia and a film show. Registration at 9.30am, tea, coffee, and lunch available.

## Cragg Vale LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

We meet on the third Thursday of every month at 7.30pm in the Steiner School, everyone is welcome to join us. We provide tea and coffee, the charge for visitors is £3 - but why not become a member? For details, contact Jane Frechette, Tel 882619

### UPCOMING EVENTS

**15th September** 'Cragg Coiners' with Shirley Daniel.

**20th October** 'Railway Heydays' with Noel Coates

**17th November** 'Summat a' Nowt' with Steve Murty

**15th December** 'Christmas Extravaganza!'

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# Steve Ramsden

**Steve Ramsden, born and brought up in Cragg Vale, went to Cragg School and then Calder High before going to work as an apprentice with the Halifax Motor Company. He had a brief spell working on boats in the South of France before returning to Cragg to set up his own business repairing commercial vehicles.**



"I missed the changes in the seasons and the weather in France, I never really wanted to move away from Cragg" said Steve. He served his time repairing heavy commercial vehicles "I like the big stuff!" and 30 years on is still here, in Vale Mill Garage just past the Hinchliffe Arms.

***"I missed the changes in the seasons and the weather in France, I never really wanted to move away from Cragg"***

Steve may be better known as 'Ramsden Racing', a sidecar racing passion he 'fits around' working! He says it all began 25 years ago as sidecar beach racing, followed by moped and moped sidecar racing, and then racing on roads. He took part in his 1st Isle of Man TT race with a friend in 1995 and was awarded a bronze replica. In 1997 Steve teamed up with another friend and did his first 100mph lap. He wasn't using competitive machinery, "it was just for fun". He took part in the TT race eight times, but wasn't very popular with his wife!

***"Steve's greatest achievement so far was this year, 2016 when he came 4th and 6th in two different races with his fastest ever lap race average of 111.3 mph!"***

Since the death of his wife, Steve has used competitive machinery. He said he asked his daughter Jade and son Matt if it would be OK if he carried on with the sidecar racing and they said "yes, if we can come with you". So, every year for the last three years this is what he has done, with son Matt in the sidecar. Steve's greatest achievement so far was this year, 2016 when he came 4th and 6th in two different races with his fastest ever lap race average of 111.3 mph! At present he is 3rd in the British Championship. With 3 more rounds to go Steve thinks he will be in the top 3 but would like to be 2nd.

***"I'll keep going for a bit yet!"***

Matt now wants to take over as a driver himself but Steve has no plans to retire "I'll keep going for a bit yet!"



**Yorkshire**  
Wildlife Trust

## Broadhead Clough – September 2016 update

The summer weather didn't really kick in until schools broke, the wood was dark and cool for many of the breeding bird surveys. Spotting birds was even more difficult this year, I heard the sounds of a cuckoo and our normal woodland birds and there were several unusual sightings of pairs in flight above and around the reserve. Two green woodpeckers flew up from the meadows; two curlews circled the mire just below the edge of Erringden Moor; a pair of buzzards soared on the thermals over Whams and two grey herons did a fly past worthy of the RAF following the route of the Clough! When watching for birds I was distracted by butterflies – Speckled Wood, Meadow Brown, Orange Tip and Common Blue, whilst damselfly and dragonflies zoomed over the mires. I literally stumbled into another first sighting for me: almost treading on 3 unusual orange and black beetles crawling over and under the corpse of a shrew! Gruesome I know, but having looked them up in a field guide "Nicrophorus Investigator" were just doing their job as a "sextion beetle": laying their own eggs in the body they buried so the young grubs could eat it when they hatched. It may not be pretty but composting is just as important so also ranked in my special "30 Days Wild" moments this summer.

On the task days we've cleared bracken as usual: it seemed less thick in the top mire this year though just as high. 14 short horn cattle (a breed originating in Yorkshire & Durham) are now munching their way through the long grass, improving the conditions for fungi, and flowers next year. YWT also arranged for local partners Black Bark Woodland Management to build facines (bundles of brash that are pinned to eroded slopes with wooden stakes) to stabilise the largest landslip after the floods. Thanks to Steve and Keith for their hard work.

Our reserves officer Kara has moved to a new role of Gateway manager at Stirley Community Farm so we will have Alec one of her recent trainees as the YWT lead during the autumn until a replacement is appointed.

**We still plan to meet as usual at 10a.m. on the first Friday of the month so September 2nd, October 7th, November 4th and December 2nd.**

Helen Pedley, 886195

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