

Cragg News

AUTUMN

SEPTEMBER

Friday 6th September Broadhead Clough: Volunteers needed: meet 10am at the reserve signboard, tools & gloves provided Contact Helen Pedley YWT: 886195

Friday 6th & Saturday 7th September, Cragg Fest, the Robin Hood, 4pm to 11pm. Free entry, all welcome

Monday 9th September YCWA, 2.30pm St. John's Church, Harvest Meal

Wednesday 11th September Cragg Vale Music Group, all invited, details from Martyn Kenyon martynk@talktalk.net or 07572 578444

Saturday 14th September St. John's Church, 3-5pm 'Open Oven' sour dough and pizza making demonstration

Tuesday 17th September St. John's Church, come and help make the churchyard ready for winter – bring gloves, rakes etc. Tea and cakes from 2.30pm

Sunday 22nd September Cragg Challenge, events from 8.45am. Road closed 8am – 3.30pm. Refreshments

OCTOBER

Friday 4th October Broadhead Clough: Volunteers needed: meet 10am at the reserve signboard, tools & gloves provided Contact Helen Pedley YWT: 886195

Sunday 6th October St. John's Church, 10.30am Harvest Festival, 12.30 'Open Table' Harvest Lunch – all welcome

Wednesday 9th October Cragg Vale Music Group, All invited, details from Martyn Kenyon martynk@talktalk.net or 07572 578444

Sunday 13th October St. John's Church, 2-4pm 'Open Oven' bake bread together

Monday 14th October YCWA, 2.30pm St. John's Church Alan Brook, update on Hope village, India

Sunday 20th October St. John's Church, 12.30pm 'Open Sky Walk'

Sunday 27th October St. John's Church, 'Open Wilderness Worship' – details tbc

NOVEMBER

Friday 1st November Broadhead Clough: Volunteers needed: meet 10am at the reserve signboard, tools & gloves provided Contact Helen Pedley YWT: 886195

Friday 1st November Cragg Vale Bonfire, Starts 6pm, Springfield, Cragg Road

Saturday 2nd November St. John's Church, 7pm 'All Souls' service to remember those we have lost

Sunday 3rd November St. John's Church, 1-3pm 'Open Table', a time to eat together

Sunday 10th November St. John's Church, 9.30am Remembrance Day service, 2-4pm 'Open Oven'

Monday 11th November YCWA, 2.30pm St. John's Church, YCWA AGM

Wednesday 13th November, Cragg Vale Music Group – all invited, details from Martyn Kenyon martynk@talktalk.net or 07572 578444

Sunday 17th November St. John's Church, 12.30pm 'Open Sky Walk'

Sunday 24th November St. John's Church, 'Open Wilderness Worship' – details tbc

See our website www.craggvalecommunity.co.uk

FREE ENTRY

THE ROBIN HOOD PRESENTS

CRAGG FEST

FRI 6TH, SAT 7TH SEPTEMBER 2019

OUTDOOR FESTIVAL / BAR & FOOD / LIVE BANDS

BEHIND THE PUB / 4PM - 11PM / ALL AGES WELCOME

FUNDRAISER FOR CANCER RESEARCH & CALDER VALLEY SEARCH AND RESCUE

CraggFest, behind the Robin Hood pub, now a two-day event, will be held on Friday 6th and Saturday 7th September from 4pm until 11pm. There will be lots of bands and DJs throughout both days, a full bar and food, and all under cover!! Entry is free but everyone is encouraged to donate generously to the charities who will be present including Candlelighters, Cancer Research and Calder Valley Search and Rescue.

DO YOU LIKE GOOD MUSIC ?

The question was posed by Arthur Conley back in 1967, (5 points for anyone who knew that!) but is still relevant today, some 52 years later. The CVCA music group continues to meet on a monthly basis to put a local "flavouring" onto our favourite traditional and popular songs. It's a lively and fun way to spend an evening instead of watching re-runs on TV.

We aim for 2nd Wednesday of each month, 7.30pm start, but scheduling

and venues may vary to help keep meetings accessible, so keep an eye on the CVCA website

<http://www.craggvalecommunity.co.uk/>

where details of next meeting will be posted. As always, everyone's welcome, new voices and instruments are always welcome. Contact group organiser Martyn Kenyon on martynk@talktalk.net for more information, he'll be happy to add you to the mailing list to keep you posted.

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- Woodland Explorers on Mondays & Fridays for children age 2+
- Early Years teacher in Pre-school
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SPACE

at the ark

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children, dogs, all welcome*

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Sunday 12-6

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Cragg Road, Cragg Vale



Ye Bowmen and ye Archers good
Come in and drink with Robin Hood
If Robin to the fete has gone
Then take a glass with Little John

Available for
events and
parties

Cragg Challenge 2019



Sunday 22nd September sees this year's Cragg Challenge making a return to the hillside, with the 10-mile, 10K, and 5K, runs along with the cycle ascent and 'The Collinge Climb' (schools' relay).

Two new events feature this year: a 100km Cycle Grimeur (Audax) starting at the bottom of the hill with a 100km route circling back via a proportion of the 2014 Tour de France route and finishing in Mytholmroyd; the second is a 1-mile dash starting just below The Robin Hood and finishing in Mytholmroyd, a closed-road and gravity-assist could make for some creditable finishing times!

The provisional timetable for the day is being finalised as we go to press, please check the latest information by visiting the main web site www.craggchallenge.co.uk where you can also follow links to enter any of the events.

The information we have is: 8.30 the Road Closure comes into effect, 8.45 Audax start, 9.00 Cycle Ascent, 10.15 the Collinge Climb. 11.15 to 11.45 is the escorted access period. At 12.00 the 1-mile Dash will be followed by the 10 mile at 12.30, 10K at 12.40 and 5K at 12.50. The road re-opens at 3.30pm.

There will be the Royd Ices café at the start/finish line for refreshments, and a variety of other stalls and entertainment throughout the day. Once again, arrangements have been made to assist residents who need to enter or leave the road closure area. There will be an 'escorted move' available between 11.15 and 11.45. Please email info@cragg15.uk to request assistance and one of the organisers will be in touch.

Over £800 Raised For St. John's

The excellent turnout for the Cragg Vale Fell Race raised over £800 for Cragg Church refurbishments.

Sponsorship from Cragg's Little Valley Brewery proved very popular with lots of prizes and kegs of beer. Plus, the Church ladies put on some awesome cakes, butties and other refreshments. Many locals helped to marshal the event and the sunny, dry weather played its part in making it a fast 'lung-busting' race. Todmorden Harrier, Andrew Worster was 4 seconds off the 2008 race record of 26.27. Men and Women's team prizes went to Todmorden, who turned out in force with 37 runners. The first female, Natasha Butterfield, from Calder Valley [who fielded 27 runners]

hadn't done the race before but is on a winning streak this year!

Drama unfolded part way through the race, when Tod Harrier Dave Collins fell on Erringdon Moor, badly injuring both legs. Thanks to his Tod teammates and sweeper Kath Brierley [plus Rick, Martyn Kenyon and all the runners who gave up their cags], Dave was made comfortable until Geraint Harris/Calder Valley Search and Rescue team got there. After having both legs splinted, Dave was taken to Huddersfield hospital, where he had operations on his torn ligaments/fractured femur. He'll be back for next year's race!

News from St John's Church

We've had a busy time at St John's recently with the Duck Race, Fell Race, Pilates classes, YCA and History Group meetings, Thomas Crowther Day for local schools as well as our regular Sunday services.

Last month we welcomed our new Curate, Daniel, who will be working alongside Cathy at St John's and St Michael's for the next 3 years. This month we are introducing a new initiative – 'Sanctuary in the Wilderness' aimed at supporting the well-being of all in our community. Many of us, at some point in our lives, suffer isolation, loneliness, poor health (mental and/or physical) and other life events which may lead to a reduction in our well-being, we hope that the activities offered under the umbrella of 'Sanctuary in the Wilderness' will provide a place to go for anyone needing a listening ear, a kind word, a new challenge, some company or a change of scene and also for those who can offer to help provide these things.

We will be organising 'Open Sky Walks' (walks through our amazing countryside with some good company!), 'Open Oven' sessions (baking together), 'Open Table' meals (a meal provided in church for anyone who would like to come along – no charge but donations from those who wish to make them welcome) and 'Open Wilderness Worship' (an exciting alternative form of worship, outside, where we can experience nature in all its glory!). Anyone will be welcome at any of the activities. See the what's on section at the front of the newsletter for details! Church services are every Sunday at 9.30am (except October 6th), 'Open Church' every Tuesday 2.30pm – 4pm, everyone welcome. Dates for your diary: Friday December 13th 'A Cragg Christmas Cracker', Saturday December 14th Traditional Victorian Carols.

Anyone interested in hiring space in the church please contact Julie at stjohnscraggvale@gmail.com. We have the Crowther room upstairs (£15 or £20 an hour depending on how many people) and the church space (£25 an hour) with discounts for non-profit making community organisations. The spaces can be used for classes, parties, meetings, film shows etc.

Julie Harris, Churchwarden



Forest School at The Ark



Forest School at The Ark provides a unique and fun learning experience for our pre-school children, teaching them about the environment. It provides stimulating, memorable and exciting experiences whilst helping them recognise the importance of being healthy, staying safe, enjoying

activities and making a positive contribution to the world around them. These sessions are led by Forest School qualified staff who have extensive knowledge of outdoor learning and the benefits this can bring.

Sessions take place twice weekly, all year round, in a woodland area near to The Ark. The children have a fabulous opportunity for active outdoor play and discovery and also learn independence, self-confidence and emotional skills. They are provided with waterproof outfits, keeping them warm and dry, while they find treasure beside the river, build dens or find fairy houses in the trees. Other activities include mini beast hunting, rope walking, planting, and cooking with ingredients the children have grown, such as garlic for home-made garlic bread.

An essential feature of Forest School is allowing children to manage their own risks. Closely supervised activities such as campfire cooking, tree climbing, and river walking all contribute to the children's awareness of the world around them, teaching them skills for life.



Yorkshire
Wildlife Trust

Broadhead Clough Sept 2019 update

Summer began with a very dry spell which was timely for major work on the access track and particularly the sharp turn by the sign board leading up to the meadows. This is partly so that the flash flooding does not keep washing the surface into the stream, and also to make it easier for a trailer to make the turn when fully loaded with cows. Yorkshire Wildlife Trust have now decided it is easier for local farmers to graze their meadows rather than continue their own herd at Stirley Farm, so this year we have both Limousin cows and Highland cattle visiting us.

In the reserve I completed the 6 breeding bird surveys with the usual residents – Great, Blue, Coal and Long Tailed Tits, Blackbirds, Robins, and Wrens. New “firsts” this year include a male Bullfinch singing just below the exit gate onto the moors, and three Partridge to join the resident Pheasants. Our bird boxes continue to be well occupied and this year a Tawny

Owl box was installed. Owls have been heard for years: I'm not sure the box was actually used, but Steve Downing (a volunteer licensed to ring fledglings) caught this Tawny Owlet posing for the camera. That same day he ringed 86 chicks, including several Nuthatches so the breeding season has been good for many species. Another surprise was two new born kids hiding in the grass whilst the doe slunk quietly away. As usual we have been clearing bracken from the bilberry and the mires to try and reduce its vigour and spread. It's a never ending task but it is rewarding to see the marsh orchids in the wetter patches where it hasn't taken hold.

Task-days here at Broadhead Clough are planned on the first Friday of the month at 10a.m. on Sep 6th, Oct 4th, Nov 1st, and Dec 6th. All tools are provided, and gloves if required. Just bring a drink and a packed lunch if you are staying all day.

Helen Pedley, 886195



www.ywt.org.uk

Love Yorkshire, Love Wildlife

WITHENS CLOUGH: MEMORIES OF THE RESERVOIR KEEPER'S DAUGHTER

My Uncle used to be a Reservoir Keeper for Huddersfield Corporation and my Dad decided to join Wakefield Water Corporation when he was demobbed from the army after the end of the 2nd World War

Stanley, the son of the first reservoir keeper at Withens Clough told many tales of living here, one involved his Uncle who only had one leg. During the War, he was put on fire watch, his family carried him and a chair onto the middle of the banking and left him over night inside the valve tower, then in the morning they carried him and the chair back. Like Stanley, I spent school holidays with Dad, out and about or in the treatment works.

THEY HAD A HAMMER TO TAP THE METAL PLUG AT THE END OF THE TUNNEL, NOTHING ELSE HOLDING BACK THE RESERVOIR WATER.

Stanley mentioned his Dad sending him and his brother as young boys up the draw-off tunnel at the bottom of the banking each week. They had a hammer to tap the metal plug at the end of the tunnel, nothing else holding back the reservoir water. No one had any idea how thick the plug, or the draw-off pipe leading from it, could be or what lay behind the plug. The valve house at the top of the banking only had a hole in the floor, full of water, and no valves at this point to control the water.

We lived in the Reservoir Keeper's house at Green Withens in Rishworth until 1963 when Dad transferred here to take up his new role in the Water Treatment works following Wakefield and Morley corporation merging into Wakefield and District Water Board. Before the new treatment works officially started on 25/10/1963, I can remember the lime lorries driving up between our house and the barn, reversing on the ramp at the back of the barn to the top level. Each morning lime used to be mixed into a tank at the top of the barn. Two large water wheels with small cups turned slowly under water power and the cups added the lime over a 24-hour period into two large water tanks. The lime and water then left another large tank that flowed down a pipe to the old treatment works. This explains why old maps and photographs show a large tank up in the



Morley Corporation Withens Reservoir, a large machine on site with a 120 ft. arm reaching down into the core centre of the dam

moor behind the barn and lime tanks on the west side of the barn.

From 1970 major remedial work was undertaken to safe-guard the reservoir banking, including work on a new draw-off tunnel and shaft situated outside our house. Work on the banking involved massive amounts of grout being pumped.

WORK MEN WARNED US TO KEEP TO THE BACK OF THE HOUSE DURING BLASTING TO AVOID ANY DANGER FROM FLYING ROCKS

During this period our house had alarms, including a siren and a loud horn wired up to sensors detecting any water entering the dry part of the old tunnel below the reservoir banking. In the house, we had sealed instructions to be opened only if the alarms sound. Usually, myself or Dad would be at home and I also had a key to access the filter works and access the two-way radio linked to a control room in Wakefield. Work continued 7 days a week, 24 hours a day. Work men warned us to keep to the back of the house during blasting to avoid any danger from flying rocks but during the middle of the night they considered it safe enough to continue without informing us!

Cragg Vale LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

We meet at 7.30pm on the third Thursday of the month in the upstairs room, St John's Church. With tea and coffee at all meetings, we encourage the social as well as the historical. Visitors welcome at £3 a visit -or become a member, £15 for 10 meetings.

For more information contact Jane Frechette 07733326866

UPCOMING EVENTS

SEPTEMBER 19TH

Pat Osborne with 'Behind closed doors' (Bronte scandal!)

OCTOBER 17TH

Andrew Bibby with 'Hebden Bridge Co-operative'

NOVEMBER 21ST

Ruth Beazley with 'The Triangle Mill Sisters & Stansfield Hall'

Cragg Vale is a hotbed of talent and business enterprise, here are some highlights of our amazing range of local businesses.

SITE-EYE

Site-Eye, a global high-tech business based in Top Land, provides time-lapse recordings and other visual images for major projects around the world helping record, manage and showcase projects whilst improving on-site safety and security. The business has grown steadily since its launch in 2000 and has provided footage for some world class sites such as the London Olympics, The Shard, the Open Golf Championship, Bahrain Air Show, Hong Kong Peak Trams and Battersea Power Station, along with household names such as Apple, Virgin, Disney, Samsung, and Sky. It currently has over 350 cameras on sites in around 10 countries, all of which can be managed from the nerve centre in Cragg Vale. Managing Director Gareth Evans-McClave says "we love living in Cragg Vale, being able to use technology to run the operation from a local site makes total sense to us. We actually do have the world at our fingertips!"

more information at www.site-eye.co.uk



VALLEY VEG

Valley Veg, the business venture of local boy Liam Laprell, located in Thornber Properties, is a family-run fruit and vegetable home delivery service, delivering free of charge between Halifax and Todmorden.

All produce is carefully and ethically sourced from independent local growers, where possible, and is 100% plastic free.

Liam says "Good quality produce is a passion of ours, everything is either hand selected or produced by us. You can send your individual order or choose from one of our mixed boxes that change each week. Priced at £12, £18 and £25, they include a mix of seasonal fruit, vegetables, and salad. We now offer a range of new products including hampers and home-cooked preserves. From September, we're launching our children's cookery workshop educating children on where our food comes from and how to use it"

For information, contact

valleyveg19@gmail.com
or see social media pages @valleyveg19



JASMINE MURRAY

Local girl **Jasmine Murray**, loves animals, outdoor life and photography and runs her own business combining all 3! She explains "it started on a small scale, a few people in the area needed someone to spend some time exercising their dogs, mostly because they were out at work and didn't want the dogs left alone all day. I loved being out with the dogs, and would also spend time training them, teaching different commands and taking photos, showing pets enjoying themselves.

My list continued to grow, and extended to include house-sitting to look after homes and pets whilst owners were on holiday, avoiding the stress of kennels. I also help out with farm and equestrian, as everyone needs a break sometime. It's now pretty much full time, and its great being my own boss which allows me to be flexible to fit in with owners' requirements. I also get to spend every day walking around this beautiful area and the chance to take some brilliant photos. I really couldn't ask for a better job"

For information, contact

Animalcarejasmine@hotmail.com



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