

Cragg News

Cragg Vale 2021 Calendar On This Day in

We are pleased to announce the 2021 Cragg Vale Calendar will shortly be available!

The theme for 2021 is inspired by the 100th anniversary, in August next year, of the fire on 11th August 1921 that devastated the biggest house in the area, Cragg Hall. The calendar presents significant, interesting and/or unusual events and happenings in Cragg Vale, both recent and in times past.



The price remains unchanged at £6. It will be available later in October from all the normal outlets including Craggies, the Robin Hood and Mytholmroyd Post Office or from any member of the CVCA Committee.

Autumn Clean-Up



Cragg Vale Community Association was ready to carry out the annual 'Big Spring Clean-Up' when Covid 19 locked us all down for many months. However, the event became the 'Big Autumn Clean Up' and CVCA volunteers went around Cragg Vale collecting all manner of rubbish and litter left along grass verges and beside our roads. Surprisingly, less seemed to have been left than in previous years so maybe behaviour is getting better but still some seem to believe the 'dog-poo fairy' will put their little black bags into a bin!

CVCA AGM Postponed

In the light of all the restrictions under the Covid 19 regime, the Community Association Committee have decided to postpone our Annual General Meeting, normally held in January or February, until April next year. We hope that by April we will be able to meet once again and to have the AGM with the buffet and Quiz open to everyone. We will put more details in the Spring newsletter and on our website. Meanwhile, if anyone would like to get involved in any way, please contact the Secretary, Marianne, on 885224 or marianne.hood@outlook.com

AUTUMN/WINTER DIARY

Covid-19 restrictions are restricting our activities and events but plans are in place in the hope we can go ahead again soon!

November

No bonfire this year!

Every Tuesday, 2pm – 3pm, via Zoom: Virtual meet and chat hosted by St. John's Church. Drop in and out as you wish. Links to all Zoom/Facebook events via the St. John's page on www.achurchnearyou.com/church/18013

December

Every Tuesday, 2pm – 3pm, via Zoom: Virtual meet and chat hosted by St. John's Church. Drop in and out as you wish. Links to all Zoom/Facebook events via the St. John's page on www.achurchnearyou.com/church/18013

Christmas Services at St. John's Church: please check noticeboards and 'Friends of Erringden' Facebook page nearer the time. Contact Cathy (vicar) on 883944

Friday 11th December Cragg Christmas Cracker, St. John's Church: we hope this will go ahead. Please check noticeboards.

Thursday 24th December Christmas Eve at the Robin Hood, dining from 6pm to 8.30pm, 3 course meal and glass of wine £30 per person, tables MUST be booked (max 6 people) call 885899

Christmas Eve Service at St. John's 11.30pm – check noticeboards and Friends of Erringden Facebook page

Thursday 31st December New Year's Eve at the Robin Hood, book a table for a meal with champagne, £40 per person (sirloin, fillet or rib of beef steaks available for an extra charge). Call 885899

January

Every Tuesday, 2pm – 3pm, via Zoom: Virtual meet and chat hosted by St. John's Church. Drop in and out as you wish. Links to all Zoom/Facebook events via the St. John's page on www.achurchnearyou.com/church/18013

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SPACE

at the ark

Out of school & Holiday Club

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THE PLACE TO BE

The Ark, Dean Hey Farm, Mytholmroyd, HX7 5RU
www.thearkexperience.co.uk T 01422 882010 Open 51 weeks 7am-6.30pm

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FARM SHOP AND CAFE



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ORDERS**
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FIND US AT

The Craggs Country Business Park, New Road (off Sykes Gate)
Cragg Vale, Hebden Bridge HX7 5TT
t: 01422 417417

OUR OPENING TIMES

Monday - Friday **08.30 to 17.30**
Saturday **08.30 to 16.30**
Sunday **10.00 to 16.00**

Forest School at the Ark



Outdoor play is vital in any child's development and provides the chance to connect with the natural world, experience the seasons, and have endless opportunities for creativity and imaginative play. The countless benefits of outdoor play have a real impact on children's lives, especially during the current pandemic.

Forest School has been a great success at The Ark Nursery. Sessions take place in a woodland area in close proximity to the nursery. The Pre-school children enjoy the wild open space, playing in the river, climbing trees, hiding in the willow den and best of all - playing in the mud! The children gain first-hand experience of learning about the seasons, wild life, plants and also have the opportunity to use a variety of different tools such as a bow saw and secateurs. In winter a campfire is lit, keeping everyone warm and

helping the children learn about fire safety. We also cook on the campfire, creating delicious treats – baked apple anyone?

The children have the freedom to explore, play and learn. At this time of year, the children love to go looking for brambles at Forest School, collecting (and sampling) lots of lovely fruit. Then, with the help of the practitioners, they carefully wash and sort the fruit to make jam to have with bread as a snack. Delicious!

St John's Church

Communion Service, 9.30am every Sunday. Please call Cathy on 01422 883944 to reserve a seat as our numbers are limited at the moment.

Live Service at 11am every Sunday via Zoom and Facebook (Friends of Erringden Benefice)
Live Compline weekday evenings at 7pm via Zoom and Facebook

Once St Michael's reopens (still closed from the last flood) things may change slightly - we'll update you via Facebook and posters. Virtual meet and chat every Tuesday 2pm - 3pm via Zoom. Drop in and out as you wish.

The links for all our Zoom/Facebook events can be found on St John's page on the 'A church near you' website (www.achurchnearyou.com/church/18013/)

There will not be a bonfire this year, please share this information and please do not put any wood etc in the bonfire field!

We still have the Cragg Christmas Cracker on our calendar for December 11th but are unsure as to whether it will be able to go ahead. We will let you know nearer the time!

Christmas Services

(Covid permitting - please check notice boards, 'Friends of Erringden' Facebook page nearer the time and contact Cathy)

Christmas Eve - 11.30pm

Christmas Day - 9.30am

News from St John's Church

2020 has been difficult for St John's. We had to close completely in March but started streaming regular Sunday and compline services via Zoom and Facebook. We also moved our Tuesday afternoon 'open church' sessions to Zoom so at least some social interaction was available for those shielding at home. We set up a 'telephone tree' to make sure all our congregation, especially those who we weren't reaching via Zoom, were ok and to help them where needed. Eventually, after making the building 'Covid secure', we were allowed to open for private prayer and started having Sunday services again - very strange with face masks, social distancing, hand sanitizing and no singing! If you'd like to come to a service (9.30am every Sunday) contact the Vicar, Cathy on 883944 so we can reserve you a seat. We are still streaming a Zoom service every Sunday and compline every evening and everyone is welcome.

We're grateful to our gardening team for continuing to work in the churchyard, keeping it tidy where needed and providing managed wild areas. We're part way to being an 'Eco Church' and having wild areas is part of that journey and one we can keep going during Covid.

Our 'Sanctuary in the Wilderness' and outdoor 'Wilderness Worship' has been put on hold but we are now looking at how we can reach out to the whole community, especially those who may be struggling with their mental health, isolation or loneliness - watch the noticeboards for more information!

This year to date, we've lost our fundraising events and activities and are not sure when they will resume. The Christmas Cracker is on our calendar for December 11th but we don't know if it will be going ahead. We rely on these events to raise over £5000 annually. We are grateful for the massive donation of over £800 from Shaun Donnelly, raised through his two 'marathon' bike rides this year and last year. This will be used to install a kitchenette in our upstairs room. However, the cost of running the church is almost the same as it would have been if we were in 'normal' times and we need to pay our parish share - something all parish churches have to pay to the local diocese which, for us, is over £1000 a month! Our small but loyal congregation give as generously as they can, but we rely heavily on fundraising.

We could really do with everyone helping us if you can! If you usually attend any event, think about how much you might have spent and donate anyway. We understand many people may now be in no position to do so but if you are, we would be very grateful!

To make a donation, use the donate button on St John's page on the website 'A church near you' www.achurchnearyou.com/church/18013/ or make a BACS transfer to St John's PCC, Cragg Vale. Barclays, account no. 00681571, Sort code 20 35 84. If you'd like to gift aid it, contact our treasurer at gjwsa@btinternet.com.

Thanks for your continuing support.
Julie Harris, Churchwarden

News from Calder Primary



Yorkshire
Wildlife Trust



Everyone is enjoying being back at school with their friends again. Our new Reception pupils have settled in brilliantly and have been supported by their Year 6 buddies, who wrote to them over the summer holidays. They have especially enjoyed playing outside and doing anything messy!

Whilst things are a little bit different for now, we have been planning some autumn term events with a twist - we are taking part in some virtual sporting events and challenges with our local HX7

sports cluster and are part of the Handmade Parade's #Wearehere20 creative project where each class will produce backdrops and props for a specially commissioned film. Our celebration assemblies and even our PTA meetings are all being held online, and we hope it won't be too long before we can all be back together in our school hall again.

We were really pleased that the Hebden Bridge Rotary funded us a new class set of glockenspiels for our music lessons this year too!

Broadhead Clough September 2020 update

I last wrote in early February - how long ago that feels when so much in life has changed. During total lockdown we noticed many people walking through the reserve for their 1 hour permitted exercise and it was good to see so many families enjoying their visit. To help people to connect with nature, and to support local communities through social isolation, the Trust have revamped their website with a whole page of activities to do at home <https://www.ywt.org.uk/actions> with great ideas for you to do all year round. They also released a free, digital version of the membership magazine on their website <https://www.ywt.org.uk/wildlife-yorkshire-summer-2020>.

Living near the reserve meant in March I was busy reporting back to the reserves officer on the damage after storm Ciara. The heavy rain also dislodged some very large boulders which fell from above, to land alongside and on the main path but these are now stable. It also washed away most of the fascines and undercut the far bank of the main stream bringing down some trees which now have created new leaky dams. Nature of course was not locked down, and it was good to see and hear the birdsong which started earlier with the fantastic spring weather. Whilst all official surveying was stopped, on my daily walks I kept a note of what I heard, with the cuckoo returning, more frequent sightings of buzzards but sadly no definite sightings of wood warblers this year. We also took part in the Great Yorkshire Wildlife Count. This was a "24 hour search into the wildlife on our doorstep" running from noon 20th June to noon 21st and a staggering 4,500 people took part. The results were announced on Yorkshire Day, 1 August via this link www.ywt.org.uk/great-yorkshire-creature-count-results-2020.

Task-days are currently only open to existing volunteers who have been through the "on line" COVID-19 training sessions, and have been "ad hoc" depending on need and staff/equipment availability. The most important habitats were tackled: pulling bracken from the bilberry and marshes, clearing reeds and restoring the water supply before the cows returned to graze the meadows. The Trust is hoping to welcome new volunteers back soon. If you are interested, please visit volunteering@ywt.org.uk to register for information.

Helen Pedley, 886195

www.ywt.org.uk

Love Yorkshire, Love Wildlife

Faster Broadband

We previously reported on the slow broadband speeds in Cragg Vale, however, for some this is improving:

✓ The Mytholmroyd cabinet has been upgraded with a fibre supply, (known as FTTC - "fibre to the cabinet") so broadband traffic routed through this cabinet travels much faster to the main exchange, improving broadband speeds.

✓ Craggs Energy have set up as a local provider for anyone who has "line of sight" of their premises at the Craggs Business Park. Broadband signals are transmitted via microwaves and come into the premises via a receiver, usually fitted at rooftop level. Speeds of up to 40mbps are possible, which may be a significant improvement for those using standard telephone line connections.

✓ Fibre cables have been added to many existing telegraph poles, with a view to enabling direct connections to homes and businesses (known as FTTP - "fibre to the premises"). This will enable some really fast connectivity, which is needed for games, movies and transferring large files.

What should you do next?

- ① Check your existing broadband speed a number of free speed checkers are available via the internet. If your speed is less than 5mbps, you may want to upgrade. if so....
- ② Check the Openreach website <https://www.openreach.com/fibre-broadband> and enter your postcode into the "check my availability" facility.
- ③ If your property is included in the FTTP scheme, you can select from a list of suppliers - you can get their prices from the Suppliers' websites which are linked from the Openreach site. Monthly prices vary according to suppliers and speeds required, so can range from around £23 for a 40mbps service to £60 for 90mbps.
- ④ If FTTP isn't available, an upgrade to FTTC may be an option for properties supplied via a copper cable.
- ⑤ Check your existing broadband contract, you may be able to upgrade if your supplier provides FTTP or FTTC (as per the Openreach site), otherwise you may have to wait until your contract end date if you want to switch.

WATER SUPPLY IN CRAGG VALE



Before 1960, properties in Cragg Vale obtained their water from a variety of springs and wells. These were often contaminated by animal faeces and dried up in hot summers or were blocked by silt in bad weather. Some water supplies were affected more than others.

Hebden Royd Urban District Council (HRUDC) was responsible for the water in this area but could not afford installation of a mains water supply. This had been talked about in 1944 but had been dropped due to the cost and the Second World War. In 1951 a number of Cragg Vale residents asked the Council to look into resurrecting the idea. On the 19th January, 1953, the Local Government Minister said he: "fully appreciated the desirability of the proposals, however in view of the present period of financial stress the proposals should be deferred for the time being."

By 1954 a number of residents were getting fed up with being fobbed off. There was a dysentery outbreak in the area although the authorities said it was not caused by the spring water supplies. The Cragg Vale Church Council called a Public Meeting, opened by the vicar, the Rev C N Bateman. There was a large attendance, a Ratepayers Association was formed and my father, Samuel Greenwood Hellowell, was elected Chairman. Grants were available from the Ministry of Local



Government but were hard to obtain. The MP for the Sowerby Constituency, Douglas Houghton, was contacted and he gave his support. He contacted the Local Government Minister and it was decided to hold a Public Enquiry in the Council Offices in Hebden Bridge. On 24th January 1956, the Enquiry Inspector recommended the scheme to the Local Government Minister, who gave the go ahead, stating: "The Cragg Vale scheme was practical at reasonable cost".

Although HRUDC did not have a water resource of its own it could purchase treated water from the Morley Corporation Water Works at Withens Clough Reservoir*. The Contractor for installing the supply was John Cooke of Huddersfield at a cost of £17,500. [equivalent of £305k today] On 13th September, 1960, at Withens's Clough Reservoir, Cllr F.L. Greenwood officially opened the Cragg Vale Mains Water supply!

**Withens Clough Reservoir in Cragg Vale had been constructed in 1890s to supply mains treated water to Morley, around 21 miles away*

ROGER HELLOWELL REMEMBERS

Running Out of Water, 1950s

When I was a boy I had a bogie (4 pram wheels with a plank of wood across the axles) and would go up and down Cragg Road on it. At that time vehicles were infrequent and a lot slower! During a very hot dry summer in the 1950s, my father, Samuel, and our next-door neighbour, Jim Duxberry, purchased a pram and made the bogie into a 6-wheeler. I thought it was great. Along with two dolly tubs and four galvanised buckets, we would go about half a mile up the road to Will Clough then up Cow Lane where the stream was still running. We used the buckets to collect the water from the stream and carry it to the awaiting dolly tubs on the bogie on the road. We would then go back down the road manoeuvring a dolly tub outside each house. This went on for several weeks.

Getting Mains Water

When it came to coupling up to the new Mains Water, we dug up the road ourselves, with our own plumber connecting us into



the new supply. We made our own Road Works sign consisting of a dark coloured board approximately 4 feet by 3 feet, with white painted letters saying "Road Up". This was placed about 20 yards in front of the excavation. We borrowed two red paraffin lamps from the plumber." [No traffic light controls in those days!]

[NB Roger was to go on to work for "The Water Board" (now called Yorkshire Water) for 28 years.]

CRAGG VALE LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

The History Group organisers feel that, with Covid and its associated restrictions, the average age of our group, the need for Risk Assessments, social distancing, and cleaning etc, all future meetings should be cancelled until further notice. We have notified our members and have cancelled our booked speakers. However, we have plans for something special next August!

11th August 1921

was the date of the fire in Cragg Hall that reduced the magnificent mansion to ruin and destroyed its fine furnishings and fittings. To mark this devastating event, that affected much more than the immediate owners, Cragg Vale Local History Group are planning a commemoration programme of events to include an Exhibition, Walking Tour of the Cragg Hall Grounds (private), a Presentation, and a Booklet detailing the history of Cragg Hall and its estate, from 1880 until present times.

Provisional dates for August 2021 are:

12th August 2021 – Booklet available for sale with a presentation to Cragg Vale Local History Group

14th August – Guided Walk around the Cragg Hall Estate

14th- 29th August (weekends) – Exhibition in St. John's Church.

**SPOTLIGHT ON
BUSINESS IN
CRAGG VALE**

THE YORKSHIRE CHOCOLATE COMPANY

Business owner, Andrea Atkin, set up the Yorkshire Chocolate Company in 2019. She said a chance meeting with an artisan chocolatier, opened up a whole new world of creativity for her. Andrea started making chocolate, in her kitchen, for family and friends to enjoy. Last summer she began to sell these at the Hebden Bridge Makers Market.

THE YORKSHIRE CHOCOLATE CO PRIDES ITSELF ON MAKING LUXURIOUS HANDMADE CHOCOLATE THAT IS IDEAL FOR GIFTING OR TREATING YOURSELF

Having quickly gained a strong local customer base Andrea decided to make the bold move of making chocolate her full-time career. The Yorkshire Chocolate Co was born and is based at Thornber Properties.

Andrea has found a real sense of community and cohesive working amongst the businesses in Cragg Vale. Easily accessible

from both Yorkshire and Greater Manchester it is an ideal location. Andrea endeavours to keep all suppliers she uses as local as possible. The Chocolate is sourced from Columbia from companies that support small farming communities and have a transparent values-based model of working.

The Yorkshire Chocolate Co prides itself on making luxurious handmade chocolate that is ideal for gifting or treating yourself. Firm favourites such as honeycomb chocolate are available alongside newer creations such as chai latte. A range of chocolate jams is currently under development!

Local delivery via the eco-friendly cargo bike service, is available. Chocolate tasting and making classes, for adults, will commence in October 2020 and classes for children will begin in the New Year.



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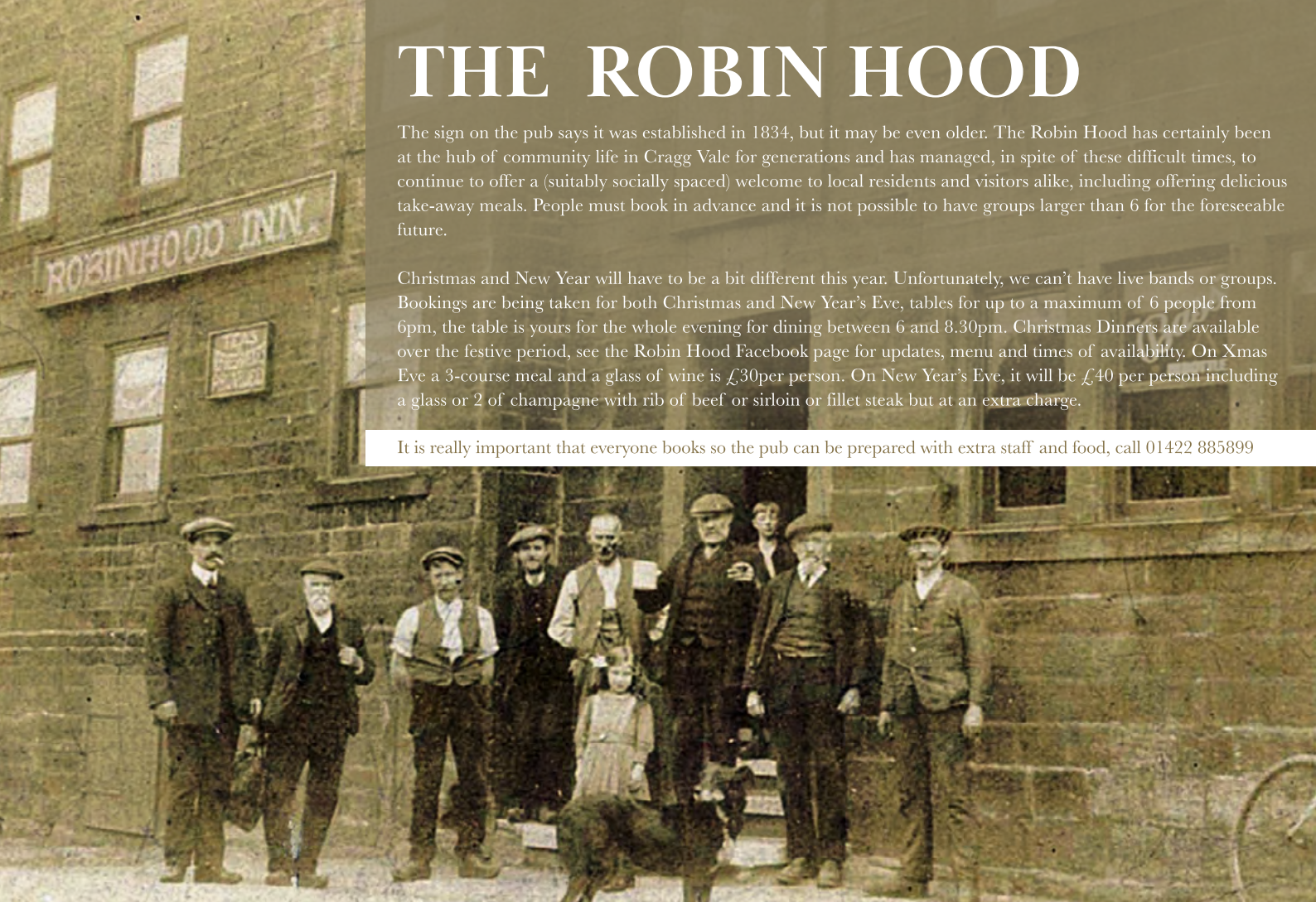
01422 882777

THE ROBIN HOOD

The sign on the pub says it was established in 1834, but it may be even older. The Robin Hood has certainly been at the hub of community life in Cragg Vale for generations and has managed, in spite of these difficult times, to continue to offer a (suitably socially spaced) welcome to local residents and visitors alike, including offering delicious take-away meals. People must book in advance and it is not possible to have groups larger than 6 for the foreseeable future.

Christmas and New Year will have to be a bit different this year. Unfortunately, we can't have live bands or groups. Bookings are being taken for both Christmas and New Year's Eve, tables for up to a maximum of 6 people from 6pm, the table is yours for the whole evening for dining between 6 and 8.30pm. Christmas Dinners are available over the festive period, see the Robin Hood Facebook page for updates, menu and times of availability. On Xmas Eve a 3-course meal and a glass of wine is £30 per person. On New Year's Eve, it will be £40 per person including a glass or 2 of champagne with rib of beef or sirloin or fillet steak but at an extra charge.

It is really important that everyone books so the pub can be prepared with extra staff and food, call 01422 885899



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