#### CORONATION SPAW SUNDAY!

'Spaw Sunday' and our Community Picnic will be held as part of the 'Coronation Weekend' on Sunday 7th May! Don't think the King will be present but, as always, everyone of any age, is welcome! You can either join the walk, 2.30pm from St. John's Church, or join us 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 picnic, blessing, music and dancing with Ryburn Longswords.

This community event is free of charge!

For details, contact Marianne Hood at marianne.hood@outlook.com



#### SPRING TREASURE HUNT

On **Sunday April 16th** we're holding the 'Cragg Vale Treasure Hunt' again. Starting 2.00pm at St. John's Church it's free and it's for everyone! Collect a quiz sheet, follow the route marked by little bikes, answer the questions and find 'treasure' along the way! The trail, less than 2 hours, is not too energetic but we can't guarantee the weather so wear sturdy footwear as the ground can be rough and muddy! Return to the Church by 4.00pm to enter completed quiz sheets into the prize draw. At St. John's you'll be able to get drinks, cakes, and biscuits. For further information, contact CVCA Secretary Marianne Hood marianne.hood@outlook.com

#### BIG SPRING CLEAN 2023

It's the 'Big Spring Clean' time again!
From Friday17th March to Sunday
26th 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!



Every Tuesday (2 – 6.30pm) and Sunday (12noon – 5pm) "Community Hubbub' at St. John's Church

#### March (

#### Friday 3rd March Broadhead Clough

Volunteers meet 10am at the reserve signboard, tools & gloves provided. For information contact Helen Pedley YWT 886195

Monday 13th March Yorkshire Countrywomen's Association 4.30pm, St. John's Church 'Uganda Adventure' Emma Byrne

#### Thursday 16th March Cragg Vale History Group

7.30pm St. John's Church 'Heritage and Understanding our Historical Buildings' David Cant

Friday 17th March 6pm Whist Drive St. John's Church

Friday 17th – Sunday 26th March 'Big Spring Clean' Info from Marianne 885224

Saturday 18th March Spring Fling Disco 7 – 10pm St. John's Church

Tuesday 21st February 2.30pm St. John's Church

Enrolment for 'Re-engage' FREE exercise class for over 70's

#### Friday 31st March Broadhead Clough

Volunteers meet 10am at the reserve signboard, tools & gloves provided. For information contact Helen Pedley YWT 886195

#### April

Sunday 2nd – Sunday 16th April 'Celebrating Cragg Vale Exhibition in St. John's Church

Monday 3rd April 'ReEngage exercise class 2 – 3pm, St. John's Church

Sunday 16th April Cragg Vale Treasure Hunt Meet 2pm, St. John's Church

Monday 17th April Yorkshire Countrywomen's Association 2.30 pm, St. John's Church 'The Quartet – The Little Theatre Hebden Bridge'

**Thursday 20th April Cragg Vale History Group** 7.30pm St. John's Church 'Life After the Town Hall' Sue Hanson

Friday 21st April Whist Drive St. John's Church 6pm

Saturday 22nd April Dock Pudding Breakfast & Ceilidh

St. John's Church 9am – 12 noon. Ceilidh 7pm - 10pm Black Box Band

Sunday 30th April Cragg Challenge 2023

8.30am - 12.30pm B6138 closed

#### Mav

**Friday 5th May Broadhead Clough** Volunteers meet 10am at the reserve signboard, tools & gloves provided. For information contact Helen Pedley YWT 886195

**Sunday 7th May 'Spaw Sunday'** Meet 2.30pm, St. John's Church Walk to the spa for a Community Picnic at 3pm with Ryburn Longswords: FREE, everyone welcome

Monday 8th May Yorkshire Countrywomen's Association 2.30pm, St. John's Church 'Shared Harmonies' with Emma Baylin

Monday 15th May ReEngage Exercise Class

2 – 3pm St. John's Church

Thursday 18th May Cragg Vale History Group 7.30pm St. John's Church 'Researching the history of your house' Barbara Atack

Friday 19th May Whist Drive St. John's Church 6pm



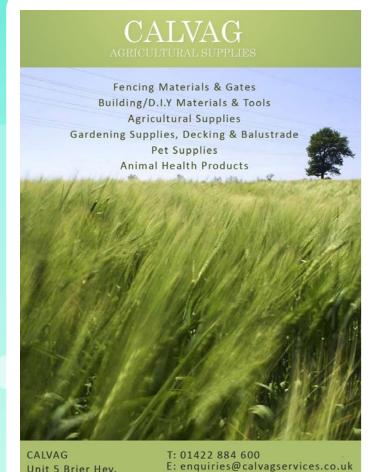
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## News from The Ark

At The Ark we seize the moment when planning for learning so if there is a hailstorm that has grabbed the children's interests, then we run with it and explore.

We are always looking for ways to ignite curiosity along with providing children the time and opportunity to explore, to deepen knowledge and understanding. Sometimes the snow doesn't stick around long enough for eager young minds so we consider ways we can provide experiences that allow the time children need.

#### Benefits of sensory play

As children explore sensory materials such as ice, they are developing a sense of touch and strengthening the neural pathways in the brain. These stronger connections in the brain are the foundations for which future learning can be built upon.

Sensory play allows children to play in an exploratory way. There is no right or wrong with this type of play, so children have the confidence to have a go and experiment. It provides ample opportunities for the expansion of vocabulary. A great way to calm an anxious or frustrated child.

#### Sensory ice exploration at home

- Freeze coloured ice cubes to add to the bath to play with!
- Ice painting freeze coloured water in an ice cube tray with a lolly stick for a different kind of mark making.
- Go outside in the snow catch snowflakes, make snow angels, build a snowman...
- If it snows and your child is reluctant to go outside, then you could collect some snow and bring it inside to explore



## Calendar News

A big "thank you" to all who provided pictures and the local businesses who sponsored this year's calendar, all proceeds go back into community projects.

We're already looking at ideas for the 2024 calendar, and have suggested a theme of *Cragg Vale – Then and Now* This should enable us to showcase how our valley has changed, so please be "happy snappers" whilst you are out and about – and if you also have any 'before' pictures, please send to martynk666@outlook.com and please take in "landscape" format.

## Music Group

The music group's popularity continues to grow! Everyone is welcome! We meet on the first Tuesday each month, it would be lovely if you could join us for the evening. Songsheets are provided, and if you have any ideas for including on our playlist, please let me know.

For more info, contact me: Martyn Kenyon 07572 578444

## CVCA Goes Digital!

We've gone digital and would be delighted if you decided to follow Cragg Vale Community on Facebook and Instagram. Both channels aim to provide a snapshot of our fantastic village - landscapes, events, notices, people and news! So do join us and share your stories and pictures with us of this fabulous place we all call home.

Our Instagram page - www.instagram.com/craggvalecommunity

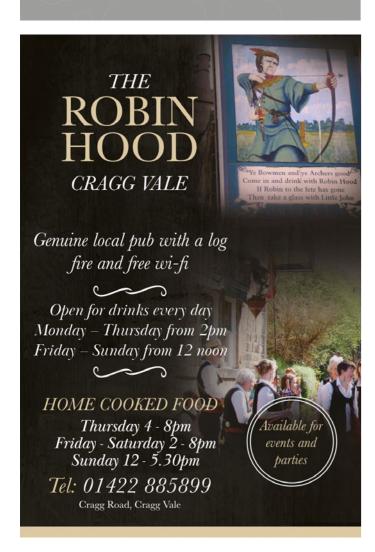
Our community Facebook page - www.facebook.com/groups/craggvalecommunity



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## News From St. John's

We've had a good start to the year with the Cragg Vale Community Hubbub every Tuesday and Sunday in collaboration with CVCA. We'd like more people to help at these sessions which are open and free to everyone.

Everyone is welcome at any of our services, and it would be lovely to see more people at our Easter Sunday service - Hot Cross Buns may be involved after the service!

We have all sort of events coming up (see our 'diary') including a 'Spring Fling' Disco which should be great fun, our famous 'Dock Pudding Breakfast' and regular Whist Drives. We will also be having another Ceilidh, date to be confirmed.

We have a lot of pointing work and other remedial jobs to do on the church this year along with our usual maintenance jobs. We'd really like to install a lift to make our first floor meeting room accessible to all. We also need to pay our 'Parish Share', a sum of money set by the Diocese and paid to them to help pay for vicar, vicarage etc. This year our Parish Share is over £19,000, a huge amount of money for us to find. This means we really need the support of our community in our fundraising efforts so please come along to what you can.

We also need practical help in maintaining the churchyard. We'll try to organize some 'work days' and will leave a list of jobs that need doing on the notice board. At the moment, the main jobs are removing the dead/brown vegetation (ferns etc), removing saplings and as much bramble as we can and keeping the paths safe by scraping off the moss. Any organic waste can be put on the compost pile just below the hut in the churchyard.

Look out for more details of our events, how to get tickets and so on by keeping an eye on social media (Cragg Vale Facebook page etc), CVCA website or the church and community notice boards.

If you'd like to hire one of the spaces in St John's for meetings, classes, parties and other functions or have any questions about baptisms, weddings or funerals, please contact Julie at gjwsa2@gmail.com.

## **HUBBUB NEWS**





Since we started, Cragg Vale's Community Hubbub, open Tuesdays  $(2-6.30 \, \text{pm})$  and Sundays  $(12 \, \text{noon} - 5 \, \text{pm})$ , has welcomed many people, from the very young to those who are quite a bit older!

We've had help and support from Hebden Royd and Calderdale Councils, local residents and Community Transport who are doing sterling work bringing those who need a lift to and from the Hubbub. The free Community Café provides hot meals, tea, coffee and a range of snacks. People have played table tennis, made jigsaws, come to read books or play chess, and the art area where anyone can have a go at drawing, painting or making their own pictures, is very popular. We've also had good use made of our lap tops and excellent wi-fi! We're now looking forward to developing our 'Celebrating Cragg Vale' exhibition and are inviting children and grown-ups to contribute pictures, poems or stories.

Over the school half term holidays, and the weeks leading up to Easter, we are also inviting anyone, of any age, to try their hand at making 'Easter Biscuits' – although they will be good to eat at any time! If you want to know more, just drop in on Tuesday or Sunday, we promise a warm welcome!

## ST JOHNS DIARY

Holy Communion Service - Sundays - 9.30am

**Enrolment for 'ReEngage'** Tuesday 21st February – from 2pm – This is a free exercise class for those 70 +, can be done standing or sitting. Come along and sign up on enrolment day or at one of the classes.

Whist Drive - March 17th 6pm

**Spring Fling Disco!** March 18th 7pm -10pm Relive/learn about the music from the 70s and 80s (other decades may be represented!)

Mother's Day Communion Service 19th March 9.30am

Palm Sunday Communion Service 2nd April 9.30am

ReEngage Exercise class for the over 70s April 3rd 2pm - 3pm

Maundy Thursday Agape bring and share Meal @ St Michael's 6th April 6pm

Good Friday Tenebrae Service - April 7th 7.30pm

Easter Sunday Holy Communion Service - April 9th 9.30am

Ceilidh – April 22nd 7pm - 10pm Black Box Band

ReEngage Exercise class for the over 70s May 15th 2pm - 3pm

Whist Drive May 19th 6pm

# Crago Vale

Cragg Vale Community Association needs lots more postcards for the 'Celebrating Cragg Vale' exhibition in the Community Hubbub. Can you help us? Postcards are ready for your thoughts, pictures, drawings, poems, paintings, collage, montage – or any combination of all of these! What memories do you have? What do you like most about Cragg Vale? We have pens, pencils, paints, craft materials ready for anyone and everyone to use. Just come along to the Community Hubbub or take cards away to work on at home. We need completed postcards by 26th March. The exhibition will be assembled in time to go on display from Sunday 2nd April in St. John's Church and will be there for all to see for two weeks Marianne on 885224 or marianne.hood@outlook.com



#### We would love a bit more help!

Could you spare an hour on either day? It needn't be a regular commitment, every little helps! We need help to:

- Set things up on Sunday mornings and put things away on Tuesdays
- Welcome visitors: show them around and offer tea, coffee and food
- Help with food preparation in the Church or your own kitchen
- all costs are reimbursed or we can buy stuff in advance for you to use
- Help in the kitchen serving food and/or clearing away

If you can offer any help, of any kind, please contact

Marianne on **885224** or marianne.hood@outlook.com





#### THE CRAGG VALE LOCAL HISTORY GROUP

#### RED DYKES, WITHENS CLOUGH AFTER THE RESERVOIR

The following article, edited by Hugh Morgan, contains observations, thoughts and memories as written by Mr T. Murphy in the late 1960's, of Red Dykes, which continues to stand as a ruin to this day. With thanks to David Martin for the use of his photograph.

Red Dykes is a former homestead located to the west of Withens Clough Reservoir, Cragg Vale. Following the construction of the Reservoir, it remained standing, majestically, at the head of the reservoir. NB The OS Map of 1908 shows only two farmsteads (Red Dykes and Pasture) remaining on the moor, out of the 15 recorded on the OS Map of 1853

It was the epitome of the stone mason's skill and art in Hand Tooling. Every keystone, each quoin, lintel, radial arched stone, mullion, jam and sill, their faces finished with that chevron design which draws one to lay their hands upon it longingly, hoping to establish a link with the past. Whoever commanded such high standards of workmanship had, not only aesthetic beauty in his eye, as the Tyke would say "He's got some wool on his back". One senses there was a feeling of compassion by the Morley Water Board in reprieving this house from the demolition maul of 1891.



From the opening of the reservoir in 1894, till sometime in the early 20th century, a Mr Ted Clegg took on the role of underkeeper at Red Dykes, until he moved on to Higher House with promotion as Head Keeper of "Turley Holes and Higher House Grouse Moor".

Of the few underkeepers that followed Ted at Red Dykes worthy of mention, would be the last to live there, Mr Tom Ormerod, who left in 1947. Tom was responsible for the building of the heavy load bearing road that leads from the reservoir side up to Red Dykes, making it easier for the deliveries of cart loads of coal and fodder. How long it had functioned as a farm is still to be determined but from this point in time, it had to take on the role of gamekeeper's lodge, because its position in the catchment area presented probable pollution risk from sheep dip chemicals and pesticides and other filtering through to the reservoir. Although sheep and cattle grazing was still acceptable.

Lighting was by oil lamp, wireless by wet battery, heating by peat and wood log fires. With such rudimentary services, the Keeper, shepherd, or farmer, spent a life time of dedication to the flocks and stock in his care.

Now in its loneliness, Red Dykes mourns, groans and whines as the pitiless autumn and wintry winds screech through the open casements, lamenting the loss of the other homesteads now at sleep beneath the waters of Withens Clough reservoir.

Origin of the name: The original spelling of the property was "Red Dike". It has been determined that the name originated from the colour of the water (rust red) in the drains (dikes) in the area.

#### **MONEY RAISED FOR OVERGATE HOSPICE**

Following the successful evening with Sally Wainwright in October, the History Group were able to send £318.72, raised on the night from ticket sales and donation, to Sally's nominated charity: Overgate Hospice. In thanking the Group, Overgate said "Your support keeps our doors open, our nurses caring and our patients safe" The History Group Committee thanks everyone, especially Sally, for a wonderful event.



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@carggvalecommunity.co.uk

March 16th
Heritage and understanding
of our historical buildings

April 20th
Life After The Town Hall

May 18th
Researching the history of your house

# THE CRAGG CHALLENGE 2023 ALL OF THE FUN IN HALF THE TIME!

Sunday 30th April sees the return of the pandemic-delayed Cragg Challenge. Organisers have announced that a restructured programme means that whilst all the usual events are present, the road closure (for Cragg Road) will only be in force from 0830 to 1230. The B6138, Cragg Road will be closed to traffic from 32 Cragg Road in Mytholmroyd to the junction with the A58 near Blackstone Edge. The junctions with Church Bank and New Road at Sykes Gate will be closed, however, access to the Craggs Country Business Park from the other end of New Road is unaffected.



The Oliver Collinge Climb (Schools Relay) makes a welcome return with entries being organised via Burnley Road, Calder Primary, Scout Road and Calder High schools. Parents of children wishing to take part but not attending these schools can apply for an entry form by emailing info@craggchallenge.co.uk

Open to all are the 10-mile run, 10k run, 5k run, the 'John Jones 1 mile dash' and the Cycle Ascent, all taking place on the longest continuous climb in England. You can enter by visiting www.craggchallenge.co.uk and following the link to the event(s) that you're interested in.

Royd Ices will be opening up the 'Challenge Café' once again, and with stalls and other activities featuring, plus medal presentations you can look forward to a bustling start-finish area making a comeback.

The Cragg Challenge is a major community event and a vehicle for individual and organised charitable fund-raising, made possible thanks to volunteers giving their time to support the event. If you would like to offer your support or explore what's involved, please contact secretary@craggchallenge.co.uk

### **BLACK CAT CHIMNEYS**

In 2019, Jack Parrett, his wife Sue and son Jed, moved from London to Cragg Vale to live in the Old Co-op building from where he now runs his chimney sweep business, Black Cat Chimneys. His career as a chimney sweep began in 2015 when, having been made redundant by the fireplace company he'd worked for, he needed his chimneys swept. Jack said "It was a light bulb moment, I decided I'd become a chimney sweep – and now I'm a member of the National Association of Chimney Sweeps". He said "It was tough during the Covid lockdown but now business is really good". On being asked why he chose to come to Cragg Vale, he explained that he was originally from York and literally 'stumbled over' our village. However, he then found out that he had family connections via his Mum's cousin that he never knew about!

I asked Jack why we see images of chimney sweeps wearing top hats and why sweeps are supposed to bring good luck:

"The story goes that one day in the 1700s when King George was out riding, his horse was startled by a dog and began rearing up. A chimney sweep rushed through the crowd and caught the horse by its reins. The King thanked him by announcing that, from that day forth, chimney sweeps would be the only labour-based job able to wear the clothing and top hat of the gentry and professions. The King also announced that chimney sweeps were lucky!"







CRAGG VALE
BUSINESSES

**SPOTLIGHT ON** 

Jack has had many 'difficult' chimneys to clean but said the most memorable was the work he had to do on the chimney for a pizza oven – 5 storeys up to the top of the chimney and all his gear had to be taken up the fire escape and then back down again. He said "all the time I could smell pizza but I never got to eat one!" According to Jack, some chimneys have not been well-maintained, he's found birds' nests and other problems. If a chimney doesn't have a liner, he carries out tests to make sure the chimney is 'sound' but an important 'rule of thumb' is that if you can smell smoke in other rooms or parts of the house then the fire should not be used until the problem is put right.

'Chimney sweeps would be the only labour based job able to wear the clothing and top hat of the gentry and professions. The King also announced that chimney sweeps were lucky!'

Jack asked me to stress that he 'doesn't do weddings' although once, much to his surprise, he was asked (when working in London) by a young woman for a 'lucky kiss'! Finally, a reminder from our very own chimney sweep to everyone in Cragg Vale "Get your chimneys swept in summer, don't wait until the Autumn when you want to have a fire"

For information about Black Cat Chimneys email: jack@blackcatchimneys.co.uk or 'phone 07948146066



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## BROADHEAD CLOUGH SPRING 2023

Last year we improved the main path through the reserve and I'm pleased to say the widening and better drainage proved successful. "The Hebden" recent event, whilst noticeable, left nowhere near as much mud as in previous years. Perhaps the recent dry spell helped, but we are grateful for the help of CROWS. We are so lucky living in a place where the path network is kept safe and we do not lose the historic access routes which make Calderdale so good for walkers. Most recently they've put in new steps on Hoo Hole Lane; cleared fallen trees at Parrock Bottom and through Whams Wood; and installed a dog gate in addition to the existing stile by the cattle grid en-route to the reserve. We hope this will put an end to the deliberate cutting of stock fencing and gate locks which put grazing animals at risk.

"Using green infrastructure to bring the sights, sounds and smells of nature into every city, town and street will not only create nature abundant, beautiful spaces for everyone to enjoy, (something the Wildlife Trusts have long campaigned for), but will help tackle climate change too."

Whilst most people respect the landscape they walk through, (keeping dogs on leads during lambing and ground nesting bird season), others don't. They drop rubbish, ignore dog poo, or startle animals: all of which can cause harm. These visitors don't know the "Countryside Code" and how to behave in the wider landscape. This isn't perhaps surprising given a report from Natural England stating that "With 80% of people now living in towns and cities, one third of people do not have access to good quality green and blue space within 15 minutes of their home." They aim to change that with the issue of the government's "Environmental Improvement Plan", published on 2nd February 2023.



## Yorkshire www.ywt.org.uk Wildlife Trust Love Yorkshire, Love Wildlife

This includes a commitment that the public should be able to access green space or water, such as woodlands, wetlands, parks and rivers, within that 15-minute walk. The aim is to increase the extent and connectivity of nature-rich habitats which will also help increase wildlife populations. Their Chief Executive, said: "Using green infrastructure to bring the sights, sounds and smells of nature into every city, town and street will not only create nature abundant, beautiful spaces for everyone to enjoy, (something the Wildlife Trusts have long campaigned for), but will help tackle climate change too."

If you'd like to play a part in creating these beautiful spaces there are lots of opportunities. Encouraging friends who don't usually walk on footpaths by giving them the knowledge and confidence to do so is a great start. Some individuals "plog" (picking up litter whilst jogging) and Calderdale provides tools for group litter-picks, and reporting fly-tipping or non-native invasive species on its website. Finally, for those really wanting to "get stuck in" there are our monthly task days at Broadhead Clough on the first Friday each month.

Meet us at 10a.m on March 3rd and unusually again on March 31st, (avoiding Good Friday), May 5th and June 2nd. Bring something to drink and food to last for the time you intend to volunteer. You might wish to add hand sanitizer and anti-bac wipes to your bag. All tools are provided, and gloves if required.

Helen Pedley, 01422 886195

## **Toad Patrol**

'Toad Patrollers' are needed to rescue toads as they try to cross Cragg Road – by the bus turning area. Every year toads return to their ancestral breeding grounds, in this case, Marianne and Kevin's pond at 2 Green Bank. The site, and the crossing, is now registered and we'll have 'Toad Patrol' signs to warn drivers. Volunteers will be covered by special insurance.

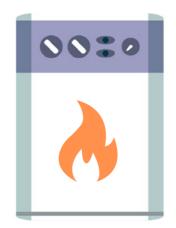
If anyone can come out to help, from around mid-March, please contact Marianne Hood on 885224 or marianne. hood@outlook.com







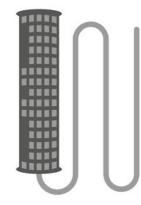
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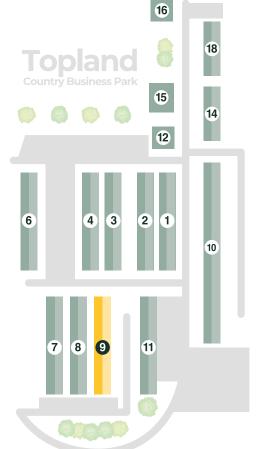
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