

Cragg Vale News

ISSUE 29
SPRING/SUMMER 2021

CVCA Annual General Meeting 2020/2021

7.30pm Monday 19th April via 'zoom'

The CVCA Annual General Meeting is going to be a bit different this year because we can't meet in person! However, we're inviting all our members to join us via 'Zoom' at 7.30pm on Monday 19th April. Details and the link are being sent out. If you would like to attend but haven't

received any details, please contact the Secretary, Marianne Hood on 01422 885224 or email marianne.hood@outlook.com



Remembering Cragg Hall

On 11th August 1921 a devastating fire destroyed Cragg Hall, home of Cragg Vale's mill-owning Hinchliffe family. To mark the 100-year anniversary, The Cragg Vale History Group is holding a series of events including a special presentation on 12th August; an exhibition in St. John's Church (weekends from 14th to 29th August) illustrating the history of the mansion with a selection of photographs, drawings, and artefacts; a guided walk around the Cragg Hall Grounds (by kind



permission of current residents) and there will be a book and DVD telling the full story.

Tackling Speeding Traffic

For several years, Cragg Vale Community Association has been trying to get action taken to tackle residents' complaints about speeding traffic on our road that puts cyclists and other road users, including pedestrians, in danger. We asked for local speed limits to be revised and Calderdale

Council has listened to us. In May, local consultation about proposals to amend the speed limits is due to start. Please look out for information about this consultation and put your views forward to help make our road safer.

SPRING/SUMMER DIARY

Covid-19 restrictions are still restricting our activities but some events are now planned as we move into the summer months!

Every Tuesday, St. John's Church 2pm – 3pm, via Zoom:
Virtual meet and chat, 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 NB: Back in Church when allowed!

April

Monday 19th April CVCA Annual General Meeting, 7.30pm via 'zoom'
for details contact Marianne Hood marianne.hood@outlook.com or 01422885224

May

No 'Spaw Sunday' this year – but it will be back!

June

Wednesday 30th June Cragg Vale Fell Race 7.30pm – details tbc

July

Saturday 3rd July St. John's Duck Race 1pm Duck Race, Tombola, Refreshments, for details of how to buy your duck and other information email stjohnscraggvale@gmail.com after 1st May!

August

Thursday 12th August Special Cragg Hall Presentation and Slideshow Cragg Hall: its Life, Fire and Times' 7.30pm, St Johns Church

Saturday 14th August 100year Cragg Hall Anniversary Guided Walk around the Village and Cragg Hall Grounds

Weekends 14th – 29th August Exhibition 'Cragg Hall & The Grounds' afternoons, St. John's Church: Exhibition of Photographs, Illustrations, and Artifacts. Refreshments available thanks to St. John's Church



Supported by Hebden Royd
Town Council

CVCA Music Group

The Group is looking to resume meetings following the easing of lockdown restrictions later in 2021. Details will be posted on the CVCA website, with friends of the Group being contacted directly. Until then, in the words of Vera Lynn, "We'll meet again, don't know where, don't know when...." (but we'll let you know - don't worry!)



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Experimenting at The Ark



Children often behave like “little scientists” in that they are eager to observe and make “what if” discoveries about their world. There have been many scientific experiments going on at The Ark Nursery recently to coincide with British Science Week, and our budding scientists have loved discovering more about the world around them.

A box of eggs with an incubator arrived and the children were fascinated to watch the chicks peck their way out their eggs. The children enjoyed being responsible for giving food and water to the chicks, and they loved carefully holding their new friends. They also looked at the life cycle of frogs, keeping an eye out at Forest School in case they could see any frogspawn or tadpoles. We made ‘homemade’ frogspawn from chia seeds and water, so the children could explore texture and find words to describe what they could feel.

Experiments are fun too! The children investigated what happens when you pour water on top of oil, and they were fascinated by the floating oil. The best part was when a vitamin



tablet was added to the mixture – who doesn’t love a foaming explosion?

To finish a very busy time, the children discussed what seeds and plants need to grow and grew a bumper crop of cress. Then they made their own butter, spread it on bread and made cress sandwiches – delicious!

Our Vibrant Valley

CVCA is working with Hebden Royd Town Council and representatives from businesses, Arts groups, churches, community organisations, and local schools to celebrate and promote all that our valley has to offer. Plans are underway to make sure life in Hebden Bridge,



Mytholmroyd and Cragg Vale can return to being exciting, vibrant and active once again. We are aiming to reach out and involve people of all ages and from all sections of life in our community. Watch our website www.craggvalecommunity.co.uk for more info and www.hebdenbridge.org/vibrant-valley

Tribute to Bill Uttley (1948 – 2021)



In January 2021, we were saddened by the loss of one of Cragg Vale’s truly colourful characters, Bill Uttley, of Turley Holes farm, who passed away following a period of ill health.

Bill was born in Todmorden, but spent most of his life in and around Cragg Vale, where he operated under many hats, including farmer, pub landlord, purveyor of wood-crafted items, zookeeper and genuinely nice family guy. Often grumpy, quick with a smile, always generous, with an abundant supply of tall tales and opinions on most things, he made many friends and was a source of warmth and knowledge to all who knew him. Perhaps fittingly, the journey to his final resting place was on the back of a tractor, as he was laid to rest in the Cragg Vale hillsides that he loved so much. His legacy continues through his family in the area, but he will be sadly missed. (see the “tribute to Bill Uttley” on the CVCA website at www.craggvalecommunity.co.uk)

Cragg Vale Calendar 2022 – Call for Photographs

We’re calling on all local photo enthusiasts to submit favourite shots of our lovely area for our 2022 calendar. Cragg Vale has evolved over time and represents many things to different people, whether it be a place of commerce, solace, holiday destination, leisure, livelihood or lifestyle choice. One theme that binds all of these, is its spirit, so we’d love to see pictures which, for you, capture the Spirit of Cragg Vale: landscape, people, places or animals, and if you wish to include a brief narrative, (where, when, or why) we’ll try and reflect these ideas within the production. Please send your pics to martynk666@outlook.com. All photos included in the calendar will be acknowledged within the “credits”.

News from St. John's Church

After a nice but far from normal return to church services over Christmas, we suspended services as we went back into lockdown, reopening on Palm Sunday. It was good to be back in church but sad that no singing was allowed or socialising afterwards with a cup of coffee! Hopefully, at some point in April, May or June we'll be able to have a little more 'normality'. We broadcast a Zoom service each Sunday at 11am for those who are not ready to return to church and we're still meeting on a Tuesday afternoon for a virtual 'meet and chat' via Zoom. Hopefully, we'll be able to meet physically soon and restart some of our Sanctuary in the Wilderness sessions, we'll share information about dates and times once we know.

We lost all our fundraising opportunities last year. During the pandemic our only income has been from our congregation, most of whom have continued to give on a regular basis. As you can imagine, our bank balance is dwindling and we are unable to carry out even day to day maintenance, never mind continuing with the next part of our reordering project (finishing off main kitchen, installing a lift so the upstairs room is accessible to all etc).

We will be applying for various grants to help towards our projects but we need your help with day to day running costs. To make a donation, please text CRAGGCHURCH 5 to 70450 to donate £5, CRAGGCHURCH 10 to 70450 to donate £10 or CRAGGCHURCH 'any number' to 70450 to donate £any number. Texts cost the amount donated plus one standard rate message. Alternatively, use the donate button on St John's page on the website 'A church near you' (<https://www.achurchnearyou.com/church/18013/>) or make a BACS transfer to St Johns PCC, Cragg Vale. Barclays, account no. 00681571, Sort code 20 35 84.

We're planning a Duck Race for July 3rd, please keep an eye on social media, notice boards etc for details of how to buy your ducks and see what else is happening on the day. If in doubt, email stjohnscraggvale@gmail.com after 1st May! We'll also be running various events alongside the History Group's commemoration of the Cragg Hall fire during August. Thanks for your continuing support, Julie Harris, Churchwarden Contact details stjohnscraggvale@gmail.com or 01422 883944 (Cathy, vicar)

CRAGG VALE LOCAL HISTORY GROUP

Normal meetings remain suspended for the time being BUT it is hoped the special events to mark the 100th anniversary of the Cragg Hall Fire will go ahead in August as planned. We are grateful to Hebden Royd Town Council for their grant support for this project.

Thursday 12th August

"Cragg Hall: its Life, Fire and Times"
Special Cragg Hall Presentation and Slideshow (7.30pm St Johns Church)

Saturday 14th August

Guided Walk around the Village and Cragg Hall Grounds

Weekends 14th – 29th August

(afternoons, St. John's Church) – "Cragg Hall & The Grounds" Exhibition of Photographs, Illustrations, and Artifacts

COVID-19 precautions include the use of an online Box Office Ticketing system, more details will be provided later.

Broadhead Clough March 2021 update



Yorkshire
Wildlife Trust

I'm writing this on the Spring Equinox – when the hours of daylight lengthen and nature romps away with the promise of more warmth in the sun for plants to grow, frogs to spawn and birds to nest. Hopefully the easing of lockdown will mean people can travel further afield and socialize more even if initially just outdoors. YWT as a whole are anticipating high visitor numbers across all their sites and gearing up to expect more visitors. They are placing volunteer wardens on some of their most popular (yet delicate) reserves to welcome visitors and ensure they get the best out of the visit. It's also a chance to educate them about the important conservation value of the site that will minimize wildlife disturbance. To visit some of these check out the website [Places to visit | Yorkshire Wildlife Trust \(ywt.org.uk\)](https://www.ywt.org.uk).

Here at Broadhead Clough we don't get thronged, but the paths are very narrow and get quite muddy after rain. Broadhead Clough is delicate habitat and has SSSI legal environmental protection for its wet woodland and mires. Please read and respect the signage regarding safe distancing, dogs and no cycling. We too have new features to welcome people back. A new bench has been donated as one of the last acts by Mytholmroyd Walkers Action before their amalgamation with Hebden Bridge Walkers Action group. The bench is situated adjacent to the path at a spot where you can see at



least three bird boxes, and come May, enjoy one of the finest views of bluebells in the wood. You can now take a rest and eat your sandwiches in comfort, before tackling the steep climb up onto Erringden Moor. Please remember to take all belongings and any litter home with you. This has been a real community effort with CROWS completing the installation to enhance their Community Rights of Way service. There are also 2 new open-fronted bird boxes at the top of the steps to attract redstarts or flycatchers.

The Trust is hoping to re-start monthly task days in April and welcome new volunteers back soon. This will include work on Brearley Fields Wetlands Nature Reserve in Mytholmroyd, due to start this summer thanks to funding from the European Regional Development Fund. If you are interested, please e-mail calder.greening@gmail.com for information and/or visit [volunteering@ywt.org.uk](https://www.ywt.org.uk) to register as a volunteer.

www.ywt.org.uk

Love Yorkshire, Love Wildlife

Final Request for more Cragg Hall Information

There is still time to hunt out any information, photographs or documents that could be included in the telling of the story of Cragg Hall and its grounds, throughout its varied times, anything from 1880 through to the present day.

Did any of your relatives work in the Hinchliffe mills, or even in the Hall itself? Perhaps you played in the ruins as a child, or enjoyed a Summer Gala in the Grounds.

If you have something please contact Roy Collinge:
collingeroy@gmail.com or
0780 329 8363

SUSTAINABLE FARMING IN CRAGG VALE

Husband and wife team, Luke and Jayne Barbour, moved to Cragg Vale in 2013. They soon realised that living in beautiful countryside provided an opportunity to have a smallholding and pursue their interests in land management and rearing livestock. Over the last few years, they've become passionate about how to do this in a way that respects the planet: "Look after the Earth so the Earth can look after you" says Luke, Jayne adds "We are becoming increasingly aware of how some practices in conventional agriculture are harming the planet, but we don't believe it's about giving up on animal agriculture, instead improving it and making it work in a way which is respectful and in harmony with the land."

HAVING LESS LIVESTOCK ALLOWS US TO ENSURE THEY ARE AT THEIR OPTIMUM HEALTH

We want to have a positive impact on our land, specifically on the soil, and believe livestock play an

important role. This approach, referred to as regenerative agriculture, will play a huge role in helping address the climate crisis."

Luke explains "We have a small flock of Herdwick sheep, who spend the year grazing our fields. In winter, they eat our hay, which we cut and bale in late summer. By using a minimal amount of carefully sourced supplementary feed, we reduce the carbon footprint of our meat, and have more control over what we put into our animals. It's been a really important journey for us, looking at our current practices and exploring what needs to change. For example, having less livestock allows us to ensure they are at their optimum health and they don't overgraze the land. Using field rotation systems rather than using medication such as wormers on the sheep, helps to improve the insect and microbial life on our land. We've spent a lot of time reclaiming pastures which were overgrown. This year we'll be increasing biodiversity of the plant-life in our fields by over-seeding the pastures with several varieties of grasses, legumes and herbs, which will naturally improve the nutrient and

carbon levels within the soil, stopping the need for fertilisers. It's important the sheep (and chickens) have a symbiotic relationship with the land, trampling grass and seeds, fertilising it with their manure, and in return eating plants that provide them with an incredibly nourishing diet. Sowing these new varieties of grasses, legumes and herbs will also attract pollinators, and increase insect life - something the birds will be very happy about."

IT'S IMPORTANT THE SHEEP HAVE A SYMBIOTIC RELATIONSHIP WITH THE LAND

The issue of whether we should be eating meat or not, in order to address climate change, is a complex and often emotionally charged one. Jayne and Luke say "Many people will be reluctant to give up meat. We feel that meat can be produced in a way that enhances the Earth, and we hope that this approach, based around regenerative agriculture, will show you can produce meat in a way that can be part of the solution to climate change".

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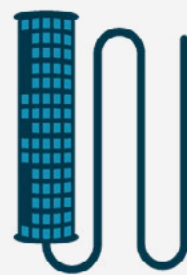
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