

Cragg News

ISSUE 37
SUMMER 2023

★ SUMMER DIARY

Please note NEW Times for the 'Community Hubhub' at St. John's Church

JUNE

Every Tuesday & Sunday 'Community Hubhub' 2-5pm St. John's Church

Friday 2nd June Broadhead Clough Volunteers meet 10am at the reserve signboard, tools & gloves provided. For information contact Helen Pedley YWT 886195

Monday 12th June Yorkshire Countrywomen's Association
2.30pm St. John's Church 'Gee's Bees' with Philip Gee

Thursday 15th June Cragg Vale Local History Group 7.30pm, St. John's Church Guided Tour of Dean Clough info from Jane 07733326866

Saturday 17th June Annual Duck Race St. John's Church 1pm with garden games, refreshments, Buy ducks from Julie gwsa2@gmail.com, text 07443420907

Wednesday 28th June Cragg Vale Fell Race 7.30pm Starts opposite the Hinchliffe Arms. Registration in St. John's Church: £7, Refreshments & Prizes. More info from Jackie Scarf thescarfs@hotmail.com

JULY

TUESDAYS ONLY 2pm - 5pm Community Hubhub St. John's Church

Friday 7th July Broadhead Clough Volunteers meet 10am at the reserve signboard, tools & gloves provided. For information contact Helen Pedley YWT 886195

AUGUST

TUESDAYS ONLY 2pm - 5pm Community Hubhub St. John's Church

Friday 4th August Broadhead Clough Volunteers meet 10am at the reserve signboard, tools & gloves provided. For information contact Helen Pedley YWT 886195

Friday 11th - Sunday 13th August 'Cragg Fest' in the field behind the Robin Hood from 3pm on Friday 11th August & 1pm to 11.30pm on Saturday and Sunday. Admittance by wristband only.

SEPTEMBER

Friday 1st September Broadhead Clough Volunteers meet 10am at the reserve signboard, tools & gloves provided. For information contact Helen Pedley YWT 886195

OCTOBER

Monday 9th October Yorkshire Countrywomen's Association
2.30pm St. John's Church 'A Royal Pastry Chef' with Colin Anderson



Supported by Hebden Royd Town Council

CRAGGFEST

3 DAY FUND RAISER ★ 11-12-13 AUGUST ★ LIVE LOCAL BANDS

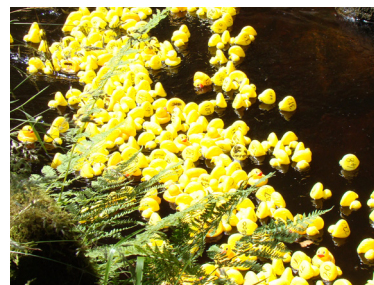
The 3-day fund-raiser 'Cragg Fest' is back in the field behind the Robin Hood from 3pm on Friday 11th August and 1pm to 11.30pm on Saturday 12th and Sunday 13th August - come and join the fun! Good music from live bands with lots of good food and drink (a full bar every day), admittance, by wristband, is free for children under 16yrs and for adults all 3 days is only £18 - or £8 for one day, £14 for 2 days. Proceeds from gate entry will be split equally between CVS, Multiple Sclerosis Research and Cancer Research.

CRAGG VALE FELL RACE 2023



Put the evening of Wednesday 28th June on your calendar - all runners are welcome! I would welcome help with refreshments, registration (only £7) and marshalls on the route - I am always short on helpers! Registration is in St. John's church from 6.30pm and all details, including a map, are on the Calder Valley Fell Runners website. This is a delightful 4mile evening race taking in the edge of Erringden moor, drops back down past Sunny Bank and through the woods. Come and do your bit to raise more money for updating Cragg Church. There are lots of prizes, mainly donated by Little Valley Brewery, and delicious refreshments provided by the members of the church. We expect to get around 100 runners, who start [and finish] by the Hinchliffe Arms at 7.30pm. Jackie Scarf thescarfs@hotmail.com

ST. JOHN'S DUCK RACE



Saturday 17th June is the Annual Duck Race - don't forget to buy your ducks! There'll be garden games and refreshments at St. John's Church from 1pm, with the Duck Race itself at 2.30pm. You can buy ducks from Julie gwsa2@gmail.com or text 07443420907

www.craggvalecommunity.co.uk

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THE CRAGG CHALLENGE 2023



Sunday 30th April finally saw the return of The Cragg Challenge to the B6138, the longest continuous gradient in England which has been renamed 'The Oliver Collinge Climb' in memory of the well-loved local schoolteacher and sportsman who died aged 28 from a rare form of cancer.



A pupil from Calder Primary's Reception class starts the relay race

came next, a downhill dash from just below the Robin Hood to the finish line by Royd Ices, then the distance events set off and finally the cyclists. The race results and times can be found via the 'results' tab at www.craggchallenge.co.uk.

Phil Rodda, on behalf of the organising committee, summed up the day: "We're delighted the Challenge has been so successfully re-booted, the level of support has been fantastic and everyone participating or spectating seems to have had an enjoyable morning. None of this could happen without the small army of volunteers, the sponsors (Hebden Royd Town Council; Royd Ices; Workout Wonders; Charnock Bates; Kudos Brokers; Revoplas) spectators, supporting parents and of course the entrants themselves. Our sincere thanks go out to everyone who helps to make this event the success that it is and we hope to see everyone back next time!"

The threatened poor weather didn't turn up until much later in the day allowing participants and spectators to enjoy a drier time than anticipated! The Chair of the Organising Committee, Phil Rodda commented "It's great to be back after the gap caused by the pandemic and then the royal funeral last year. We've worked extremely hard to streamline the events resulting in a much-reduced road closure with Cragg Road reopened to traffic just after 12 noon."

Over 500 people were involved in the day in some form or other, with the runners and riders all showing a strong field for the return of the 10-mile, 10K, 5k runs and cycle ascent. The day started with the Schools' relay – the first time that the Oliver Collinge Climb has run the 'Oliver Collinge Climb'!

Over 60 children entered from local primaries with Calder High School completing the relay ascent in 39 minutes and 26 seconds – a new record for the new course distance. The John Jones Memorial Mile



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NEWS FROM THE ARK



Each month, as part of our curriculum at The Ark, an artist is chosen for the children to explore. We promote the artist by displaying their work and providing children with the tools they need to recreate their own version of art inspired by the chosen artist.

Our artist of the month is a person who practises any of the creative arts, such as painting, sculpting, dancing, poetry, singing, filming, drawing, composing, and creating music.

"Art is an international language, understood by all"

Igor Babailov

The artist could be a painter like Vincent Van Gogh or Wassily Kandinsky! If a child can say Tyrannosaurus Rex and understand that it was a giant, meat-eating dinosaur that walked on two legs and had a long tail and a big head with sharp teeth (and, yes, two little arms) then they can learn about art.

They may choose a musician or group such as Ed Sheeran or The Beatles. Or perhaps a composer, such as John Williams, who has composed music our younger children may not hear until they are older due to the films they feature in.

The aim of exploring an artist of the month is to explore new processes and techniques and to introduce the children to a variety of art forms. The variety of art that we explore means that the children can make choices about likes and dislikes. It also helps in developing a child's understanding of different cultures and viewpoints. The role of art in helping children regulate their emotions is well researched, a critical skill for well-adjusted children and adults.

We believe you are never too young to appreciate art!

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SPACE

— at the ark —

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HUBBUB

Hubbub News

- The Hubbub continues to welcome people of all ages from tiny tots to nonagenarians!!
- We are amending opening times to run from 2pm until 5pm and from July (to allow for holidays) we'll only be open on Tuesdays.
- We plan to go back to the full sessions from the start of September. If you haven't had a chance to see our 'Celebrating Cragg Vale' exhibition, it's still in place and pictures can be added at any time.



- We want to say a big 'Thank You' to all those who have made such superb contributions!
- We are also grateful to all volunteers and those who have provided the delicious food for our 'Community Café'.
- If anyone else would like to help at any time, either by providing food or helping in the kitchen, we would love to hear from you – let Marianne know on marianne.hood@outlook.com



ST JOHN'S DIARY DATES

Sundays 9.30am, Holy Communion, St John's

Saturday June 17th 1 - 3pm from St John's, Duck Race

Sunday July 23rd 3pm at St Michael's, Mytholmroyd, Cathy's last service followed by refreshments

CRAGG VALE CALENDAR 2024

Pictures needed please! We're looking for 'Cragg Vale – Then and Now'. If you have pictures from days gone by, originals can be copied so you won't need to part with them! We plan to show how things have changed – or not! If you are out and about taking photos, landscape format works best. Send any pictures to martynk666@outlook.com – you'll get a complimentary copy of the calendar if we use any of them!

MUSIC GROUP

Everyone is welcome! We'll be meeting on Tuesday 6th June, Tuesday 11th July (note change to allow for a holiday!) and Tuesday 1st August. It would be lovely if you could join us for the evening. Songsheets are provided. For more info, check the CVCA website or contact **Martyn Kenyon 07572 578444**

NEWS FROM ST JOHN'S CHURCH

Thanks to all who supported our events over the last couple of months. Our next social event is our annual Duck Race on June 17th. There'll be garden games and refreshments from 1pm with the Duck Race itself at 2.30pm. You can buy ducks from Julie (gjwsa2@gmail.com or text **07443420907**) or from members of our congregation or during Hubbub sessions. If there are any left, they'll be available on the day but buy before the day to avoid disappointment! Keep an eye on our social media for info about other events including chances to help us tidy up the churchyard whilst also creating a haven for local flora and fauna and increase the churchyard's potential for carbon capture. This will help us in our work towards net zero carbon, quite a balancing act!

We need to install a lift from the ground floor to the first floor to make the whole building fully accessible to all who would like to use it. We'd like to do this before next winter so groups can opt to meet upstairs rather than downstairs, saving on energy costs as it's a much smaller space to heat. We will need to raise around £25,000 to make this happen (on top of our usual running and maintenance costs plus payment to Leeds Diocese). We already have around £8,000 towards this target and will be applying for some grants. We'll be appealing to the wider community to help raise enough to reach our target, if you'd like to donate to the lift fund please contact Julie!

In July, Cathy, our vicar (and vicar of the other church in the Benefice, St Michael's) will be retiring after almost 10 years. We are very grateful for all she has done during her time here. Thanks also to her husband, Alan. We will miss them both very much!

Julie Harris, Churchwarden



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THE CRAGG VALE LOCAL HISTORY GROUP

A TALE OF 19TH CENTURY SUNDAY SCHOOL HUMOUR AND PRANKS

Following on from the previous Cragg News (or at least “coming before” as befits a History Page), we have a further piece from Mr T Murphy’s local family memories, written in the late 1960s, and edited by Hugh Morgan.



The ‘Te Deum’ stone

A charming story comes to mind concerning those children of the farmsteads in the Upper Withens Clough area (since long before the current reservoir) whose parents attended Chapel. Those of the age 6-12 years old would gather together and walk over the top of Withens Clough through Withens Gate, passing the Te Deum Stone and down to Mankinholes to pay allegiance to the Chapel Sunday School.

Halfway along the journey lived a little old lady reputedly a Granny to one of the children. To call there was a must for them, as she would be found busily preparing a large pan of gruel or stew (if rabbits were in plentiful supply) to warm their insides, all the while smoking her corn cob pipe.

After exchanging greetings, the children’s ploy was to badger Granny with quick fire questions and conversation, causing her to get mithered and repeatedly removing and replacing her pipe, and eventually, putting it in upside down. This is what they had been waiting for! Then they would watch expectedly for ash to fall, as they expected it to fall into the hot food.

From the glint in the eye of the narrator of this story, Granny knew what they expected, only too well, and obliged them by approaching the food perilously close, 3 or 4 times, as though not aware pipe was upside down. The cottage was full of shrieks of laughter at the near misses, before she brought the game to a halt.

I was reminded of my own father, holding his pipe upside down, just sucking not smoking. He used to say he smoked more matches than baccy this way. The inside of his pipe was hard and black like the Devil’s forehead. It was a sure sign that the pipe bowl needed de-coking! I completed this remembrance with a lump in my throat.....

**cragg vale LOCAL HISTORY
GROUP**

June 15th is the last meeting for this season, before the summer break. The new season will begin on September 21st, when the annual Membership of £15 will fall due. The meetings will then continue as usual on the 3rd Thursday of the month, at 19:30 in St John’s Church, through to June 2024.

Visitors are always welcome, for a fee of £3 per visit.

For more information see the CVCA website, phone Jane on 077 333 26866 or email history@craggvalecommunity.co.uk

There is just one meeting in this period:

Thursday June 15th - Guided Tour of Dean Clough

Cragg News

Spotlight on Cragg Vale

SPOTLIGHT
ON
CRAGG VALE

Cragg Vale Community Association

Set up by local residents in August 2007 as a 'Company Limited by Guarantee', Cragg Vale Community Association aims to protect our local environment and improve the quality of life for all in our community. The Association is a not-for-profit membership organisation where all members are equal, with no shareholders or anyone other than local people to direct and determine what is done. Our members can vote at meetings, including the AGM, can become Committee Members and can set priorities for the Association. Anyone who lives in, works in, or regularly visits Cragg Vale, may apply to become a member. Membership is currently an annual fee of £3 per household to make it possible for anyone who wants to give us their support to be able to join. If people want to pay more by way of a donation, that's fine!



Please join CVCA

We hope people reading our newsletter have an idea of what we do, but, as a reminder we've not only successfully campaigned about things such as reducing the speed limit to 30mph, we maintain our community park and garden, carry out the annual litter pick and bulb planting, help get footpaths improved and run regular social events to bring people of all ages together. The Local History Group, the Music Group and the Community Hubbub with St. John's Church are all part of our overall organisation. If you are not already a member, we hope you will now decide to join and give us your support!

See our website www.craggvalecommunity.co.uk for the membership form or ask any member of the CVCA Committee



Why we need members

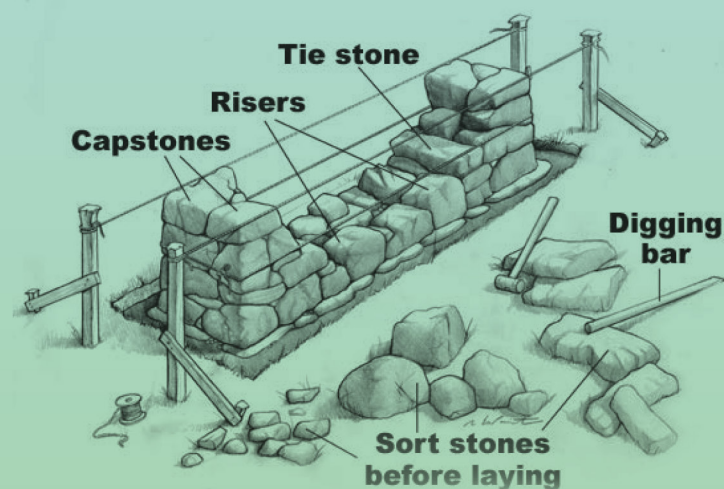
Having a membership base is an important way for us to demonstrate support from our local community. Being able to show such support is essential when we apply for grants to bodies such as Calderdale and Hebden Royd Councils and the Lottery Fund.

However, we also need to be sure we can cover our ordinary running costs so the aim is to have a membership base of 100 households. Having £300 a year helps cover stationary for all admin including bank charges, annual accountancy fees, insurance for our equipment, holding meetings and running events, producing information and publicity, and the cost of the Annual Return to Companies House.



BROADHEAD CLOUGH SUMMER 2023 UPDATE

Those visiting the reserve recently won't have seen much evidence of work because we've been concentrating on the meadows area. For as long as I can remember there has been a tumbled down internal stone wall between the lowest and the three upper fields. The slope is so steep that some of the stones had rolled 20m down the hill and were partly embedded or covered in moss. Luckily, the YWT team at Stirley Farm includes qualified dry stone wallers and trainees, and we've had one of each teaching their skills to our volunteers. We started with some minor repairs to gain confidence, but for the last three task days we have had up to 6 people at work to rebuild this 8.5m stretch retaining wall of double height i.e. from its ground level base it rises 0.8m to the ground level of the upper field and when finished another 1.5m above to form a total height of 2.3m. There was an added complication because the damage began at a corner or "cheek" joint, where all the stones have to intersect in two planes for greater strength.



Walling is a 3D jigsaw puzzle, but with rocks so heavy you need two people to lift them into place, and walling hammers to persuade them into level "courses". The hammers are also used to smash other rocks to form the "hearting" infill of rubble. This is

packed in to give solidity for the next course to sit on. As per the diagram (below) this is a "Double Dyke" wall with two separate "skins" of stones and every so often a "Through Stone" or "Tie" resting across both layers to hold them together. We still have another day's work ahead to narrow in the final 2 courses and replace the capstone tops.

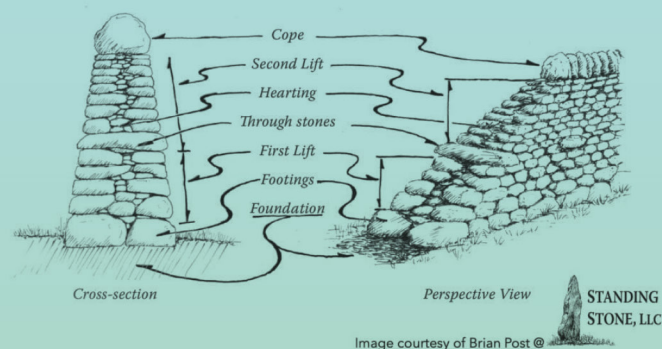


Diagram from "The Stone Trust"

Dry stone walls are an essential part of our Yorkshire landscape but many are in disrepair and are easily damaged by weather, tree roots and people/cars that cause them to fall over. You might not know that some date back to the Iron Age and other roadside walls in the West Riding were rebuilt during the 1930s to ease local unemployment? Rebuilding this wall has made me appreciate them more than ever!!!

From June we will be back to bracken bashing in the marshes and the heath area. We meet on Fridays at 10am on June 2nd, July 7th, August 4th and Sept 1st. Do bring food and drink for the time you intend to volunteer, and remember sun cream, insect repellent, and perhaps hand sanitizer too. All tools are provided, and gloves if required.

Helen Pedley, 886195





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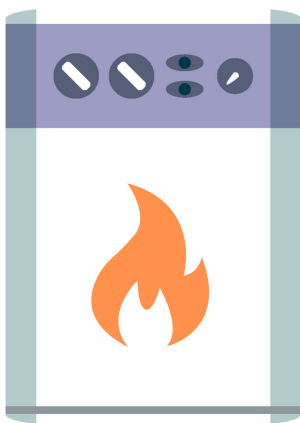


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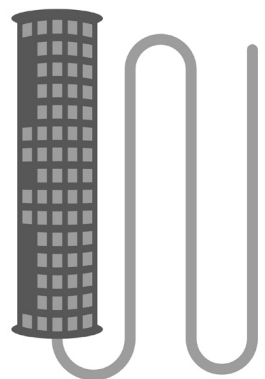
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