

Cragg News

ISSUE 41
SUMMER 2024

CRAGG FEST 2024

Once again, from 9th to 11th August there'll be music, food, drink, and merriment for anyone, of any age, in the field behind the Robin Hood Pub.



This event is raising funds for Calder Valley Search & Rescue, Cancer Research UK and Music4MS. There will be an entry fee, same prices as last year, which goes straight to the charities.

COMMUNITY TRIP TO MARCILHAC - SUR - CELE

A community trip to France is planned for September to visit St. Peter's Abbey in Marcilhac-sur-Cele (near Toulouse) the new home of the organ from St. John's Church. Arrangements are still being decided but anyone interested in going on this trip is asked to contact Sylvia Maudsley tel 07508197497 or email smaudsley2003@yahoo.co.uk by no later than 9th June!



CALENDAR FOR 2025

A great big THANK YOU to everyone who supported the 2024 production, ("Cragg Vale, Then and Now") which proved a popular addition to our catalogue of Cragg Vale-themed calendars. We're now planning the 2025 version with a proposed theme of "Cragg Vale and its Communities", exploring the different communities (farming, business, residents etc) that co-exist within our lovely valley. We'd love to hear any ideas you may have on the various communities, along with any photos that capture the feel of the theme. Please ensure that if you have any people shown in the pictures you submit, you have their permission for their image to be published within the calendar. Send your photos to:

Martynk666@outlook.com any published as a main picture will earn a complimentary copy of the calendar!

SUMMER DIARY

Community Hubbub every Tuesday (2-5pm)
and Sunday (12 - 3pm) at St. John's

Friday 31st May, Memorial Event for Elva Wood, St. John's Church
1pm and afterwards at the Robin Hood. ALL WELCOME

JUNE

Tuesday 4th June: Landscapes for Water at Withens Clough Reservoir. Information & Consultation event 7 - 9pm, Mytholmroyd Community Centre

Tuesday 4th June: Music Group contact Martynk666@outlook.com

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

Monday 10 June: Countrywomen's Association, St John's church
2.30 to 4pm Yorkshire Reflections on Calderdale's Towns and Villages

Sunday 23rd June: 'Cragg Challenge' Road closed 8am - 12.30pm

Monday 24th June Exercise Group St. John's Church
contact Sylvia 07508197497

Wednesday 26th June Fell Race St. John's Church
7.30pm to register: £8 Refreshments at the Church

Friday 28th June St. John's Whist Drive. 6.30pm

JULY

Tuesday 2nd July: Music Group contact Martynk666@outlook.com

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

Saturday 6th July: St. John's Duck Race. 1 - 3pm Ducks £1 each, contact Julie 07443420907

Monday 8th July: Yorkshire Countrywomen's Association. St John's church 2.30 to 4pm Ding dong merrily on High (hand bells)

Monday 22nd July: Exercise Group St. John's Church tbc contact Sylvia 07508197497

Friday 26th July: St. John's Whist Drive 6:30pm

AUGUST

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

Tuesday 6th August: Music Group. contact Martynk666@outlook.com

Friday 9th, Saturday 10th & Sunday 11th August 'Cragg Fest'

Monday 12th August Yorkshire Countrywomen's Association. tbc either 'A Lad from Trinidad' or Flower Arrangements

Monday 26th August: Exercise Group St. John's Church tbc contact Sylvia 07508197497

Friday 30th August: St. John's Whist Drive 6:30pm



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NEWS FROM THE ARK

T is for Transport

Holidays are on the horizon and transport is always one of children's top interests at nursery. In our toddler room, the staff sometime set the room up as an aeroplane and the children head off on an adventure!

We talk about where they might go on holiday and what they can do there. The children enjoy a snack related to the country they are visiting – they loved munching on poppadoms when they visited India! This creates opportunities to learn more about the world and discover other cultures.

Children also love making their own transport – have you had any deliveries in large cardboard boxes? If there is a box available, there is an adventure to be had – the only limit is the children's imagination! Children enjoy customising their own vehicles with pens, paints or by cutting and sticking. Junk modelling can be added to create wings on a plane, oars on a boat or a funnel on a ship!



Although we love exploring our local area on foot, we have also taken Pre-school children on adventures on the train to the park. Not only do they love the trip, they experience buying tickets which is an opportunity for learning about maths, and they discover more about our area. Talking about their adventures and the things they have seen also develops language and communication. The world is out there – **go and explore!**

'LANDSCAPES FOR WATER' WITHENS CLOUGH CONSULTATION

The National Trust's 'Landscapes for Water' project is holding a public engagement event on the evening of Tuesday 4th June at Mytholmroyd Community Centre. They are hoping to deliver landscape restoration work around Withens Clough Reservoir and Turvin Clough. This will include planting trees within the cloughs, installing a series of leaky dams within this area to slow the flow of water off the moor, and deliver community volunteering sessions to help with the tree planting. This is a section of a project that spans from Marsden in the South up to Widdop and Gorple in the North. They are inviting local groups and people from the local community to find out more about the plans and to have the opportunity to ask questions. For more information contact Catriona Cormack, Landscapes for Water Project Support Co-ordinator 07385 004582

MEET OUR COMMUNITY WARDEN

I'm Dan your Upper Valley Community Warden. My role as a Community Warden is to provide a proactive, visible presence around Calderdale, acting as the eyes and ears alongside working with local councils to reduce Crime and Anti-Social Behaviour. I deal with issues such as Graffiti, Litter, Fly Tipping, Abandoned Cars, Dog Fouling and much more. I also try to get involved with community activities, visit schools and attend residents' meetings. I would just like to say a big thank you to everyone for making me feel very welcome, it has, so far, been a pleasure. If there is anything you would like to report please visit <https://new.calderdale.gov.uk> alternatively please contact myself through Cragg Vale Community Hubbub or the Community Association.
Many Thanks, Dan



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CRAGG VALE'S
COMMUNITY



HUBBUB



HUBBUB NEWS

The Hubbub continues throughout the summer. 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 give a big 'Thank You' to all volunteers and everyone helping provide the delicious food for our 'Community Café'. If anyone else can 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 Church, Cragg Vale

Duck Race!

**Saturday 6th July
from 1pm – 3pm**

Free garden games (Hook a duck, Jenga, Croquet, Quoits etc!).

Refreshments available

Duck Race at 2.30pm

Ducks £1 each
available till 2.25pm!

First Prize - £50

Contact Julie at gjwsa2@gmail.com or come along to the Hubbub to buy your ducks in advance or buy them on the day (unless all sold beforehand!)

News From St. John's

St John's is still in interregnum (between vicars) but we are keeping our programme of services, social and fund-raising events going and working on practical jobs inside and outside the church.

The main thing we want to do is install a lift from ground floor to our first-floor community room. We are launching the 'Building Our Community' lift fundraising appeal for £25,000 to make this happen! You can donate any amount by cash (donation envelopes are in the Church) or BACS (Account name – PCC of St John the Baptist in the Wilderness, Cragg Vale, Sort code 20 35 84, Account Number 00681571) giving your surname and 'Lift' as the reference, if you'd like us to claim Gift Aid on your donation, please email your name, address and date of donation to the address above.

Our next fundraiser for church funds will be our annual Duck Race! Ducks, £1, will be available to buy from 1st June by emailing Julie on stjohnscraggvale@gmail.com, texting 07443420907 or popping into church during Hubbub or after Sunday services. We will also be having regular Whist Drives on the last Friday of each month (28th June, 26th July and 30th August), it doesn't matter if you're a beginner or an experienced player!

We are wondering if there is any interest in having a regular monthly quiz? If so, let us know on the email address above, what day of the week would be good, whether you'd be interested in helping organise and run this etc. We want the church building to be used as much as possible by the whole community, so, if you think you could use it to teach a class, run a club, start a toddler and carer group, have a party..... just get in touch!

Thanks, Julie Harris,

Churchwarden, St John's Church

21ST CRAGG VALE FELL RACE

The 21st Cragg Vale Fell Race (6.4k/244m ascent) is on Wednesday 26th June, 7.30pm starting from St. John's Church where you must register: £8 on the day.

Participants must be over 14 and must have waterproof jackets. The record is 25.44 minutes! Please park on main road BUT not where there are double white lines in the middle of road! Sponsored by Little valley Brewery, there will be lots of refreshments and beer at prize-giving in the church. Organiser: Jackie Scarf. More details on Calder Valley Fell Runners website.
NB more helpers/Marshalls needed!

St John's Summer Events

Sunday Mornings 9.30am Communion or Morning Praise followed by coffee

Every Sunday 12noon to 3pm – Cragg Community Hubbub

Every Tuesday 2pm to 5pm – Cragg Vale Community Hubbub

Second Monday of the month – Yorkshire Countrywomen's Association

Third Thursday of the month – 7.30pm Cragg Vale History Group

June 17th – Thomas Crowther 'Footsteps Day' for local schools

June 24th – Exercise Group 2pm to 3pm

June 26th – Fell Race 7.30pm

June 28th – Whist Drive 6.30 for 7pm

July 6th – Duck Race 1 – 3pm Ducks to buy from 1st June!

July 22nd – Exercise Group 2pm to 3pm tbc

August 26th – Exercise Group 2pm to 3pm tbc

August 30th – Whist Drive 6.30 for 7pm

NEW CVCA COMMITTEE MEMBER

At the 2024 Annual General Meeting of Cragg Vale Community Association, a well-known local resident, Mrs Carol Wolstenholme, was elected as Company Director and Committee Member for the first time.



'Miss Carol' as she is still known to many, was, for 20 years, an Assistant Teacher and Mid-Day Supervisor at Cragg Vale school. Carol has helped CVCA over the years, especially by leading the singing at different community events and we look forward to having her help in the coming years.



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ANCIENT WOODLAND RESTORATION IN CRAGG VALE

Cragg Vale boasts a significant amount of ancient woodland – woods which have existed since at least 1600AD (around the time of Shakespeare). Ancient woods are some of the UK's most precious and biodiverse habitats, covering only about 2.5% of the national land cover (less than half that of private gardens).

In the 19th Century, many local woods were planted with beech to provide bobbin and shuttle wood for the numerous mills. Although native to southern England, beech was planted into these northern woods at the expense of the natural oak woodland habitat. Other ancient woods were partially felled and replanted with



non-native conifers, to provide a timber crop, whilst many ancient woods in Upper Calderdale suffer from invasive species such as Himalayan balsam or rhododendron.

Ancient woodland flowers and native trees struggle to grow under dense shade. With less ground vegetation and limited deadwood,

water runs off slopes too quickly and can exacerbate local flooding. Without action, the special and unique qualities of ancient woods can be irreversibly lost, diminishing their habitat value and local distinctiveness.

Through a project with the White Rose Forest Community Forest, the Woodland Trust contacted several woodland owners in Cragg Vale early in 2023. At Paper Mill Wood, near the Robin Hood Inn, planted beech has been thinned and small groups of locally appropriate species (rowan, hazel, hawthorn, aspen and crab apple) have been planted into gaps. The felling required specialist arborists to climb trees and remove their crowns; standing dead trunks remain, and felled material has been left lying on the ground. Not only does this help slow the flow of water on slopes, but it also creates hugely valuable (and often scarce) deadwood habitat for fungi, invertebrates and other hidden wildlife. Improved light will help ground flora recover on the previously bare slopes under beech. You can read about the work at the owners' blog, <https://papermillhome.wixsite.com/papermillwood/>.

Liam Plummer, Outreach Adviser for the Woodland Trust, says:

"it's wonderful to work with woodland owners who are keen to manage their woods to address threats. Sensitive work that maintains the unique properties of these ancient woods will encourage ecological recovery, whilst making them more resilient to future threats such as climate change."

If you own ancient woodland and would like more support with managing it, or would like to know more about planting new woodland to help improve connections between ancient woods, the Woodland Trust would be delighted to help you.

The local team can be contacted at:

NorthernForest@woodlandtrust.org.uk.

CRAGG VALE LOCAL HISTORY GROUP

This has been another very successful season, with a programme of varied talks and a loyal membership of regular attendees, with several very welcome "visitors". The 2023-2024 Programme comes to an end in June with an afternoon Guided Tour of the wonderfully-restored Rochdale Town Hall. [Please note that the tour is now fully-booked.] The organising team are currently working on arranging the 2024-2025 Programme, which will begin on Thursday 19th September 2024. As a reminder, meetings normally take place on the 3rd Thursday of the month, at 19:30 in the Upstairs Room at St John's Church. Light refreshments are provided after the talk. Annual Membership (September to June) is £15 per person. Visitors are always welcome, for a fee of £3 per visit. For more information please phone Jane on 077 333 26866, email history@craggvalecommunity.co.uk, or visit the CVCA website.

cragg vale LOCAL HISTORY GROUP

June 20th Guided Tour of Rochdale Town Hall
Tour begins at 2pm. Tour now fully-subscribed.

We meet at 7.30pm on the 3rd Thursday of the month in the upstairs room, St John's Church. Visitors are always welcome at £3 a visit - or become a member, £15 for 10 meetings. Light refreshments are provided after the talk. For more information contact Jane Frechette 07733326866 or email history@craggvalecommunity.co.uk or see the CVCA website

July and August Summer Break

September 19th
New season begins.

Elva Wood:

22/09/1943 – 1/05/2024

IN MEMORIAM
OF ELVA WOOD



On the 1st of May Cragg Vale lost one of its leading ladies: Elva Wood, wife of Roger and mother of Joanne, but known to all as the owner and landlady of the Robin Hood pub. In fact, Elva, beatified by locals as 'Saint Elva of Cragg Vale' when in 2009 she 'saved' the pub for the community, had a very full and varied life and career.

Born in St. Helen's, after school she worked for the Merseyside River Board, then the NHS, then the Police, then Ripponden Parish Council where she was Clerk to the Council and she also worked locally at Sagar Richards. Her last paid employment in 2002 was as an Inspector for the Foot and Mouth outbreak. However, her passion was horses.

'Saint Elva of Cragg Vale'

Elva loved horses, she loved riding and show-jumping and rode competitively to County standard, winning many trophies. Elva and Roger worked together in some events including the Pentathlon with not only show jumping but also swimming and shooting where Roger came into his own!

Later, Elva became a riding instructor and also had horses to 'break-in'. Elva and Roger got married in 1967 and came to live at Bank Top Farm. One of my earliest memories, from when I came to Cragg Vale in 1979, was walking over the fields to collect my son who had been brought to the farm from school by Joanne (she was a 'big girl' when my son started at Cragg school) waiting for me to collect him. Elva was in the field with a couple of horses and, as I started to come over the fence into the field, a shout rang out (I didn't know anyone could shout so loud!) telling me to stop and wait until the horses were brought out of the way! These were two horses that were unbroken and not particularly friendly! Apparently, Elva enjoyed the challenge, Roger told me about one particularly fiery-tempered horse called 'Jezebel' whose temperament he said perfectly matched Elva!

Elva's other great passion was for music, dancing and partying – as many regulars at the Robin will have observed! In particular she loved the music of Elvis Presley. At her 80th birthday party in the pub she was serenaded by 'Elvis', such a night, never to be forgotten, as Elva herself will never be forgotten. So, let's all raise a glass of her favourite port to a great lady of Cragg Vale!

Marianne Hood



CRAGG CHALLENGE 2024

LONGEST HILL ON THE LONGEST SUNDAY



The Cragg Challenge takes off again on the longest continuous climb on the longest Sunday of the year, 23 June 2024.

Charities being supported this year are Overgate Hospice and Cancer Research UK. Apart from the events, there will be entertainment and refreshments around the start/finish area throughout the morning.

Anyone wishing to take part in the events should go to www.craggchallenge.co.uk and follow the links to enter.

The Oliver Collinge Climb (school relay) runs again this year, information about entries will be in schools week beginning 3 June. Parents can also contact us directly by emailing schools@craggchallenge.co.uk

Final information for residents about the day will be distributed by the beginning of June.

The organisers are grateful to all this year's sponsors for helping to make this happen.

Timing (approximate)	
0800	Road closes
0820	Cragg 35 Sportive
0830	Oliver Collinge Climb (school relay)
0900	10 mile run
0930	10 K run
1000	5 K run
1015	1 mile run
1100	Cycle Ascent
1230	Road opens (open by 1200 if safe to do so)

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BROADHEAD CLOUGH SUMMER 2024

After a long wet winter, finally the sunshine returned! The oak is definitely out before the ash this year, with more leaves unfurling each day. The fields “greened up” very quickly with the grass studded with yellow dandelions. As I write the bluebells have yet to open in the reserve, but they are flowering lower down on the track to the entrance.

Since I last wrote, there have been more leaky dams installed, but much higher up in the stream so they aren't visible from the path. Slow the Flow is monitoring the impact they are having, but sadly there has been some disturbance of the original work, making it less effective. It may be that the people involved felt that barricading the stream to create pools is not normal, and therefore took the logs away. However, the impact of climate change is no longer “normal” either.

“As weather patterns become more extreme, new and unusual management is necessary to avoid devastating flash floods”

As weather patterns become more extreme, new and unusual management is necessary to avoid devastating flash floods, such as those on Boxing Day 2015. I have contacted the YWT to suggest they install an information board next to the dams to explain and educate how they are helping protect Mytholmroyd from flash flooding. In the meantime, please do not disturb the series of barriers which hold back water so it leaks through more slowly when it rains heavily.

These small interventions are now shown to be highly cost effective. Indeed, Halifax MP Holly Lynch invited Slow the Flow to a reception at The Houses of Parliament, to speak to other MPs on how utilising natural flood management, and sustainable drainage solutions can make a significant contribution to reducing flood risk in communities across the UK.

Another intervention is also being trialled in the reserve to monitor the effect of deer browsing on the regrowth of vegetation. A small square in the wood has been fenced off so it cannot be grazed by deer. This will show how vegetation inside the fence differs in growth from that outside which is not protected from deer browsing. We have also been repairing more of the dry stone walling, this time between the heath area and the meadows so it is secure for when the cows return to graze.

The Wildlife Trusts are once again encouraging people to get out into nature in their “30 Days Wild”, now in its 10th year. You can sign up for a free pack with lots of ideas and opportunities for a whole month including the Great Yorkshire Creature Count 2024 on 15th and 16th of June.



Dates for the summer Friday task days are: June 7th, July 5th, Aug 2nd and Sept 6th. We meet at 10am and are on site until 3pm, but leave earlier if very wet. Remember sun cream, insect repellent, food and drink, for the time you intend to volunteer. All tools are provided, including thick gloves.

Helen Pedley, 886195

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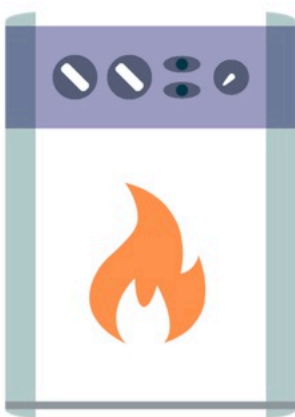


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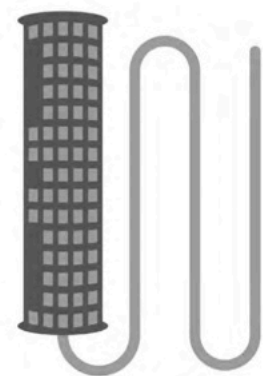
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