

# Cragg News

ISSUE 34  
AUTUMN 2022

## CRAGG CHALLENGE 2022

The Cragg Challenge has been approved for Sunday the 18th September. The road closure period has been significantly reduced – Cragg Road will only be closed to traffic from 08:30 to 12:30 on the day, with every intention to open by 12.00 if possible.

The day will start with The Oliver Collinge Climb (school relay), followed by the John Jones Dash (1 mile down starting at the Robin Hood). Immediately after this the main runs will begin (10 mile, 10K and 5K) finishing with the Cycle Ascent at the end of the morning.



This year we are working closely with Overgate to raise money to support their work, details of how you can contribute are on our main website ([www.craggchallenge.co.uk](http://www.craggchallenge.co.uk)) where you will also find entry details for most of the events. The Oliver Collinge Climb entry information is being managed via schools.

Should you have any concerns about access during the road closure period – e.g. medical appointments or flights to catch, you can register these by emailing [secretary@craggchallenge.co.uk](mailto:secretary@craggchallenge.co.uk) and the organisers will respond to you.



Royd Ices will be opening running the 'Cragg Challenge Café' once again, providing refreshments for spectators and participants.

## AUTUMN DIARY

Every Tuesday at St. John's Open Church 2pm - 4pm  
Every 3rd Thursday at St. John's History Group 7.30pm

### September

#### Friday 2nd September Broadhead Clough

Volunteers meet 10am at the reserve signboard.  
Contact Helen Pedley YWT: 886195

#### Tuesday 6th September Music Group

Meet 7.30pm, details from Martyn [martynk666@outlook.com](mailto:martynk666@outlook.com)

#### Thursday 8th September St. John's Churchyard

1pm – 4pm community churchyard management – all welcome

#### Saturday 10th September Yorkshire Churches Day

St. John's church will be open from 10am to 5pm as part of the National Heritage Open Day Scheme

#### Monday 12th September Yorkshire Countrywomen's Association

Harvest Lunch (members only) 12.30 - 1pm

#### Sunday 18th September The Cragg Challenge 2022

8.30am – 12noon See details opposite

#### Friday 30th September McMillan Coffee Morning

St. John's Church 10.30 – 12 noon

### October

**Tuesday 4th October Music Group** Meet 7.30pm, details from Martyn [martynk666@outlook.com](mailto:martynk666@outlook.com)

**Friday 7th October Broadhead Clough** Volunteers meet 10am at the reserve signboard. Contact Helen Pedley YWT: 886195

**Monday 10th October Yorkshire Countrywomen's Association** Cheese & Wine, 2.30 – 4.30pm, St. John's Church – all welcome

**Friday 21st October St. John's Church Whist & Beetle Drive** From 6pm – all welcome

**Saturday 22nd October St. John's Church Ceilidh** 7pm – 10pm with The Black Box Band, Tickets (inc supper) £12

### November

#### Tuesday 1st November Music Group

Meet 7.30pm, details from Martyn [martynk666@outlook.com](mailto:martynk666@outlook.com)

#### Friday 4th November Broadhead Clough

Volunteers meet 10am at the reserve signboard.  
Contact Helen Pedley YWT: 886195

**Monday 14th November Yorkshire Countrywomen's Association** AGM 2.30 – 4.30pm, St. John's Church – new members welcome

### December

**Friday 2nd & Saturday 3rd December Cragg Vale Panto** St. John's Church, details tbc

**Sunday 4th December Lantern procession, songs and Christmas Lights switch-on**, meet 5pm at the Robin Hood to walk to St. John's Church and The Hinchliffe Arms



Supported by Hebden  
Royd Town Council



[www.craggvalecommunity.co.uk](http://www.craggvalecommunity.co.uk)

## Cragg Vale Calendar 2023

Our Calendar for 2023 (price £6) will be available in Autumn from the usual outlets: Mytholmroyd Post Office, The Robin Hood pub, Craggies café and farmshop, via [www.craggvalecommunity.co.uk](http://www.craggvalecommunity.co.uk) – or contact any member of CVCA's Committee. Thank you to everyone who submitted great local photos! Let us know if you want to order copies in advance.

## CALVAG

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# News from The Ark



**The children at The Ark love spending time outdoors and we are lucky to have such beautiful countryside on our doorstep.**

We often go for walks near the nursery, exploring our local area. Recently, the children set off on a longer walk to the beacon at Scout Rocks, reading 'The Dragon of Hebden Royd' along the way! As we walked, the children made friends with the local wildlife (cows and sheep!) and identified different plants and trees. When we arrived at the beacon, we had a picnic and finished reading the story.

From the top of the hillside, the children loved looking down into the valley, finding things they could see in the book and looking for local places of interest they knew. On the way back to nursery, we picked blackberries and bilberries – a delicious snack to enjoy as we walked.

Not only was this a fantastic day out, but time spent outdoors is hugely beneficial for children. This is fundamental to children's learning at The Ark and directly links to our Forest School ethos and its benefits. Playing outdoors allows children to develop self-confidence, independence and self-esteem.

**There is a lot less structure than most types of indoor play**

They also become aware of limits, boundaries and challenge in their play. There is a lot less structure than most types of indoor play and they can choose how they interact with the nature around them. This gives them practice managing their own actions and encourages creativity and imagination.

## Music Group

Cragg Vale's music group is attracting some new voices, so we have turned up the volume just a little. Meeting on the first Tuesday of each month, we're always on the lookout for new faces, voices and instruments, along with new songs to murder, so if you're fed up with mediocre TV and fancy an evening of musical merriment, please get in touch with [martynk666@outlook.com](mailto:martynk666@outlook.com) and he'll include you on the mailing list. Contact / next meeting details are also on the website at [www.craggvalecommunity.co.uk](http://www.craggvalecommunity.co.uk)



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events and  
parties*

## St John's Churchyard

The Church of England asks that we manage our churchyards for wildlife, increased biodiversity and increased carbon capture whilst keeping tended and new graves accessible and neat enough. Managing for wildlife and increased biodiversity doesn't mean just letting things grow with no management. It's what we've been doing for the last few years. However, it has become clear that some areas have got a bit too 'wild' or 'untidy' and need some extra work doing on them, especially the borders round the top and side of the churchyard and the top corner of the graveyard where the brambles have taken over and need removing. A recent addition to our stewardship of churchyards is to maximize carbon capture by allowing trees and other vegetation to grow, this is part of the Church of England plan for its churches to become carbon neutral by 2030.

Our churchyard is in a rural setting and the wildlife IN the churchyard reflects what SHOULD be in the fields all around but ISN'T because of the years of application of herbicides and fertilizer and grazing by cattle and sheep. This is why rural churchyards especially are really important for maintaining local biodiversity and why the church of England is encouraging managing for wildlife.

What we need to aim for is a churchyard where the 'still used' parts are kept 'tidy enough' to be respectful to those recently interred and visiting whilst other areas are managed for the benefit of wildlife and to maximize biodiversity and carbon capture.



Each area of the churchyard needs a different management approach so as you can imagine, this is a real juggling act and we know that we will never please everyone 100% but we have tried to come up with a plan that all can accept.

The churchyard is for everyone in the parish, churchgoers or not. We rely on volunteers to manage and maintain it, we're inviting anyone from the Cragg community (and beyond!) to come along On Thursday September 8th at 1pm to find out about how the churchyard is managed and see how they can help us with that. After this practical session, we'll organize maintenance sessions every few weeks and invite volunteers along but also leave a list of jobs that need doing in the noticeboard next to the lower church gate for those who can manage a few minutes here and there.

**Julie Harris**  
Churchwarden, St John's



## News From St. John's

After a very busy Jubilee weekend with our 'Dance Through the Decades', Village Picnic and 'Queen's Portrait' exhibition we've had a quieter few weeks but did have the 'Crossings' exhibition as part of the Hebden Bridge Arts Festival, a family quiz, a Whist and Beetle Drive and our annual Duck Race.

Upcoming events include Whist drives on October 21st and November 18th starting at 6pm. Please come along and support these evenings. If you can't play Whist, someone will teach you. If you're not that keen on card games or want to bring the children, we'll have a Beetle Drive running alongside!

On Saturday October 22nd we are having a Ceilidh with the Black Box Band. The one we had in May was a great success and we hope to have another really good night. Tickets (£12 including supper) available from Julie (details below) It would be great to have even more people from the village join us for our social events. Please spread the word about any events going on. The church is a community resource with two great flexible spaces which are available to hire at reasonable rates for meetings, classes, workshops, parties etc. as well as outside space but we need the community to use it!

On Thursday September 8th at 1pm and find out about how the churchyard is managed and see how they can help us with that.

## Yorkshire Churches Day

On Saturday September 10th church will be open from 10am to 5pm as part of 'Yorkshire Churches Day' (part of the national Heritage Open Day Scheme). This is a day when people are invited to visit their parish church. We invite everyone (especially those who have never been inside before) to come along and have a look round church. Our registers will be available for anyone to look at and we'll have information about the church's history including its first vicar – Thomas Crowther who fought against child exploitation in the mills of Cragg Vale (and beyond) and was one of those who promoted the '10 hours Act' and more recent history such as the relocation of our organ to an Abbey in France and our major reordering project to create a building which can be used by the whole community.

We'd also like you to tell us how you'd like to use the building's flexible spaces and share any ideas you may have for its future use. As with other community resources of this kind it will eventually be a case of use it or lose it! Refreshments will be available.

Finally, our Curate, Daniel Miles left us in August after spending over 2 years here in the Benefice of Erringden (St John's and St Michael's). He arrived before the pandemic and brought energy and fresh ideas with him. Once the pandemic hit us, he took both churches online, streaming services from the vicarage and his house on Zoom (which most of us hadn't even heard of at that time!) and Facebook and then on YouTube. Once we were allowed to have services in church again, he continued to stream services for those unable to attend in person. I'm sure we would have got there eventually but because of Dan we didn't miss a single service! He has moved on to be Interim Priest in Charge of St James the Great in Manston and we wish him well. Contact Julie on [gjwsa2@gmail.com](mailto:gjwsa2@gmail.com) for more details about any of the above!

**Julie Harris, Churchwarden**

## ST JOHN'S EVENTS! AUTUMN 2022

**Sunday service** 9.30am Everyone welcome

**Every 2nd Monday** Yorkshire Countrywomen's Association 2.30pm – 4.30pm

**Every 3rd Thursday** Cragg Vale History Group 7.30pm

**Every 3rd Tuesday** Short Communion service 1.30pm

**Sunday September 4th** 'Own Your Menopause' Course part One 1pm – 4pm (contact Emma at 07764486296 or [eqfitness88@gmail.com](mailto:eqfitness88@gmail.com) for details)

**Thursday September 8th** Community churchyard management afternoon 1pm – 4pm

**Saturday September 10th** Yorkshire Churches Day (part of Heritage Open Days week) 10am – 5pm Come and have a look round your parish church, refreshments available

**Sunday September 11th** 'Own Your Menopause' Course part two 1pm – 4pm

**Friday September 30th** McMillan Coffee Morning 10.30am – 12 noon. Everyone welcome!

**Friday October 21st** Whist Drive – from 6pm. There will be people there to teach you how to play! (with Beetle Drive available for children and those not sure about Whist!).

**Saturday October 22nd** Ceilidh with The Black Box Band. 7pm – 10pm £12 (children £6) supper included.

**Friday November 18th** Whist Drive – from 6pm. There will be people there to teach you how to play! (with Beetle Drive available for children and those not sure about Whist!).

Keep an eye out for posters and social media posts for more social and fundraising events hopefully including the return of our Sanctuary in the Wilderness curry nights among other things!

### Dates for your Diary

2nd & 3rd December – Pantomime

4th December - Big Christmas Lights Switch-On

16th December – Cragg Christmas Cracker

## YORKSHIRE COUNTRYWOMEN'S ASSOCIATION

The Yorkshire Countrywomen's of Cragg Vale Will make you welcome without fail,  
Join us for our monthly meet,  
With a guest speaker for a treat,  
A cup of tea, a biscuit fine,  
Sometimes we have a glass of wine,  
We've heard about politics with Marianne Hood,  
We've heard about badgers, some not good,  
Shared harmony with Emma Baylin,  
Whilst Jay Hopkins took us sailing,  
We've visited the theatre, enjoyed the show,  
Then to Harlow Carr gardens, decided to go,  
Had a carvery lunch, one of the best,  
Which put our waistbands to the test,  
We do cream teas, have a Christmas lunch,  
So, join us, we are friendly bunch,  
Every month on the second Monday,  
In St John's church which even opens Sunday,  
Meetings start at half past two,  
Do come, the YCA needs you.

# Farmshop & Cafe

## FIND US AT

The Craggs Country Business Park  
New Road, Cragg Vale  
Hebden Bridge HX7 5TT  
t: 01422 477 477

## SHOP HOURS

Monday - Friday 8.30am - 5.30pm  
Saturday 8.30am - 4.30pm  
Sunday 10am - 4pm

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Monday - Friday 9.30am - 4pm  
Saturday 9.30am - 3.30pm  
Sunday 10am - 3pm



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# THE CRAGG VALE LOCAL HISTORY GROUP

## Preserving History

The Cragg Vale Local History Group is keen to play its part in preserving the knowledge of the rich and plentiful history of our area. In August 2021, we held the "Remembering Cragg Hall" events commemorating 100 years since devastating fire destroyed the magnificent Cragg Hall on 11 August 1921. Later that year, a newspaper article (The Guardian, 4th November 1921) reported that Mr W. A. Simpson Hinchliffe had sold a large part of his estate, including the Messrs Hinchliffe Hinchliffe & Sons Ltd business and ruins of Cragg Hall, to a group of business men collectively called 'The Cotton Syndicate'. This sale marked the end of the Hinchliffe family's involvement in the cotton trade in Cragg Vale. The following decades saw a rapid decline in the population, mills closed and people had to move out to find work.

A few copies of the book "Remembering Cragg Hall" and the associated DVD "The Talk, The Walk, The Exhibition" are available to purchase. Please contact Margaret, 07900 004766 or email [history@craggvalecommunity.co.uk](mailto:history@craggvalecommunity.co.uk).

## CRAGG VALE MILLS SOLD.

### FAMILY BUSINESS PASSES TO SYNDICATE.

Mr. W. A. Simpson Hinchliffe, Cragg Hall, near Mytholmroyd, on several occasions the Conservative candidate for the Sowerby division, yesterday sold his old-established family business, which was run under the title of Messrs. Hinchliffe, Hinchliffe, and Sons, cotton spinners and manufacturers, Cragg Vale Mills, to a group of well-known business men, including Messrs. Drake, of Bradford, and Mr. Tattersall, of Haslingden.

The business was founded by Mr. Joseph Hinchliffe, grandfather of the late Mrs. W. A. Simpson Hinchliffe. From the outset the business prospered, and the family rapidly extended their possessions in the valley. Mr. Simpson Hinchliffe, who came into possession through marriage, is retaining an interest in the concern, and the latter is to be continued under the old title. Included in the transaction is a big portion of Mr. Simpson Hinchliffe's estate, embracing a large number of workpeople's dwellings, the Hinchliffe Arms Hotel, Broadwood residences, and all that remains of Cragg Hall.

The mansion, which stands in its own park, was destroyed by fire a few weeks ago, involving a loss of £150,000. Since the fire Mr. Simpson Hinchliffe has resided at Old Cragg Hall, and he is retaining that property, together with numerous farms.

## Monthly Meetings Resumed

After the imposed cancellations of our meetings from March 2020, it was with great delight that we were able to resume our monthly talks from September 2021 and put on a full programme to June 2022, with very good attendance at each meeting. The June talk – "Holiday Memories from the Past" definitely put us in the summer mood, with a hearty rendition of "Oh we do like to be beside the seaside ....." with full audience participation. We are, of course, both a historical and a social group! The Group started in April 2008 and, apart from the mandatory break, has been going strong ever since. We are now preparing for the new season: September 2022 – June 2023, and are looking forward to seeing all our regulars again and would welcome seeing some new faces. We have arranged a wide variety of speakers and topics – so there should be something of interest to everyone. There will also be an organised "visit" for the June 2023 meeting, details to be provided soon. The next meeting will be Thursday 15 September, when the annual membership fee of £15 will be due. Please note: the speaker is a change from that previously advertised.

## cragg vale LOCAL HISTORY GROUP

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 or email [history@craggvalecommunity.co.uk](mailto:history@craggvalecommunity.co.uk)

**Thursday 15th September**  
Anne Mealia "The  
Fieldens and their legacy in  
Todmorden"

**Thursday 20th October**  
Ruth Beazley  
"Mill Bank – a West  
Yorkshire Village"

**Thursday 17th November**  
Ann Kilbey "A Tribute to  
Frank, the Alice Longstaff story  
along with a Tour of the Area"

**Thursday 15th  
December**  
Annual Review  
and Christmas  
Extravaganza

# A look at the talented entrepreneurs and local businesses in Cragg Vale

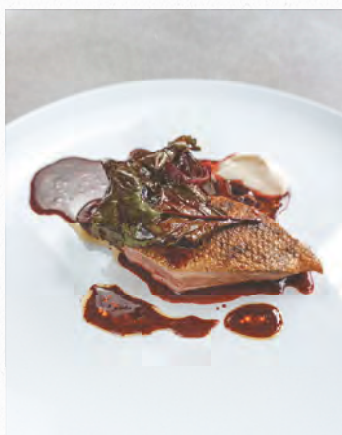
## Cragg Vale Primary School Conversion

After being open for 130 years, Cragg Vale Primary school finally closed in 2017 when its pupils relocated to Calder Primary in Mytholmroyd. The school was built in 1887 by the Sowerby Local Board. In February 2020, the building was sold at auction for £280,000, with planning permission for 5/6 houses, to local builder and property developer, Eddy Beesley.

Eddy has a reputation for painstakingly restoring buildings without cutting corners. Work began with a major rebuild of the 2 leaning walls and zigzag path up to the 'Big arches'. Concrete piles and block were used to stabilise and rebuild the huge stone wall, leaving a 6-inch gap between one of the buttresses and the rebuilt wall.

New Cragg residents, Eloise and partner, recently moved into house No1, with their Jack Russell. It's a beautiful light and spacious home, which really uses the old character of the building. The rest of the houses are being done up 1 or 2 at a time, utilising the roof space and arches, with balconies being added, the project is going to take another couple of years to complete. Eddy was grateful he had the opportunity of buying a small section of woodland [on the left-hand side], as it's proved invaluable for updating all the necessary services. It's been a long time since several houses together were built in Cragg, we are lucky the school is being so sensitively renovated and repurposed.

**Jackie Scarf**



**Kitchen launching at The Hinchliffe Arms**

11th of August 2022. Book a table at [thehinchliffearms.com](http://thehinchliffearms.com)

**HINCHLIFFE  
ARMS**

Church Bank Lane, Cragg Vale, HX7 5TA  
[thehinchliffearms.com](http://thehinchliffearms.com)

# Cragg Vale Fell Race Record

We had a new 2022 Cragg Vale Fell Race course record on Weds 29th June: Martin Howard of Calder Valley took 25.44 minutes to complete the 4-mile course from the Hinchliffe Arms and back. [John Brown's old record from 2008 stood at 26.27]. There was a super turnout for this evening race with 109 runners, meaning the competition was fierce with only 6.5k to battle it out. It's a tough start up the tarmac track, which Esther, the Hinchliffe Arms landlady, called 'Suicide Hill' and that was before she'd even run the race! Because you can run if you are 14+ years, several local Juniors took part and came very high up the scoresheet, which was pleasing to see. Many of them have come up through the ranks of the Calder Valley Juniors, including Fred, who lives opposite the Hinch! They weren't the only local Cragg residents to run - Mel Blackhurst was 3rd lady and Alisdair Pedley was 11th overall.

Registration and refreshments in St John's church are always excellent. It's a perfect venue, especially when you want to escape the midges outside. Little Valley Brewery from Cragg Vale provided prizes and beer to purchase, for which we are very grateful. It washed down well with the bacon/vegan sausage butties and delicious homemade cakes. Phil Scarf announced the prize winners from the pulpit as usual but best of all over £1,000 was made towards the refurbishment of Cragg Church. The race will be back next year on Weds 28th June, so get training - it's the 20 year anniversary!

Jackie Scarf



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# Broadhead Clough Autumn 2022 Update



**Yorkshire**  
Wildlife Trust

"Give seas a chance"

Last year I remember writing about the UK hosting the COP26 Conference, and the mounting evidence that, whatever the cause, the climate is changing. This July, a new hottest temperature record for the UK was recorded at 40.3C in Coningsby, Lincolnshire: hotter even than Heathrow in London. Those of us on spring water supplies also know that this has been a very dry summer, with hardly any sustained rainfall since May.

Our wildlife, both flora and fauna, is also having to adapt to these changes. At Potteric Carr, the YWT have seen black-winged stilts successfully breed in Yorkshire for the first time. They think climate change due to very hot and dry weather in Spain dried out their traditional wetlands, and/or the prolonged period of southerly winds is pushing them further north.

## The lack of snow is also affecting some animals with winter camouflage

They are also seeing new pathogens and insects in our county, with ash die back and horse chestnut leaf-mining moth spreading rapidly. This latter since it was first identified as present in Britain from 2002. The lack of snow is also affecting some animals with winter camouflage, which is now a danger to them. The fertility of our apple trees is also reducing with less winter "chill". In fact, it is often our plants that are affected most. If they do travel, for many it is only at a "creep" and is why the animals they support must move away.

Plantlife is the organisation speaking up for our wildflowers, plants and fungi. It is drawing attention to the term "plant blindness." What do you see in the picture? The single marsh harrier, or the thousands of grasses and seed heads within the reed bed? 99.7% of the biomass of our planet is made up of plants on which we and all wildlife depend.



Male Marsh harrier © Vernon Barker YWT website

So why do we pay plants far less attention and concentrate disproportionately so much more on the 0.3% of animal life? Many plants are now quietly disappearing and 40% of plant species are now threatened with extinction. Unsustainable farming practices can lead to habitat destruction and dustbowls. Monoculture crops and heavy chemical use can destroy soil health with either too little or excessive nutrients.

The Royal Horticultural Society is also promoting more plant diversity in our gardens, and encouraging us to a "Green" Great Britain in our shared urban spaces too. Let's focus "close up" on the colour, scent and beauty of the individual plants and flowers we see around us each day. As the summer begins to fade, why not take a walk down the valley to admire all the beautiful displays by our gardeners here in Cragg, and fully appreciate the multi bloomed tapestries of wild plants which create our woods, meadows and moorland.

Task days at Broadhead Clough are on the first Friday each month, so September 2nd, October 7th and November 4th. We start at 10a.m. and usually finish around 3pm. Check the weather before you set out and bring a drink and food to last for the time you intend to volunteer. You might wish to add insect repellent, hand sanitizer and anti-bac wipes to your bag. All tools are provided, and gloves if required.

**Helen Pedley, 01422 886195**

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

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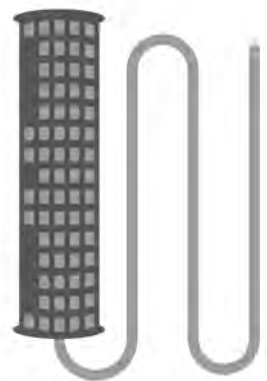
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