

Cragg News

Cragg Vale Annual Treasure Hunt

On **Sunday April 19th** we're holding the annual '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, is not too energetic although we can't guarantee what the weather will do so 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. When you get back to Craggies you will be able to buy drinks, cakes, snacks and simple meals as Andrea is making a special arrangement (Craggies usually closes at 4pm) for all the hungry returning Treasure Hunters'!

For further information, contact CVCA Secretary Marianne Hood marianne.hood@outlook.com

Can you help CVCA?

We need someone to check (audit) our (pretty simple) accounts. You don't need any qualifications or to be a spreadsheet wizard, just independence from the Committee. If you can manage your own personal finances then you have the skills needed to check our accounts.

If you would be interested in helping your local community association please contact the Secretary, Marianne Hood at marianne.hood@outlook.com for more details.

Big Spring Clean 2020

It's the 'Big Spring Clean' time again! From Saturday 21st to Sunday 29th 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. Protective gloves, 'litter-pickers' and sacks provided!



www.craggvalecommunity.co.uk

SPRING DIARY

Every Tuesday 'Open Church' 2.30 – 4pm St. John's

March

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

Sunday 8th March St. John's Church: 'Open Sky Walk' 12.30pm

Monday 9th March Yorkshire Countrywomen's Association: 'Hug on a Tray', Lesley Noble, 2.30pm St. John's Church

Wednesday 11th March Cragg Vale Music Group: all invited, details from Martyn Kenyon martynk666@outlook.com

Thursday 17th March Cragg Vale History Society: 7.30pm St. John's

Sunday 29th March Open Wilderness Worship: 3 - 4pm St. John's

April

Friday 3rd April Broadhead Clough: Volunteers needed: meet 10am reserve signboard, tools & gloves provided Contact Helen Pedley: 886195

Sunday 5th April Palm Sunday Pilgrimage from St. John's to Horsehold to help raise the Easter cross

Wednesday 8th April Cragg Vale Music Group: contact Martyn Kenyon martynk666@outlook.com

Saturday 11th April Easter Fun for All 1pm – 4pm St. John's Church, Easter egg hunt, Easter bonnet and decorated egg competitions, and refreshments

Thursday 16th April Cragg Vale History Society: 7.30pm St. John's

Friday April 17th 'Pop Up Meal': 6pm St. John's Church

Sunday 19th April Cragg Vale Treasure Hunt: for all ages, 2pm meet at Craggies to follow the trail and find treasure, return by 4pm for prizes & refreshments FREE EVENT

Monday 20th April Yorkshire Countrywomen's Association: Little Theatre visit

Thursday 23rd April St. George's Day Banquet: at the Hinchliffe, music and feasting £25 per person Tel 883256

Saturday April 25th Dock Pudding Breakfast: 9 – 12 noon St. John's

May

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

Sunday 3rd May Spaw Sunday celebrations: 3pm meet at the Spa for a community picnic, music and dancing with Ryburn Longswords. FREE EVENT for all ages

Sunday 10th May VE Day Church Service: St. John's 10.30am followed by a 'bring and share' lunch

Monday 11th May Yorkshire Countrywomen's Association: 'Badgers' Marguerite Penny, 2.30pm St. John's Church

Wednesday 13th May Cragg Vale Music Group contact Martyn Kenyon martynk666@outlook.com

Thursday 21st May Cragg Vale History Society: 7.30pm St. John's



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Available for
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The Ark: Windy weather for writing!



The Ark Upper Pre-School have been making the most of the windy weather! The children really enjoy practising making their ribbons create the 'ssssss snake' and using them to 'curl around the caterpillar' for 'c'.

It is crucial that children build their gross motor skills by using the large muscles in their arms, legs and torso. Children rely on gross motor skills for lots of different activities, including mark making and writing. This can be more complex than you think because it also involves the neurological system. Here at the Ark we ensure children have regular access to climbing and balancing equipment plus a wealth of gross motor activities as these skills form the foundations for early writing.

We aim to use large scale movement to cross the imaginary line down the body (this is known as crossing the mid-line). This hand-eye coordination is so important for ensuring that the children in our care have a strong

foundation for good co-ordination, stability and writing.

Things to try at home:

- ✓ Streamers or ribbons (think Olympic gymnast and add jumps/twirls!)
- ✓ Create your own assault course (use tunnels to climb through & different ways of moving)
- ✓ Construction blocks – creating structures and balancing towers
- ✓ Threading beads – can they make a repeating pattern of colours / shapes?
- ✓ Percussion instruments – especially xylophones or instruments that require one hand to hold the instrument & the other hand to beat a rhythm/tap a beat
- ✓ Craft activities (stickers, folding, cutting and gluing)
- ✓ Twister! Create your own outside using chalks!

Be Alert to Craggalert!

CVCA is supporting a new WhatsApp group established in Cragg Vale as a medium of communication about security issues, be they personal security, property security, security of your vehicle etc. If you are a victim of theft, notice a car with occupants you don't recognise regularly touring the neighbourhood, or see anything suspicious such as someone loitering outside your neighbour's house, the first thing you should do is contact the police on 101 for non urgent matters, and 999 if a crime is in progress. After that we invite you to let your fellow Craggers know via Craggalert.

To join Craggalert, send an email to craggalert@craggvalecommunity.co.uk, giving your name and your mobile telephone number. You will then be included in the Craggalert WhatsApp Group where details relating to anything or anyone of concern from a security point of view will be shared. The WhatsApp Group is moderated by one of our members who will post relevant details reported by you via the email address quoted. The group is a closed group not open to the general public and your contact details and anything you report will be treated within the Data Protection Act.

We also pick up information from similar groups in Hebden Bridge and Mytholmroyd and will share anything relevant to Cragg Vale. So far Winter 2019/20 has been fairly quiet on the security front and long may that continue, but if someone decides to disturb our peace and quiet it's better to be in the know!

Spaw Sunday 3rd May

'Spaw Sunday' takes place on 3rd May this year. Everyone, of any age, is welcome. Meet at the Spa (down the tarmac path signed 'Spa Laithe Farm' off Cragg Road opposite the entrance to Cragg Vale Park) at 3pm for the Community Picnic, blessing, music and dancing with Ryburn Longwords and then to the Robin Hood for more music and dancing – and it's all free of charge! For details, contact Marianne Hood at marianne.hood@outlook.com

CVCA Music Group

The music group continues to meet on the second Wednesday of each month, exploring songs old and new and providing an opportunity to relax in good company, which is so important when people are feeling a little isolated or have such hectic lifestyles. All are welcome, enthusiasm is more important than actual musical ability, just bring

your family, friends and your sense of humour, we'll provide the song sheets. Voices and instruments are especially welcome, but not essential. Check out the CVCA website for more information or contact Martyn Kenyon, group organiser on martynk666@outlook.com and he'll add you to the mailing list

News from Calder Primary

We were delighted to be recognised in the top 10 of Calderdale primary schools and as one of the highest performing schools in Yorkshire in the recently published league tables, with pupils achieving above the national standards in Reading, Writing and Maths. We were also highlighted in the Yorkshire Post's 'Top of the Class' feature.

Pupils in Class 1 recently took part in the RSPB Big Schools' Birdwatch at our allotment in Redacre Woods. They took their binoculars and bird spotting sheets and made bird feeders to encourage them to visit. They were thrilled to



see such a selection too including robins, blackbirds and blue tits. Our School Councillors were keen to help with the Mytholmroyd floods and so collected donations of cleaning products, cakes and chocolates from school families and staff.

They carried the bags of cleaning supplies down to the Mytholmroyd Hub and met the Flood Wardens.

They also made up little bags of sweet treats and walked around the village handing them out to businesses, workers and residents to (as they put it) 'spread a little cheer'.

News from St John's Church

Due to the flooding of St Michael's church in Mytholmroyd we are having joint Sunday services at St John's starting at 10.30am (not our usual 9.30am) until they are back in St. Michael's, hopefully by Easter.

Our Sanctuary project reaching out to all in our community, especially those who are lonely, isolated or encountering poor mental health, is becoming more established with monthly bread making sessions, walks and 'Wilderness Worship' along with weekly 'open church' sessions. The latest addition is a monthly 'Pop up meal' bringing people from all parts of our community together to eat, meet, and talk with people they may not normally see. We are currently working towards an Eco Church award and are planning to hold an 'upcycling day'. Do you have skills in carpentry, decorating furniture, sewing, cooking or baking which you would be willing to demonstrate and share? If so please contact Alison at alisonmccabe122@gmail.com

Easter will be here soon, come and join us for our Easter services on Good Friday and Easter Sunday (coffee and hot cross buns afterwards) as well as Easter fun in the form of an Easter egg hunt, Easter bonnet and decorated egg competitions and refreshments on Saturday April 11th.

A Pilates based exercise class is taking place again, following the successful beginners class last autumn and the history group and Yorkshire Countrywomen continue to use the building. We'd like to hear from people who would like to use the spaces within church for classes, groups, functions etc. We feel it is an underused resource and would love someone to come forward to offer activities for young people (parent/carer and baby/toddler group, youth club etc) or other exercise classes. Our room hire rates are comparable to other spaces in the local area. Please contact Julie on stjohnscraggvale@gmail.com for details.

Lots of events are planned for the next few months, see the front page 'diary' for dates and times.

CVCA News

At our AGM in January Martyn Kenyon, who organises the Music Group, was elected as a Committee Member and Hebden Royd Councillor Jane Hoyle was co-opted to help keep us linked into the Town Council. CVCA is very grateful to them for giving up their time to support the Association and the community in Cragg Vale. If anyone else is interested in helping us with any events or activities, please contact the Secretary, Marianne Hood at marianne.hood@outlook.com

Last year we began a membership drive to encourage everyone who supports our activities to become

a member of the Association and many people responded. Our goal is to have at least 100 households signed up by this summer!

Membership

Membership, open to all who have any connection to our community, is only £3 per household or family per year. Membership helps demonstrate support for what we do and helps fund our activities throughout the year.

Please complete the enclosed membership form and/or see our website www.craggvalecommunity.co.uk for details.



Broadhead Clough February 2020 update

When Marianne first asked for this issue's article she said "We don't really seem to have had much of a winter, what has that done to the local flora and fauna?" Then storm Ciara hit with floods, snow and hail in the following days: winter came in February this year! Once again the run off from saturated hills thundered down into the valley and flooded the bottom. Those of us who live on the slopes have our own problems diverting water away from our houses but if you can, try to find a way to slow it down again to help those downstream. Digging a sump in a space you don't care about, or putting in a leaky dam so water backs up behind it to hold a pool, really does help spread the inevitable spike in river level into a lower longer hump for those below. We've tried to do that in the clough. Only days before the storm we had improved the drain across the path at the top to flow into a marsh, but it too was overwhelmed and water flowed along not over the path for a good 100m. Then lower down it found its way over into the same marsh and began to create a new pool in a flatter area that I had never seen wet before. Even that was not enough to ease the

force in the main stream which blew out the leaky dam and the fascines put in after the 2015 floods. Once things settle we will keep trying new ideas to help "slow the flow."

To answer the second part of Marianne's question I trawled through the records of local birding groups. During long walks on 1st Jan 2019 and 1st Jan 2020 the Halifax Scientific Society bird group found 23 species in common to both counts. Then there were 9 other species seen in 2019 only: Dipper, Dunnock, Wren, Raven, Pheasant, Stonechat, Little Owl, Mallard, Song Thrush. Another different 9 were seen in 2020 only Heron, Goldfinch, Reed Bunting, Fieldfare, Redpoll, Treecreeper, Great Spotted Woodpecker, Greenfinch, Common Gull.

None of these are unusual for a Yorkshire winter but this year there have been sightings of a male blackcap feeding in a garden in Lee Mount on 3rd and 13th and a female on the 31st. They may have overwintered or they may have migrated to UK early. The RSPB website has some information as to why it may become a

familiar sight. People in the UK have made spending the winter here a viable option by putting out plenty of bird food.

Most birds are better equipped to deal with winter floods and can usually fly out of trouble if it's a short downpour. Our natives are used to cold and wet, although some suffer if it is prolonged and they cannot hunt. If we start feeding them regularly at the start of winter they know where there is easy food in harder times. This is especially true for any "foreigners" choosing to stay and not migrate.

Hopefully the weather will improve for Spring task days. We meet at 10am by the reserve's entrance sign on March 6th, April 3rd, May 1st, and June 5th. Tools and gloves are provided if you need them – just bring a drink, and packed lunch if you are staying all day. Phone to find out more if you want to join us.

Helen Pedley, 886195

www.ywt.org.uk

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CLOGS TO CLOGS, ASHES TO ASHES

Details were given in our Winter newsletter of the History Group's plans to commemorate the 100-year anniversary of the fire that destroyed New Cragg Hall on 11th August 1921.

New Cragg Hall was built in 1904 for Mr William Algernon Simpson-Hinchliffe and his wife Helen. Helen Hinchliffe was the only surviving child of Hinchliffe Hinchliffe, Cragg Vale's cruel and infamous mill owner. She was married three times; the first time, entirely for love, and in secret but her husband died young, aged only 27. Her second marriage was to a doctor, 18 years her senior. That marriage lasted 18 years, and ended with the death of her husband.

Some local residents will remember Sam Hellowell and his carefully collected history of the Hinchliffe family

Only 6 months later she was married again, and again in secret, to a 22 year old bank clerk named William Algernon Simpson whom she met in Harrogate.

Some local residents will remember Sam Hellowell and his carefully collected history of the Hinchliffe family 'The Hinchliffe's of Cragg Vale', now in Hebden Bridge local studies library. Sam met Helen and Algy and spoke of Algy's kindness

and generosity. In describing the story of the Hinchliffe family he said:

The two main persons were undoubtedly Hinchliffe Hinchliffe and W.A Simpson-Hinchliffe. There could not have been two more distinct and different personalities anywhere. One amassed wealth and the other, a 'stranger', inherited it, used it, and finally distributed outside the family from whence it had come, and so – clogs to clogs and ashes to ashes.

The History Group would like to hear from anyone who has any documents, photos, or information about the life and times in Cragg Vale 100 years ago, please contact Roy Collinge collingeroy@gmail.com

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

MARCH 19th

John Benson with Childhood
Memories of an Evacuee

APRIL 16th

History Group Annual
General Meeting

MAY 21st

(To be confirmed)



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