

Cragg News

Community Christmas Events

On Saturday 9th December two special events take place at St John's Church: the New Cragg Vale Players' 'A Very 1980's Cinderella' and Cragg Vale Community Association's 'Festival of Lights' and 'Big Switch On' of the Christmas lights!

Cragg Vale's traditional Christmas pantomime, revived by a new group 'The New Cragg Vale Players', involves all age groups. They've been working tirelessly (literally without sleep in some cases!) to bring it to you. There are two performances at 2pm and 7pm with refreshments on sale: ice cream and hot dogs at the matinee, pie and peas in the evening. Tickets, £10 for a family (2 adults & 2 children), £5 adults, £3 children, are available at the church on Sundays 3 – 5pm and Wednesdays 7 – 8pm or email jknowles123@btinternet.com All proceeds go to the church.

The Festival of Lights starts around 4.30pm in the church grounds after the matinee performance. This year it includes the 'Big Switch On' of our

THE NEW CRAGG VALE PLAYERS
PRESENT A VERY 1980'S



SATURDAY 9TH DEC

2PM AND 7PM IN SAINT JOHN'S
CHURCH, CRAGG VALE

Christmas Lights outside the Church. Everyone is invited to bring a lantern but don't worry if you haven't got one, the Community Association have plenty of spares! Song sheets with simple well-known songs ('This little light of mine', 'Twinkle twinkle little star' etc) are available so everyone can join the lantern procession around the church, followed by the 'Big Switch On'!

This is an event for all the family with free refreshments, mulled wine, hot chocolate, fruit juice and cakes provided by the Community Association

2018 Cragg Vale Calendar

The perfect Christmas present for all who love Cragg Vale! The Cragg Vale Community Association's calendar showing the beauty of our valley throughout the changing year is on sale now for £6 at Craggies, Mytholmroyd Post Office, the

Robin Hood pub, the Hebden Bridge Visitor Centre or from any CVCA committee member, contact Marianne Hood on 01422 885224 for more details. We hope you will want to share the pictures with family, friends and anyone who has ever visited our valley.



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Winter

DECEMBER

Every Tuesday & Sunday afternoon, 3-4pm, St John's Church open for a cuppa and a chat

Friday 1st December Broadhead Clough Volunteers needed: meet 10am by the signboard as you enter the reserve, contact Helen Pedley YWT for information: 886195

Saturday 9th December Cragg Panto 'A Very 1980's Cinderella' 2pm & 7pm, St John's Church, refreshments, tickets £5 & £3 email jknowles123@btinternet.com

Saturday 9th December Festival of Lights & the Big Switch On 4.30pm St John's Church, lanterns, singing, mulled wine, hot chocolate, free event for all

Friday 15th December 'Cragg Christmas Cracker' 6.30pm St John's Church, games, puzzles, songs & carols with Hebden Bridge Junior Band, Tickets £6 & £3 inc. supper with mulled wine, juice and crackers! Email gjwsa@btinternet.com Tel 01422 885183 for tickets

15th – 24th December Special Christmas Menu 12noon to 8pm The Robin Hood Bookings only

Sunday 17th December Calder Valley Fell Runners 'Christmas Cracker' winter score event, 10am mass start Cragg Vale church. £10 including food. Email thescarfs@hotmail.com

Sunday 17th December Special Carol Service 3pm St John's Church

Sunday 17th December Christmas Walk & Cragg Sing-a-long The Robin Hood, buffet from 3pm (£6), carols and singing from 4pm (song sheets provided)

Sunday 24th December The Hinchliffe Christmas Carols & Songs with Mark Everington 6pm, all welcome, song sheets provided

Christmas Eve Midnight Service 11.30pm St John's Church

Sunday 31st December New Year's Eve at the Robin Hood Band from 8pm, sandwiches (free)

JANUARY

Every Tuesday & Sunday afternoon, 3-4pm, St John's Church open for a cuppa and a chat

Friday 5th January 2018 Broadhead Clough Volunteers needed: meet 10am by the signboard as you enter the reserve, contact Helen Pedley YWT for information: 886195

Saturday 27th Burns Night at the Robin Hood Bookings essential

FEBRUARY

Every Tuesday & Sunday afternoon, 3-4pm, St John's Church open for a cuppa and a chat

Friday 2nd February 2018 Broadhead Clough Volunteers needed: meet 10am by the signboard as you enter the reserve, contact Helen Pedley YWT for information: 886195

Wednesday 14th February Special Valentine's Event (with glass of champagne) The Hinchliffe

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

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News from (former) Cragg School

Calder Primary School, formerly Cragg Vale School, have now settled in to their new surroundings as part of The Calder Learning Trust.

In October, they held their Harvest Festival in beautiful St John's Church. Class 1 performed The Enormous Turnip and Class 2 The Gingerbread Man whilst Class 3 shared some fascinating facts about Harvest celebrations around the world. They also sang lots of songs, including their favourite 'Big Red Combine Harvester'. The school was joined by Reverend Cathy Reardon who shared a Harvest message and Craig George from the local charity Smartmove, who thanked the families for their generous donations and told everyone more about their work.

In November, they held their annual House Guy Making competition, where each school



house group makes a Guy Fawkes along with help from parents and families. Mr Nelson, who organises the Cragg Vale bonfire, then chose his favourite to sit on top of the fire on November 5th. This year the winning house was Erringden! The other 3 Guys didn't miss out though, they were also placed around the base of the bonfire. Lots of families then went along to the bonfire to support the event.

The School Open Day for prospective parents is on Wednesday 29th November and it is the School Christmas fair on Saturday 9th December from 10.30am until 1pm.

News from the Ark

At this time of year, the children in the nursery are very busy making arts and crafts in preparation for Christmas and last year we sent home a guide of 'how to make a snowman', so parents could join in with nursery activities at home.

Do you want to make a snowman?

1. Tie a rubber band in the middle of the sock to create a head and a body.
2. Then tie a band close to the top and fold the remaining part of the sock down to make a hat for snowman's head. Using felt tip pens, you can decorate your snowman's hat.
3. Tie a length of ribbon or a piece of felt around the snowman's neck to make him a scarf.
4. Stick on your snowman's eyes and add stickers for buttons down his tummy. Glue a pom pom on top of his hat and draw a carrot for his nose.



You will need

1 white sock (child's size for a small snowman)
1 bag of rice (to fill the snowman)
Rubber bands
black or brown stickers & some googly eyes
Ribbon or strips of felt
Pom poms

News from St John's Church



In December, the Church is hosting many events including regular meetings of the Cragg Vale History Society, the pantomime 'A Very 1980's Cinderella' with the Festival of Lights and switch-on of the tree lights on Saturday 9th December and on Friday 15th December 'A Cragg Christmas Cracker' featuring the Hebden Bridge Junior Band.

There won't be a Christingle this year or a Crib Service on Christmas Eve but instead on Sunday 17th December at 3pm everyone is invited to a Carol Service with a mixture of traditional and Cragg carols, readings and a version of the Christmas story not to be missed by the chocoholics amongst you!

On Christmas Eve there will be our normal communion service at 9.30am and a Midnight service which starts at 11.30pm, on Christmas morning there will be a service at 9.30am and everyone is welcome to come along.

The church is open every Tuesday and Sunday afternoon from 3 to 4.30pm for anyone who would like to drop in for a cup of tea and a chat or just for some quiet time. The upstairs meetings rooms are available for hire – at very reasonable rates.

If you are interested, please contact Julie at gwsa@btinternet.com or Ed edward.talbot948@btinternet.com for details

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The Cragg Challenge 2017 a success for charities too!



The Cragg Challenge, held on Sunday 24th September, helped to raise almost £4,000 for its targeted charities. Phil Rodda, Chair of the organising committee announced that the event itself raised almost £3,000, with further fund-raising directly by charity stalls and the Young Farmer's tractor rally lifting the total close to the £4,000 mark.

Phil commented "We are delighted that the day was so well attended – both participants and spectators turned out in force and the feedback has been amazing. Thanks to everyone who supported the day in whatever capacity".

Charities supported were: Overgate Hospice, Cancer Research UK,

Yorkshire Air Ambulance, Calder Valley Search and Rescue and Guide Dogs for the Blind. "All of the charities will benefit" said Phil, "and please remember that the free entry into the children's relay (the Collinge Climb) was made possible from the paid entries and generous sponsorship of the Cragg Challenge 2017".

Questioned about plans for next year, Phil was quietly optimistic – "we have received truly wonderful feedback from the community, with a strong call for the Cragg Challenge to be repeated next year, so we're already looking at the feasibility of this becoming an annual event and would welcome ideas on how to improve on things as we develop".

Contact the Cragg Challenge team by email if you have ideas for next year or would like to help with next year's event.

email: secretary@cragg15.uk

Photographs from the day can be found at:
<https://www.flickr.com/photos/139784872@N04/albums>

A video can be found on YouTube:
<https://youtu.be/RCqGhUihUc0>

Getting ready for Spring

Although nights are drawing in and temperatures falling, Cragg Vale Community Association is anticipating Spring! Thanks to the generosity of Hebden Royd Town Council and with help from many local residents, daffodils, snowdrops, crocuses and tulips will be on show all around our valley. Look out for displays along roadsides, by footpaths and especially in Cragg Vale Park and Community Garden. CVCA wants to thank everyone who helped with the planting, with special thanks to Julian and the Thornber team who helped in the Park and Garden and cleared paths and replaced our vandalised Christmas tree! A very big THANK YOU to all!!



Broadhead Clough Dec 2017 update

In recent months we've been tackling scrub in the reserve just as you might tackle weeds in the garden. Within the management of a wood some trees decide to grow in the wrong place. They need removing to retain the different character of areas within the reserve whilst keeping the whole habitat rich. In October we opened up the view of a stream coming off the moor by clearing away self-set holly. November was spent cutting back overhanging branches or "weeding" out whole trees to ensure the sphagnum in the boggy mires grows well. This makes the mires more absorbent: "sponging up" heavy rain running off the moor, slowing the flow into Cragg Brook and the River Calder.

YWT are also involved in the Pennine PeatLIFE £6m project to restore 1,300 hectares of blanket bog in the North Pennines and Forest of Bowland AONBs. It's the same aim but also stores carbon on a much bigger scale to help us combat climate change and help filter clean water for us to drink. It also extends good quality habitat for wildlife. One of the key species benefitting will be the curlew. Nationally numbers have declined by 46% across the UK from 1994-2010 due to loss of moorland to both extremes of bare peat and increased tree cover. The curlew is now "amber" on the list of concern but is still heard as a regular summer visitor here. Cragg Vale is in the South Pennines Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) and maybe this is in part due to local projects in recent years to repair damage to the peat e.g. on Blackstone Edge

Task days continue in the winter to keep the reserve a rich habitat but come prepared for wet ground and cold wet weather. Work gloves and tools are available, but ideally bring a spare dry pair of your own gloves.

Unless snowed off, winter weather task days are on the first Friday of the month at 10a.m. on Dec 1st, Jan 5th, Feb 2nd & March 2nd. We meet at the sign board as you enter the reserve and will finish early if the weather is poor.

Helen Pedley, 886195

www.ywt.org.uk

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ST JOHN THE BAPTIST IN THE WILDERNESS



Before 1815, there was no church in Cragg Vale; the area was served by the Parish of Heptonstall. Fulfilling the community's spiritual needs meant long treks over the moors to attend church services, marriages or burials – a long way to carry a coffin! There is a stone on Erringden Moor inscribed “TE DEUM” which many believe was used to rest coffins, a welcome break for the bearers!

The foundation stone for the first Chapel of St John was laid in 1813, the building was finished and the church consecrated in 1815

The foundation stone for the first Chapel of St John was laid in 1813, the building was finished and the church consecrated in 1815. One of the first churchwardens (from 1816) was Thomas Bently, thought to be a farmer at Old Cragg Hall, he and fellow churchwardens wore many “hats”: churchwarden, policeman, rate collector etc! Records show that the Church possessed Communion Plate of

two silver cups, one silver flagon and a silver plate. Sadly in 1824 the roof of the church fell in and was supported by props until the new church was built. Perhaps the first two vicars had premonitions of disaster as they only served 7 years between them, unlike the third vicar, Rev Thomas Crowther, inducted in 1822 and incumbent in Cragg Vale until his death in 1859. He is especially remembered for his lifelong fight to improve labour conditions for the men, women, and children millworkers, in particular to reduce the working hours for children. A memorial tablet to his memory was erected on a wall in the Church.

In 1818 parliament passed the Church Building Act and voted £1,000,000 to building new churches, with money from repayment of foreign debt to the government.

Following the ending of the Napoleonic Wars at the Battle of Waterloo in 1815, a movement gathered pace in England for building new churches to commemorate the War victories,

CRAGG VALE LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

We provide tea and coffee and all meetings are free for members or £3 for visitors. We meet on the third Thursday of every month in St. John's Church, upstairs room.

Everyone one is welcome, for more information contact Jane Frechette 07733326866

UPCOMING EVENTS

December 21st

Christmas Extravaganza

2018

January 18th David Glover

Halifax Zoo & Amusement Park

February 15th Open Night

'Any Ol' Tins' - bring along old tins/containers with a bit of 'history'

March 15th David Taylor

The Dummy Airfield

HELP NEEDED

The History Group need a locking cupboard (approximately 4 – 5 ft wide, 5ft tall, 18inches deep) has anyone got one we can have? Please contact Jane 07733326866 if you can help

especially in areas with a shortage of places for worshippers thanks to the rapidly growing workforce in cotton mills and other new industries. In 1818 parliament passed the Church Building Act and voted £1,000,000 to building new churches, with money from repayment of foreign debt to the government. So in 1837 work commenced on land given by Major Priestly for a “Million Pound Church” in Cragg Vale, built of stone, quarried locally on the moors above the village at a spot called Clattering Stones. With galleries flanking three walls, the windows were of plain glass with the organ situated in the nave. The building was heated by a stove fuelled by engine coal and lit by candles until the luxury of gas lighting in 1879, when gas was piped all the way to the Church from Lower Mill! The Church could seat 800 and was unusual in that almost half of the seats were free, no pew rent had to be paid. On 2nd October 1839, the Bishop of Ripon consecrated the church, beginning the next chapter in the history of St John's in Cragg Vale.



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Update on Businesses in Cragg Vale

**SPOTLIGHT ON
BUSINESS IN
CRAGG VALE**

Businesses at Top Land and the Dean Hey Business Park are going from strength to strength



Sand In Your Eye

Many of you probably watched Sand In Your Eye carving pumpkins at Hebden Bridge's first ever pumpkin festival! The team said they were really excited to work with Hebden Royd Town Council and with a combination of carved and uncarved displays, live carves, and workshops, they also encouraged local businesses to get in on the act and create their own window displays.

In November, they spent 8 days in Nottingham creating an ice bar for a Winter Wonderland event. Using tons of ice, giant carved ice walls, booths, a huge bar, sculptures, and even a 2 metre high polar bear were created!

Alongside lots of other sand sculpture events, for the past 8 years they have been creating a 20 ton sand sculpture for a classical music festival in Crail, in East Neuk in Scotland.

This year they made Schubert with a surprise carving on the back of Kingo. Claire Jamieson said "We received great feedback on this year's sculpture and it was even featured in quite a few national newspapers. Going to Crail is like visiting family, as we have got to know many of the locals well over the years".



The Bakehouse

The Bakehouse got a grant from Calderdale Council to install a new oven in their premises at Top Land and are now baking more bread with a better finish! The bread is on sale not only in Hebden Bridge Market on Thursday, Saturday and Sunday but also in Mytholmroyd on Wednesdays and Fridays



Hebden Radio

Hebden Radio have no need for transmitters as they broadcast live from their beautiful site at Dean Hey Business Park. Fully launched and available on DAB by the time you read this, you'll be able to listen to the station in your car, in the office and at home. They'll be broadcasting on a total of 6 transmitters across the Calder Valley and beyond and will be able to attract a much bigger audience of just short of 500,000 potential new listeners!

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