

Cragg News

ISSUE 33
SUMMER 2022

NEW CVCA COMMITTEE MEMBERS

At the CVCA Annual General Meeting, finally held in person once again, at the Robin Hood, on 29th March 2022, Cragg Vale Community Association welcomed Nick Howard and Jacky Murphy onto our Committee. Sadly, we had to bid goodbye to Jane Frechette and Nick Murphy, both long-standing members and stalwarts from our earliest days.

For many years, Nick was our Treasurer and Jane was our link with the History Group, both also regularly came to help with our gardening in the Community Garden – and are very welcome to come and help whenever they can! A very big THANK YOU goes to both Nick and Jane for all their hard work and support, we hope to see you again soon at a CVCA event!

Cragg Calendar 2023

Thanks again, to everyone who supported the 2022 calendar, we were delighted with the positive comments, so are looking to build on that success with the 2023 calendar – yes, we're already thinking ahead to next year! The theme for 2023 will be Cragg Vale – its Highways and Byways which should give us lots of opportunities to showcase our fabulous countryside

and favourite walks. There must be lots of fab pictures from peoples' travels around the area, so if you'd like them to be included in the calendar, please send to martynk666@outlook.com before the end of July! Please note – landscape format works best as we need to crop / re-shape pictures in portrait format and detail can be lost.

SUMMER DIARY

Every Tuesday at St. John's Open Church 2pm - 4pm for a cuppa and a chat!

June

Saturday 4th June 'Crossings' Exhibition & 'Portrait of the Queen' exhibition
10am – 4 pm St. John's Church

Saturday 4th June 'Dance Through the Decades' 6pm - 10pm
St. John's Church, (let Julie know if you are coming for catering purposes) gjwsa2@gmail.com

Sunday 5th June Village Garden Party 12noon - 2pm St. John's Church Grounds – all welcome!

Tuesday 7th June Music Group Meet 7.30pm, details from martynk666@outlook.com

Thursday 16th June History Group 7.30pm St. John's "Holiday Memories From The Past"

Saturday 11th June Calder Primary School Summer Fair 11am – 13.30pm

July

Friday 1st July Broadhead Clough Volunteers meet 10am at the reserve signboard. Contact Helen Pedley YWT: 886195

Saturday 2nd July Duck Race St. John's Church 1pm – 3pm (duck race at 2.30pm). Details from Julie gjwsa2@gmail.com

Tuesday 5th July Music Group Meet 7.30pm, details from martynk666@outlook.com

August

Tuesday 2nd August Music Group Meet 7.30pm, details from martynk666@outlook.com

Friday 5th August Broadhead Clough Volunteers meet 10am at the reserve signboard. Contact Helen Pedley YWT: 886195

Friday 12th – Sunday August 14th Cragg Fest at the Robin Hood 3-day music festival, donations for CVSR

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 martynk666@outlook.com



Supported by Hebden Royd Town Council



www.craggvalecommunity.co.uk

BANDS NEEDED text 07976768761
NOW A 3 DAY MUSIC FESTIVAL!!

Donation on ENTRY

for CANCER RESEARCH + Calder Valley Search & Rescue CVSR

THE ROBIN HOOD PRESENTS

CRAGG FEST

Friday 12th, Saturday 13th & Sunday 14th August 2022

FUNDRAISER for CVSR + CANCER RESEARCH
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Loose Parts at The Ark

The concept of "loose parts" is what is needed for children to become critical thinkers as they use these open-ended materials to plan and create whatever they want to without an adult dictating to them what should be done. It helps children be imaginative, think for themselves and believe in themselves - they become constructors of their own universe!

There are many benefits to providing open ended loose part resources. It's impossible to use a loose part in the 'wrong' way so there is no sense of failure for children. Children can gain a huge sense of achievement for reaching their own personal goals of their play, experience the thrill and achievement of discovery and experimentation. Plus, loose parts are not gendered and have no stereotypes.



Top ten loose parts!

1. **Tin Cans** - Cans of all sizes with clean metal edges are typically safe. Be sure to use a safety can opener, one that leaves no sharp edges on the lid or the can.
2. **Fabric** - Fabric of all textures, this category includes ribbons.
3. **Cardboard Tubes** - cardboard tubes of varying circumference can be used so many ways.
4. **Balls** - offer balls of all sizes and textures.
5. **Container lids** - lids of varying materials and textures. They could be used for filling things
6. **Egg cartons / to go drink holders** - these are great for holding and transporting other safe parts.
7. **Tree cookies** – slices of wood of various sizes – known as tree cookies.
8. **Boxes** – different sized cardboard boxes
9. **Sensory bottles** - sensory bottles filled with objects for exploring sight or sound. They should be small enough for an infant to grasp. Toddlers enjoy the challenge of larger bottles to carry and roll.
10. **Pots and pans** - A real favourite of all ages for banging together!

Music Group

The CVCA Music Group is now back in full swing, meeting on the first Tuesday of each month. The evenings are now getting warmer and lighter, and we've got some new faces (and voices) venturing out to

join us, but there's always room for a few more, so if you fancy an evening of music and merriment, please contact martynk666@outlook.com and he'll add you to the circulation list.



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CRAGG VALE



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Spa Blessed

At last, on 8th May, the long wait for the return of 'Spaw Sunday' was over! The sun shone as we processed from St. John's Church to the spa, led by Deputy Mayor Cllr Jane Hoyle and Ryburn Longswords. It carried on shining as Rev. Cathy Reardon led the ceremony to give blessing to the water and, via water sprinkled on everyone, to the land and our community. To everyone's delight Ryburn Longswords performed their intricate dancing with swords



and then, with many members of our community, their friends and visitors, we all enjoyed a magnificent picnic. Thanks to Joanne at the Robin Hood for the lovely sandwiches and savouries and to the bakers from St. John's who made the superb cakes! Thanks also to Ryburn Longswords for the music and dancing and to Deputy Mayor, Cllr Jane Hoyle. We look forward to seeing you all again next year.

Successful Treasure Hunt!

First of all, a big THANK YOU to all who helped make our Spring Treasure Hunt a big success. Everyone who returned to the Church (we didn't lose anyone!) with their completed Quiz sheets said they'd had a great time and had also found footpaths they didn't know about!

We particularly want to thank Little Valley Brewery, Craggies and Mytholmroyd Co-op Store for the lovely prizes they generously donated once again. We also want to thank the volunteers who helped as 'Stewards' on the day and everyone, especially Sylvia, who helped at St. John's Church and made sure refreshments were ready as the 'hunters' of all ages returned. Thanks everyone!



News From St. John's

We've been busy at St John's so far this year, as well as our regular Sunday services we've had a quiz, a Whist and Beetle drive, a Dock Pudding Breakfast and a Ceilidh! The breakfast and the Ceilidh were particularly well attended, and it was great to see so many people from the Cragg Community and beyond there.

Coming up we have the Platinum Jubilee Celebrations put on jointly by St John's and CVCA over the weekend of June 4th and 5th and we hope to see lots of you there. We have had a grant from Hebden Royd to help put these events on and there will be no charge to attend them, just turn up! For the 'Dance Through the Decades' on Saturday the 4th of June we'll have a bring and share or 'Jacob's Join' supper which basically means bring enough food to feed you but put with everyone else's contributions so we can all share! We'll provide some snacks and salads to go with everything else. We'll have soft drinks available but if you fancy something a bit stronger please bring your own! (we have glasses and bottle openers!).

For the Village Picnic on Sunday the 5th of June bring your picnic and blanket, we'll provide soft drinks (if you'd like something stronger than orange juice you're welcome to bring whatever you fancy!) plus cake and pudding! If the weather's bad we'll still picnic but inside!

We hope to have some garden games available to play too.

We are also having a portrait exhibition so if you are a budding or established artist please see the Jubilee portrait poster and get your portraits in!

We have a family quiz on June 18th – you don't have to be a family group to come – it's for everyone and supper is included!

Look out for dates for Whist and Beetle Drives, we are trying to get these off the ground and are trying various days of the week and times to see what suits most people!

On Saturday July 2nd we will be having our annual Duck Race. There will be lots of 'duck based' things going on between 1 and 3pm with the Duck Race itself at 2.30. Ducks will be available very soon for £1 each – you won't get an actual duck but your name will be put next to a duck number and if that duck wins you will win £100!

The church space and our upstairs room are available to hire at reasonable rates for meetings, classes, workshops, parties etc. contact Julie on gjwsa2@gmail.com for more details.

Julie Harris, Churchwarden

Getting the Newsletter

We try to make sure that every household in Cragg Vale gets a copy of our quarterly newsletter, to keep everyone sighted on events and "goings-on" in our lovely village. If you know someone who isn't getting a copy, or would prefer an e-copy,

please let us know. We do post a copy on our website Craggvalecommunity.co.uk along with updates and reminders, so please keep an eye on it, particularly as there are upcoming events over the summer!

St John's events! Summer 2022

Every Sunday
Service 9.30am -
everyone welcome

Every Tuesday
Open Church 2pm - 4pm
Come and have coffee, cake
and a chat!

Every third Tuesday
Short Communion service
1.30pm

Saturday June 4th
'Dance Through the Decades'
7 – 10pm

Sunday June 5th
Village Picnic 12noon – 2pm

Saturday June 18th
Quiz 3.30pm for a 4pm start

Saturday July 2nd
Duck Race 1 – 3pm

For more information email gjwsa2@gmail.com or visit www.achurchnearyou.com/church/18013/ and/or keep an eye on the 'Cragg Vale' or 'Friends of Erringden Benefice' Facebook Pages and church and community notice boards for further details nearer each event.

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SHOP HOURS

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Saturday 8.30am - 4.30pm
Sunday 10am - 4pm

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Saturday 9.30am - 3.30pm
Sunday 10am - 3pm

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THE LIFE OF A CRAGG VALE POSTIE IN THE 1950S*

Back then, at the beginning of the reign of Queen Elizabeth II, Cragg Vale had its own Post Office and part-time postie. Mytholmroyd was a thriving village with a wide variety of shops, three different banks, and factories, both textile and engineering. It also had a Post Office and Sorting Office, on Burnley Road, where the incoming mail from Halifax was sorted ready for despatch to the several "Walks" ie delivery routes in the local area. Cragg Vale was one of these "Walks".

In those days, "Walk" did mean "walk", and the Cragg Vale Walk was split into two with Cecil Greenwood as the regular postman based in Mytholmroyd taking the Sowerby side of Cragg Brook and the part-time postman, based at Cragg Vale Post Office, taking the other side.

Cecil's day began at 5:45am with the sorting of the mail for the two parts of the Walk, before catching the 7am bus up to Cragg Vale where he would leave one bag at the Cragg Vale Post Office for the part-time postie. Cecil would then carry on up Blackstone Edge Rd delivering to the various cottages and farmhouses on the way, before turning left at Sykes Gate and carrying on delivering to the many farms until he neared Steep Lane, where he turned left again, crossing the old Nab End quarries to Hall Bank Lane, arriving back at Mytholmroyd Post Office at 11:20am. He then went off duty until 3pm when he returned to Mytholmroyd Post Office to take a second delivery up Cragg.

Once there, his job continued with the collection of the outgoing mail from the Post Office and post box, along with the other delivery points in the village, namely the Vicarage and the School House, catching the 5pm bus back down to Mytholmroyd. His last job was to empty the post boxes on Cragg Rd and Nest Estate on his way back to Mytholmroyd Post Office. He clocked off at 6pm.

In 1957, the posties were transferred to Hebden Bridge.

The Cragg Vale Post Office first opened in 1856, and remained there, at Bank Bottom, until 1986 when the then Post Mistress, Mrs Reynolds retired, after some 18 years in the post. It was transferred to Cragg Holme, but closed down 3 years later. The photograph attached shows Cragg Vale from those early years. Note the Public Telephone sign at the Post Office and the mill chimney stacks (probably Castle and Cotton Mill) on the left below the Methodist Church.

This delivery started at Dauber Bridge and covered the properties on the roadside back up to Cragg Vale Post Office.



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

Thursday 16 June
"Holiday Memories From The Past" Chris Helme

July and August -
no meetings,
summer break

Thursday 15th September
Dr Stephen Caunce "A History of Farming in the Industrial Pennines"

*The book: "Remembering Cragg Hall" is still available at £8 and the DVD of "The Talk, The Walk, The Exhibition" is also available - free but donations welcomed. For further details, contact Margaret May 07900 00 4766 or email history@craggvalecommunity.co.uk.

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

**SPOTLIGHT ON
BUSINESS IN
CRAGG VALE**

HINCHLIFFE ARMS RE-OPENS!

After a long wait, The Hinchliffe Arms is opening again! Esther Maylor, her partner Richard, and Rigsby the dog, plan to open the pub from Thursday, 26th May. The pub will be open only on Thursdays to Sundays at first as they settle in, before getting into full swing in a few months' time.

Esther says "My intention is to encourage a friendly local community pub atmosphere where children, dogs, ramblers, cyclists, runners, and everyone will feel welcome. Singers and storytellers will be especially welcome as I want to introduce some musical offerings and other simple events over the summer. I'm going to take it gently at first and then look to expand into a food operation in the autumn. I am very much looking forward to meeting people from the village and getting to know about what happens here in Cragg Vale – so please call in to say 'Hello'!

The Hinchliffe Arms will be open from 1pm until 11pm Thursday to Sunday from Thursday 26th May for drinks at first - but watch for further announcements! For further information, contact Esther at hinchliffearms@gmail.com



VOCATION BREWERY

Vocation Brewery was established by brewer and beer enthusiast John Hickling, in 2015, starting from scratch in a single unit at Craggs Business Park, with one member of staff. Today, the brewery has expanded into several units, producing a wide range of beers and lagers with a variety of different flavours and strengths.

In addition to supplying uk supermarkets, Vocation has 3 retail outlets (Manchester, Leeds and of course, Hebden Bridge), an on-line distribution service and an international market for its products.

With around 60 staff and a producing some 10 million cans per year, it is an amazing success story, right on our doorsteps!

For more information, go to www.vocationbrewery.com.



CRAGG CHALLENGE IS BACK!

Sunday the 18th September is a date for your diary. The Cragg Challenge makes a return after two pandemic-driven cancellations. The organisers have also announced that the road closure period has been significantly reduced – Cragg Road will only be closed to traffic from 08:30 to 12:00 on the day.

Royd Ices will be opening up the 'Cragg Challenge Café' once again, providing refreshments for spectators and participants. The events confirmed are as follows:

The Oliver Collinge Climb (Schools Relay) will see our local schools combining once again to form a team that will run the 'baton' up the longest continuous climb in England.

10mile, 10K, 5K runs, plus the special 1mile downhill (John Jones Dash)

Cycle Ascent, 100K Grimepur & 200K Audax

All events are open to enter now (www.craggchallenge.co.uk), other than the relay where entry information will be 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 and the organisers will respond to you.



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Broadhead Clough Summer 2022 Update



"Give seeds a chance"

As I write the bluebells are at their best, and the hard work clearing holly self-sets is paying off as their carpet has spread across the slope. One of the best views is from the bench where you can also see 3 bird boxes and watch the hard working blue and great tits feeding their families. This year our tawny owl box has been successfully used for the first time: our volunteer (licensed to ring fledglings) sent this photo of a young owl still in down. It's the time of year when many young creatures leave the nest, den or den and learn to feed themselves independently. Unfortunately this is just at the time when our lawns grow most vigorously and the nation's gardeners mow more often and protect their plants from slug and insect damage. Accidents happen but there are several things you can do to help.

"No Mow May": leaving our lawns and roadside verges uncut for 31 days.

Plantlife and the Wildlife Trusts have been calling upon councils and gardeners to join "No Mow May": leaving our lawns and roadside verges uncut for 31 days. This gives insects as many nectar sources as possible and habitat for their caterpillars, which become food for birds. As a compromise, maybe only mow a path in your lawn, or leave one area long? Then see what wild flowers lie beneath your feet if given time to grow. The Calder Greening project at Sowerby Bridge has now come to an end and Calderdale's Countryside Volunteers will be managing the wild flower meadows and community orchard from now on. The orchard blossom has already passed but the meadows will be best in June/ July.

Around your veg beds, deliberately leave a nettle patch as a decoy. Only use the wildlife friendly slug pellets, and try "companion planting": the smell of mint, marigolds or onions repel carrot fly

It's illegal to disturb nesting birds in the breeding season, so don't go too close, or trim hedges and trees if there are any signs of birds using them for food, shelter or a nest site. If you strim, walk through the area to disturb/warn any creatures before you start to cut and work side to side so they have a way of escape.

It's illegal to disturb nesting birds in the breeding season, so don't go too close, or trim hedges and trees

Do you know what to do if you find a creature in distress? Many insects revive with a saucer of sugar water; early fledglings are often best left until their parent returns, but providing shade and water could help. If you find an injured hedgehog call the Halifax Hedgehog Society on 07776234929. Hedgehogs regularly travel a mile or more each night foraging, and at this time of year, if a mother is killed crossing a road her hoglets will have to emerge early, or starve. If you see one looking small or listless in the middle of the day the mantra is "Round and sound: leave on the ground. Long and thin: it needs to come in." If you see other injured wild animals the advice is to call a local vet or wildlife re-habilitator organisation to see if they can treat it, or as a last resort the RSPCA.

Task days at Broadhead Clough are on the first Friday each month: July 1st, August 5th, and September 2nd. We start at 10a.m. and usually finish around 3pm. Check the weather before you set out: will it be waterproofs or sun screen? 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, 886195

www.ywt.org.uk

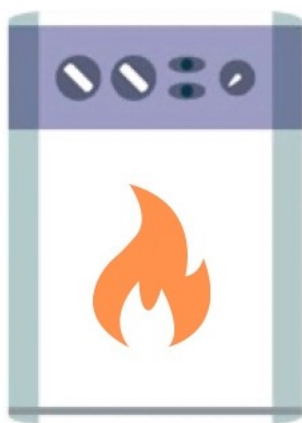
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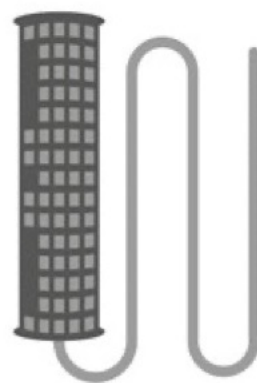
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