

Cragg News

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ISSUE 15
SPRING
2017

Spaw Sunday

We will be holding the annual 'Spaw Sunday' event to celebrate our very own spa on Sunday 7th May. Once again, everyone is invited to meet at the Hinchliffe Arms at 2.30pm to follow the procession, led by Ryburn Longswords, to the spa for the blessing, community picnic, music and dancing from the Longswords. We will end the day, with a bit more music and dancing, at the Robin Hood. This event is free and anyone, of any age, is invited to come and join the fun!



Cragg Vale Park Gates



The work to improve the entrance to our Community Garden and Park has been completed with the installation of the new gates. The new tarmacked surface means no more squelching through mud and the gate makes the garden and park much safer and more secure. Cragg Vale Community Association is very grateful to Thornber Properties for providing the gate and for their continuing help with keeping the paths clean.



2017 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING AND CRAGG VALE QUIZ

Thursday, 9th March 2017
The Robin Hood
7.30pm AGM, Quiz 8pm

Prizes & FREE Buffet

New Committee Members &
Volunteers very welcome!

Further details Contact

Marianne Hood
01422 885224
marianne.hood@which.net

SPRING

March

Friday 3rd March Broadhead Clough Volunteers needed: meet 10am by reservoir signboard, contact Helen Pedley YWT for information: 886195

Saturday 4th & Sunday 5th March 'Big Spring Clean Up' If anyone wants to help, contact Shirley Daniel 883707

Thursday 9th March CVCA Annual General Meeting 7.30pm, Robin Hood Everyone invited, free refreshments followed by **Cragg Vale Quiz, 8pm, with Jon Emberton**

Thursday 16th March History Group with Ian Dewhirst 7.30pm, in the Steiner School

April

Sunday 2nd April Cragg Vale Treasure Hunt Free event for all the family. Meet 2.30pm, Hinchliffe Arms and return by 4.30pm for prizes! Contact Marianne Hood, CVCA, for details: 885224

Friday 6th April Steiner School Easter Café (fund raising for schools in other parts of the world) – all welcome

Friday 6th April Broadhead Clough Volunteers needed: meet 10am by reservoir signboard, contact Helen Pedley YWT for information: 886195

Sunday 16th April Easter Sunday St John's Church 9.30am, coffee & biscuits afterwards

Thursday 20th April History Group AGM followed by Maria Glott, 'Shopping in Saltaire' 7.30pm, in the Steiner School

May

Friday 5th May Broadhead Clough Volunteers needed: meet 10am by reservoir signboard, contact Helen Pedley YWT for information: 886195

Sunday 7th May 'Spaw Sunday' Meet at Hinchliffe Arms, 2pm for procession to the spa and community picnic, then dancing with Ryburn Longswords at the Robin Hood

Saturday 13th May from 10am St John's Church reopening celebration, pictures of the changes, floral displays, children's activities and refreshments. All welcome.

Sunday 14th May St John's Church afternoon re-dedication service by Bishop Jonathan, all welcome, followed by refreshments

Thursday 18th May, History Group, special event with Juliet Barker, talking about Branwell Bronte. 7.30pm, in the Steiner School

June

Friday 2nd June Broadhead Clough Volunteers needed: meet 10am by reservoir signboard, contact Helen Pedley YWT for information: 886195

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

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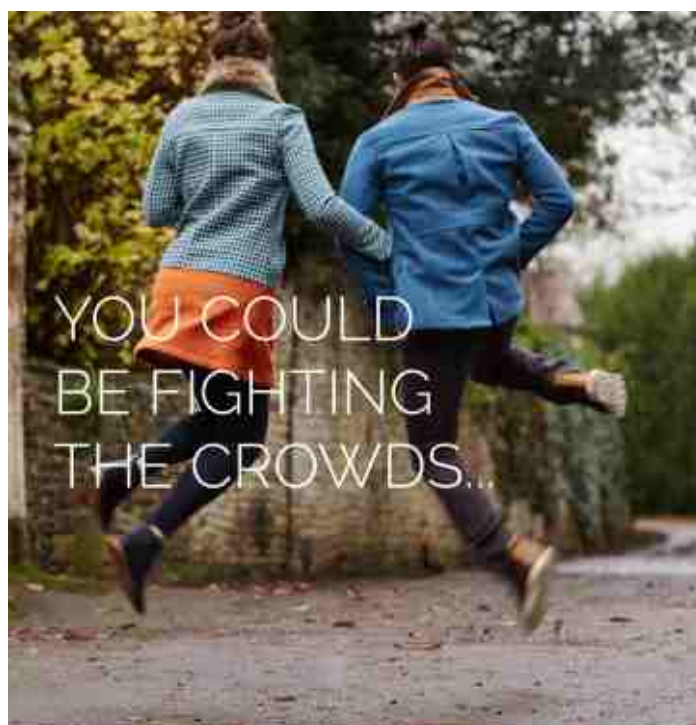
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Woodland Explorers at the Ark

Woodland Explorers is an outdoor experience offered at The Ark in the Nursery Room (2 to 3 year old room). It is based on the Forest Schools sessions that run in Pre-school but it is more tailored to the 2 to 3 year old age group.



Woodland Explorers provides a unique and fun learning experience in a stunning outdoor setting. Forest Schools were originally developed in Scandinavia to teach children about the environment and the world around them and they provide stimulating, memorable and exciting experiences for children. Woodland Explorers teaches children to recognise the importance of being healthy, staying safe, enjoying activities and making a positive contribution to the environment. It also encourages new language and social skills and helps develop new friendships through working together in different social groups.

The children wear a full waterproof

suits, wellies and gloves so they can experience Woodland Explorers in all weathers. This can include splashing in the muddy puddles when it's raining or the excitement of digging in the snow and making snowballs when the snow arrives.

The sensory garden at the nursery is where the children explore and learn about safety boundaries, nature, wildlife and seasons whilst having wonderful woodland adventures!



Cragg Vale Treasure Hunt

By popular request we are running another 'Treasure Hunt' on Sunday 2nd April, starting at 2.30pm at the Hinchliffe Arms to collect quiz sheets. This is a free Treasure Hunt for all the family, especially children. Along the route spot the little bikes, solve a puzzle, and possibly find some 'treasure'! The trail goes through some historic areas of Cragg Vale, including the woods and alongside the river, with some steady, but not

too energetic, uphill walking. It is not too taxing but sturdy footwear is recommended as some ground is rough and might be muddy in places!

The route will take between 1 ½ and 2 hours, return to the Hinchliffe Arms by 4.30pm for completed answer sheets to be entered into the prize draw. For further information, contact CVCA Secretary Marianne Hood marianne.hood@which.net

Steiner School News

We have found a possible site for our school which would accommodate us all (as you know we are on split sites at present). We are therefore exploring the options of selling the site at St John's. Meanwhile we continue to enjoy the beautiful surroundings of Cragg Vale.

We will be having our Easter Cafe on Thursday 6th April to raise funds for schools in other parts of the world: all welcome



Yorkshire
Wildlife Trust

Broadhead Clough February 2017 update

The sun shone today! It's been dull and grey for so long that I really noticed the bright rays: strong enough to cast shadows. During the winter we have had help to maintain the path with CROWS (Community Rights of Way) putting in steps and some drainage at the worst points. We've also spent several hours each workday to keep on top of broken /fallen trees. Often a large branch has partly torn away and is a hazard for people, and if left, could cause further damage to the tree. The sound of the chain saw always jars, but the log piles created give good habitat for insects and the new clearings offer opportunities for flowers or moss to re-appear.

One year after the floods the clearing up operation is also giving other unexpected benefits. Dredging the Calder has removed huge amounts of Himalayan Balsam from the river system. Though pretty in small patches, this notorious "non- native invasive species" was getting out of control. It starves native plants of space, light, nutrients and pollinators so they no longer grow and can lead to erosion of the river bank. The job was carefully done by the Environment Agency but how many seeds have already been spread? Just a few on Brearley fields could mean re-infection. Luckily it's not yet appeared in the nature reserve – but even so, I've just been sent information about "Biosecurity" practice to try and avoid accidental spread from one place to another. If you have problems with it nearby, or you are a recreational water user there's a website training course to "Check, Clean and Dry" available at

www.nonnativespecies.org/index.cfm?sectionid=123

Since 2014 DEFRA have been testing a fungus "Himalayan balsam rust" to see if it is a safe natural control. A trial release was held in West Yorkshire, involving the Environment Agency, Yorkshire Water, Wakefield Council, Calder and Colne Rivers Trust monitoring the results. It's looking positive, so perhaps the balsam's days are numbered and once again, its bright splash of colour becomes a rare treat rather than seen as a nuisance.

In the Spring workdays are planned on the first Friday of the month: March 3rd, April 6th, May 5th, and June 2nd. We meet at 10a.m. by the reserve signboard.

Helen Pedley, 01422 886195

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Erringden Deer Park

In Medieval times Broadhead Clough above Erringden Moor was home to hundreds of deer. 'Erringden Deer Park' was established around 1331 by descendants of Sir William de Warenne, 1st Earl of Surrey, who, having fought with William the Conqueror at the Battle of Hastings in 1066, was rewarded for his services with nine "berewicks" (remote estates), including the "Forest of Sowerbyshire" in the Manor of Wakefield.



A deer park was probably the ultimate Medieval status symbol, and Erringden was known to be one of the largest in the country, covering 3000 acres of the hillside above Hebden Bridge. The deer belonged to the Lord of the Manor and were kept for breeding, mainly for the pleasure of the hunt. Venison could not be bought or sold locally and the park was ditched and paled around its entire perimeter to keep the deer in and intruders out.

"It is said a bell was used to call the deer together for feeding and this gave the name to Bell House."

Unsurprisingly the park was not always popular with the people struggling to make a living from the land. "Park-breakers" would deliberately trespass in order to thumb a nose at authority; but woe betide anyone caught as penalties for trespass or poaching were severe!

Branwell Bronte's 200th Anniversary

On 26th June this year, 2017, it will be the 200th Anniversary of the birth of Branwell Bronte. On 18th May, the Cragg Vale History Group are pleased to be able to welcome our previous neighbour and renowned writer, Juliet Barker to talk about Branwell. Juliet's talk will be followed by a question and answer session and everyone, whether or not you are a member of the History Group, is invited to attend.

"In 1451 Richard, Duke of York, had the Deer Park "dispaled" and broken up to form farmsteads."

Lying within the deer park boundary to the east of Erringden Moor, is possibly one of the oldest settlements in Erringden - 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. (Bell House is now more famed as the home to the leader of the notorious 'Cragg Vale Coiners' - but that's another story...)

In 1451 Richard, Duke of York, had the Deer Park "dispaled" and broken up to form farmsteads. However nearly six hundred years later, if you know what to look for, it is still possible to see clear signs of the boundary features that formed the deer park such as the ditches and banks, and some of the S marked boundary stones.

Big Spring Clean Up

It's time for the 'Big Spring Clean-Up'! Starting over the weekend of 4th and 5th March.

Cragg Vale Community Association is once again collecting rubbish and cleaning up our valley. If you would like to help, get in touch with by contacting **Shirley Daniel 01322 883707**

Cragg Vale LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

We are very pleased to have managed to get a well-known former neighbour, Juliet Barker, as our guest speaker in May, to talk about Branwell Bronte. Visitors are welcome at this, and all our other events. We provide tea and coffee and all meetings are free for members, £3 for visitors.

We are continuing to meet every third Thursday of the month in the Steiner School but as soon as the Church is open we look forward to holding our meetings there once again. For information, contact Jane Frechette, mobile 07733326866

UPCOMING EVENTS

March 16th We welcome back Ian Dewhirst with anecdotes from his time at Keighley Library

April 20th Our Annual General Meeting, (don't be afraid, no volunteers are required for anything!) followed by Maria Glott talking about shopping in Saltaire. Maria is always entertaining and has a keen following in Cragg Vale.

May 18th We are pleased to welcome well-known writer, Juliet Barker, to talk about Branwell Bronte, followed by a question and answer session

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Cragg Vale Junior and Infant School

Sporting Achievements

We are very pleased to have been awarded our School Games Silver Award for the second year in a row, and also now our Silver Youth Sport Trust Quality Mark, in recognition of our continued commitment to ensuring all our pupils access a wide range of high-quality competitive and non-competitive sports and fitness activities.



Pupils at Cragg Vale enjoy training for and taking part in HX7 partnership and Calderdale School Games competitions – whatever the weather!



Top of the Class



Cragg Vale Junior and Infant School were confirmed as the top performing school in Calderdale in the Key Stage 2 League Tables published by the Department for Education in December 2016. Overall 86% of pupils achieved the expected standard in Reading, Writing and Maths compared to the National average of 53%. This also puts the school in the top 1000 primary Schools in England.

Headteacher Kate Shepherd said "Our pupils love learning and challenging themselves and they worked hard with their class teacher Miss Smith to achieve these results. Well done to all our pupils and staff involved"

Stop Press

As we go to press, Cragg Vale Junior and Infant School are awaiting the final cabinet decision regarding the proposed move to Calder High School and the creation of a through school.

This would see the top performing Primary and Secondary Schools for 2016 coming together to give their pupils high-quality educational resources and facilities, further opportunities to develop their curriculum and a well-deserved secured future for Cragg Vale pupils, staff and parents.

Junior Wardens

Pupils in Years 3 and 4 have been training with Calderdale Council to become Junior Wardens.

They have had visits from West Yorkshire Fire Service, West Yorkshire Police and the Calderdale Wardens team so far and have even been out and about to make sure everyone is playing their part in looking after our community and making it a nice place to be.



Update From St John's

The reordering of St John's is going well, we are expecting the first phase of work to be finished and to be using the church again by the last week of March. Everyone is welcome to come and celebrate Easter Sunday (April 16th) at St John's, it would be fantastic to have the church full for one of our most important services of the year! The service will start at 9.30am and there will be coffee and biscuits afterwards.



On Good Friday there will be a Tenabrae service - a reflective service of music, readings and candles.

On Saturday 13th May we will be celebrating the reopening of the church with an open day from 10am. There will be displays showing the changes and what the 'new look' church can offer the whole community. We will have church registers out for people to see and there will be floral displays, children's activities and refreshments.

On May 14th Bishop Jonathan will be rededicating St John's during an afternoon service (please keep an eye on the notice board or Facebook for the time). All are welcome and the service will be followed by light refreshments.

Please keep an eye out for information on other events such as gardening afternoons and social events) at St John's on the church noticeboard and on Facebook (Friends of Erringden Benefice and Cragg Vale pages)

Julie Harris (Churchwarden)



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