

# Cragg News



## Spaw Sunday 5th May

Our annual 'Spaw Sunday' event is on 5th May this year. Everyone, of any age, is welcome. Meet at the Hinchliffe Arms at 2.30pm to follow the procession from the Church, led by Ryburn Longswords, to the spa for the blessing, music, dancing, and the community picnic! We end the day with more music and dancing at the Robin Hood. Come and join us, it's all **free of charge!**

## Big Spring Clean-up 2019

It's the 'Big Spring Clean' time again! From Friday 22nd to Sunday 31st March, Cragg Vale Community Association will be collecting rubbish and cleaning up our valley. If you'd like to help, please contact Marianne Hood on 01422 885224



## Cragg Vale Treasure Hunt

On Sunday April 14th we're holding another 'Cragg Vale Treasure Hunt'. Starting at 2.00pm at 'Craggies' (on the top road) it's for everyone, especially children, and it's free! Collect a quiz sheet, follow the route marked by the little bikes, and answer the questions, finding 'treasure' along the way! The trail, less than 2 hours in our beautiful valley, has some steady, but not too energetic, walking. It's not taxing but sturdy footwear is recommended as the ground can be rough and muddy! Return to 'Craggies' by 4.00pm to enter completed quiz sheets into the prize draw. For further information, contact CVCA Secretary Marianne Hood [marianne.hood@outlook.com](mailto:marianne.hood@outlook.com)



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by Hinchliffe Arms  
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## Spring

### MARCH

**Every Tuesday afternoon 'Open Church'**  
St John's Church 2pm - 3.30pm.

**Friday 1st March Broadhead Clough**  
Volunteers needed: meet 10am at the reserve signboard.  
Contact Helen Pedley YWT: 886195

**Wednesday 6th March Cragg Vale Music Group**  
Contact Martyn Kenyon on [martynk@talktalk.net](mailto:martynk@talktalk.net)  
or 07572 578444

### APRIL

**Every Tuesday afternoon 'Open Church'**  
St John's Church 3pm - 4.30pm.

**Wednesday 3rd April Cragg Vale Music Group**  
Contact Martyn Kenyon on [martynk@talktalk.net](mailto:martynk@talktalk.net)  
or 07572 578444

**Friday 5th April Broadhead Clough**  
Volunteers needed: meet 10am at the reserve signboard.  
Contact Helen Pedley YWT: 886195

**Tuesday 9th April St. John's Church Spring Clean**  
from 1.30pm Please come and help

**Sunday 14th April Treasure Hunt for all ages**  
starts 2pm from Craggies. Follow the trail, find the treasure,  
return by 4pm. FREE

**Sunday 21st April Easter Sunday Service for Easter Day**  
St. John's Church, 9.30am, followed by hot cross buns and  
coffee!

### MAY

**Every Tuesday afternoon 'Open Church'**  
St John's Church 3pm - 4.30pm.

**Wednesday 1st May Cragg Vale Music Group**  
Contact Martyn Kenyon on [martynk@talktalk.net](mailto:martynk@talktalk.net) or 07572  
578444

**Friday 3rd May Broadhead Clough:**  
Volunteers needed: meet 10am at the reserve signboard.  
Contact Helen Pedley YWT: 886195

**Sunday 5th May 'Spaw Sunday'**  
Meet 2.30pm, Hinchliffe Arms. Free Event

**Monday 6th May 'Duck Race'**  
Details on posters and from St. John's Church

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

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— at the ark —

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# The Cragg Challenge 2019



There's another sign of Spring arriving in the valley – preparations for the Cragg Challenge on Sunday 22nd September begin in earnest. On Saturday 21st there will also be the conclusion of a very special challenge: Shaun Donnelly (who completed the 'Eddie's Heroes' challenge last year) and other cyclists will arrive on the hill having cycled overnight from Edinburgh!

This year there's more of a buzz than usual, with new events being added and more start/finish line activities planned to make this community event even more memorable and to encourage more participation. The 10-mile, 10K and 5K runs will return to the hillside, along with the cycle climb and schools relay events. This year sees the introduction of two new events – a 1-mile dash (or dawdle) downhill from the Robin, and a

special new event for cyclists, an Audax, which will challenge entrants to a 100km+ route. Entries to all events will be opening soon so please monitor the web site ([www.cragg15.uk](http://www.cragg15.uk)) to check when entries go live if you're intending to take part.

This community event raises £'000s for charities every year but relies on volunteers to help make the day run. If you can spare some time to help with set-up, marshalling, registration, logistics or whatever, please email [info@cragg15.uk](mailto:info@cragg15.uk) and one of the organisers will be in touch.

Whether you're planning to be a runner, rider, proud relative, friend or spectator, put the date in your diary now – Sunday 22nd September 2019 and watch for further announcements.

## Cragg Vale Music Group

The Cragg Vale Music Group, formed in October last year, provides an opportunity for people to come together to share and sing their favourite songs. Meeting at 7.30pm on the FIRST Wednesday of each month, all are welcome, irrespective of age or abilities, but a sense of humour is essential. Instruments and musical offerings are most welcome. We're trialling

different venues to make it as accessible as possible, so if you are interested in coming along, have a look at the <http://craggvalecommunity.co.uk> website or contact Martyn Kenyon on [martynk@talktalk.net](mailto:martynk@talktalk.net) or 07572 578444 and he'll put you on the mailing list and keep you updated with the Group's happenings.

## News from St John's Church

Work is continuing inside church, the kitchen will soon offer excellent catering facilities. We need to make the building accessible for everyone, with improved access from outside and to the first floor. We have some funds for this but need to ask our local community for help as we still need to pay for the upkeep of the church and our 'Parish Share' (almost £15000 this year) to the Diocese. As well as improving access we need to conserve, renovate and improve the windows. It's hard for our small congregation to cover all these costs without help from friends, neighbours and the Cragg community at large.

Recently we were asked if there were any groups for teenagers locally and if St. John's could put on some sort of group for that age group. We have some great spaces in church and would love to host a group BUT we don't have anyone able to run one at the moment. If anyone, parents of teens, volunteers with youth leadership skills etc, would like to help please contact Julie at the email address below.

We're planning to Spring clean the church in readiness for Easter. We have a mainly elderly congregation who've given years of voluntary service to St John's but are no longer able to spend time up ladders with dusters etc! So, if anyone could give an hour or two from 1.30pm on Tuesday 9th April you would be most welcome - and tea and cake will be provided!

A small group have been spending Tuesday afternoons tidying up and maintaining the churchyard, if anyone would like to join them, please come along any Tuesday afternoon - tea and cake available!

Keep an eye on the church noticeboard and Facebook (Cragg Vale and Friends of Erringden Benefice) for all events and services happening over Easter. We are planning a duck race on May Day – look out for 'Duck for Sale' sheets, buy as many as you'd like for £1 a duck!

If you have an idea for an activity you would like to see in church or can offer to lead a group or class of some kind, please let me know. We can also hire rooms out for private functions at very reasonable rates – just get in touch if you'd like to know more! Contact Julie at [stjohnscraggvale@gmail.com](mailto:stjohnscraggvale@gmail.com).



# CRAGGIES

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# News from the Ark

**The Ark has always been proud to offer children the opportunity for outdoor play all year round. Every Monday and Friday morning, come rain or shine, 2-year olds from our Nursery room embark on a journey to the wonderful world of Woodland Explorers.**

The children prepare by pulling on waterproof suits, coats and welly boots. Then the expedition begins to our purpose built sensory garden to explore the sights, sounds and smells of nature.

Our Woodland Explorer Ranger team are passionate about outdoor play and guide the children in activities, helping to develop skills that enable them to grow and learn. Every week there is something new to learn: communication and listening skills; physical development; literacy; maths; making relationships; understanding the world and expressing themselves. Outdoor play is vital for the development of children. Providing freedom and space, it grows an appreciation for the natural world and

can instil a sense of wonder and excitement for the outdoors at an early age.

Recently we have built houses for fairies who were interested about moving into our garden and turning it into an Enchanted Forest. We've built bug hotels to learn about insects, creatures and plants and also built bird baths and a wobbly wigwam.

We've learned about the power of the wind by throwing leaves in the air and watching them dance through the air. During the recent cold weather, we made snowy footprints and snow angels and explored our senses with chilly cold ice. The children have been covered head to toe in mud – the best fun ever?



## Calder Primary Achieve Gold!



**Date for your diary:**  
Calder Primary PTA Summer Fair is  
Saturday 29th June on the Calder  
Learning Trust School Field.

This year Calder Primary School have achieved the Gold School Games Award. This is a national award which recognises the wide range of sporting and fitness activities the pupils take part in – from competitions in Netball,

Hockey and Gymnastics to Judo, Dance, Cricket, after-school clubs and junior playtime leaders. They are delighted to have been awarded Gold this year for the first time, building on Bronze and Silver awards in previous years. Very few schools achieve Gold, so they are very proud of how it highlights just how many pupils are involved in such a variety of sporting opportunities!

Pupils in Years 3 and 4 have begun their year-long training to become 'Junior Wardens'. They're working with Upper Valley Calderdale Community Wardens to learn how to keep our area safe, clean and green and a nice place for everyone. As part of their training they've also met the local emergency services, including Fire Officers and Police, and will soon be out and about working alongside the wardens in our local area.

## Please support CVCA

**Cragg Vale Community Association is asking everyone who supports our activities to become a member of the Association. Membership, open to all with any sort of connection to our community, is only £3 per household or family per year. We want to have at least 100 members to give us at least £300 a year to fund our activities such as the Treasure Hunt and Bike events. Please complete the membership form and/or see our website [www.craggvalecommunity.co.uk](http://www.craggvalecommunity.co.uk) for details.**





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# CASTLE HALL HOSPITAL



**T**he temporary conversion of Castle Hall, Cragg Vale, the residence of Miss Rigby, and formerly of the late Mr C.W. Greenwood, into an auxiliary hospital, has been completed.

The place has a very cosy and comfortable appearance, and no expense has been spared to make it so. Sixteen cots have been put in two rooms in the basement, both of which are heated by radiators, and the soldiers fortunate enough to be dispatched to this hospital will find themselves exceedingly well catered for.

## **“BOOKS TO PLEASE MANY TASTES ARE PROVIDED.”**

The drawing room is to be used for dining and for amusements; a piano, harmonium, gramophone, table games, and a billiard table all being at the command of the men. Books to please many tastes are provided. Across the yard a bath room has been constructed, and other rooms in the same building will serve many purposes. A cottage on the lower side of the hall

is to be the smoke room, and a place for more vigorous amusement. A room in the hall is set apart for any surgical work that may be necessary. The men will be expected to do a little in return for what is done for them, such as “washing up” and a little gardening in the grounds.

The arrangements altogether are quite ideal. Miss Rigby is to act as commandant, and she will have the assistance of a number of trained nurses.

Other lady members of the Red Cross Committee have assisted her in the preliminary work. A good deal of money will be required to keep the hospital going, but there have been many generous contributions, and the promoters have no fear about subscriptions to such a good cause, continuing to flow in.

The first batch of 16 soldiers arrived on Wednesday afternoon. They were brought in a motor hospital, and were served with a capital meal.

## **Cragg Vale LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY**

We meet on the third Thursday of the month. We provide tea and coffee at all our meetings in the upstairs room, St John's Church. We try to encourage the social as well as the historical, visitors are welcome at £3 a visit. Annual membership (From April each year) is ONLY £10 for 8 meetings!

For more information contact Jane Frechette 07733326866

## **UPCOMING EVENTS**

### **21ST MARCH**

John Spencer - The First World War

### **18TH APRIL**

AGM and 'Your Mystery Item is?'

### **16TH MAY**

Peter Robinson talking about 'Early Inns'



# FROM SOAP TO STAIRCASES

SPOTLIGHT ON  
BUSINESS IN  
CRAGG VALE



Tenants of local family firm, Thorner Properties, represent a fascinating variety of usages from laboratories, offices and workshops through to retail, warehousing and even a brass band!

Julian Rowntree, the family team member currently responsible for lettings and the first point of contact for prospective and existing tenants, explained, “We’re always keen to support new and long-standing tenants whenever we can. The key is for us to be flexible, and to have the space and resources that enable us to accommodate virtually any sort of business or organisation – from creative start-ups to established manufacturers”.

The company is currently welcoming a flurry of new tenants excited about being in Cragg Vale. **Obscure Clothing Ltd** is a good example, this busy screenprinting business, specialising in band and venue merchandise, has recently relocated from Leicestershire. Owner Glen Caskie explained the thinking behind the move, “We wanted to come north but stay in a beautiful rural location like the farm we were based at previously, and this new site more than delivers. The Thorner team even helped install 3-phase electrics and adapted the plumbing to accommodate our printing process, and the unit

we’ve taken has a kitchen, office, print room and screen preparation room all in one place. Not only have we got the space and facilities we need for improving our efficiency, but we’re also surrounded by stunning scenery.”

Alex Cohen at **Bespoke Fabrication GB** is another tenant who recently moved to the Topland site, attracted partly by the chance to work in such a unique setting. Alex is an experienced metal fabricator who designs and manufactures one-off staircases and balustrades for domestic buildings. As well as enjoying the sight of hills and big skies right outside his workplace, Alex explained that easy access, great security, and a friendly community atmosphere all contributed to his decision to start an exciting new business here. Phil Bates, co-owner of **Zikodrive**, also appreciates the natural surroundings here. His business designs, tests and assembles motor control electronics, and he says that visiting customers often comment on his stunning location, which is split 50/50 between office space and a workshop.

It's not only the natural surroundings that have impressed businesses here, **Grow Tuition** offers child-centered teaching support to children from Key Stage 1 through to Key Stage 5. The company recently moved to larger premises to better accommodate their expanding business. **Grow**



“Thornber management team have been incredibly helpful since we began renting space from them”

needs premises that are smart, safe, and professionally managed, not least because its everyday customers are children and their parents. Co-owner Kathryn Grice explained, “The Thornber management team have been incredibly helpful since we began renting space from them, and they made our transition from a small unit to the one we're in now extremely smooth, with great attention to detail so we really felt looked after. They certainly went above and beyond what we'd have expected, and now we regard them less as a landlord and more like friends.”

Supporting business growth is a common theme when you talk to tenants in premises owned by Thornber Properties, and it's refreshing to hear that local companies are doing well. Geoff Kerouac and Robert Costello are currently in the process of moving their award-winning and eco-friendly soap company, **Friendly Soap**, from Todmorden. The new unit they'll soon occupy will help accommodate their growing business, which now employs eight local people and is set to expand further. Geoff explained, “We wanted to move into a larger and more modern facility, and our new site has everything we need for production, packing and warehousing, as well as the added bonus of great office and conferencing



spaces. If we outgrow these premises too, we're confident Thornbers will find us a suitable new base when the time comes.”

When the national news is so full of stories about economic uncertainty and businesses struggling to know how to plan for the future, it's encouraging to know that plenty of our own local companies are growing, recruiting, and investing in the area. It's also a positive sign that their commercial landlord is right behind them, understanding their needs and giving them the facilities and flexibility that will help them survive whatever the future brings. That their forward-thinking landlord is a Calderdale family born and bred, is something we can all be proud of.



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## **Broadhead Clough February 2019 update**

The winter so far has been gentle in the reserve compared to the drama of previous years. In December we cut back more holly to open up an area of bilberry and heather that was being overgrown and cleared drainage channels across the paths. This coupled with a “dry” January meant that the annual Hebden Long Distance Walk/ Run Challenge (for up to 500 people) made less of a muddy impact than some years. We also thinned an area of birch trees to promote sturdier growth for those remaining. Ice meant February's workday was cancelled so in March we will be rebuilding dry stone walls and replacing fence posts that have rotted to secure the meadows before the cattle come to graze.

One of the things I like most about the YWT ethos is that they themselves have to balance the many environmental factors at work in their

reserves. The native sheep and cows used for grazing are “farmed animals”: they sell the wool or knitted items and meat via a box scheme. They also partner with companies to operate flood management schemes or promote products such as farm grown bird seed. Understanding the trade-offs that many farmers, foresters, developers and other landowners have to make gives them a pragmatic stance on how together we could move to a “Wilder Yorkshire.”

Whilst Brexit dominates the news, it's less well known that in 2017 the government's manifesto committed to introduce a new Environment Act saying we should be the “first generation to leave the environment in a better state than we inherited it in”. The YWT is campaigning that this Act will be a strong document and include

- Nature Targets: legal targets for nature's recovery that politicians must ultimately achieve and regularly report on progress towards e.g. safer air to breathe in our cities

- A Nature Recovery Network: a joined-up network of habitats that provides enough space for wildlife to recover and for people to thrive

- A Nature Watchdog: an independent body to help people challenge bad decisions made by Government and councils, which have a negative impact on wildlife and our natural environment.

With these changes to legislation YWT hopes we could all play our part to ensure nature has the best chance to thrive whatever the political future.

Our Spring task-days are planned as usual for the first Friday of the month at 10a.m. for March 1st, 5th April, 3rd May and 7th June. We meet at the reserve sign board about ½ mile off Cragg Road from Dauber Bridge. All tools are provided and gloves if you need them – just bring a drink, and packed lunch if you are staying all day.

**Helen Pedley, 886195**

[www.ywt.org.uk](http://www.ywt.org.uk)

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