

Cragg News

ISSUE 45
SUMMER 25

SUMMER DIARY

JUNE

Every Tuesday Community Hubbub 12 noon to 3pm St. John's

Tuesday 3rd June Music Group contact martynk666@outlook.com

Friday 6th June Broadhead Clough Volunteers meet 10am at the reserve signboard, tools and gloves provided. For information contact Helen Pedley YWT 886195

Monday 9th June Yorkshire Countrywomen (Lorna Muir, textile work) 2.30 – 4.30pm St. John's

Thursday 19th June History Group Visit – Lister Lane Cemetery

Sunday 22nd June Cragg Challenge. Road closed 8am – 12.30pm

Monday 23rd June Re-engage Exercise Group. 2-3pm, St John's Church

Wednesday 25th June Cragg Vale Fell Race, St. John's Church.

Friday 27th June Whist Drive, St John's Church

JULY

Every Tuesday Community Hubbub 12 noon to 3pm St. John's

Tuesday 1st July Music Group contact martynk666@outlook.com

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

Saturday 5th July Duck Race. St. John's, 1 -3pm. Ducks £1 each, contact Julie 07443 420907

Monday 14th July Yorkshire Countrywomen

Friday 25th July Whist Drive, St. John's Church

Monday 23rd July Re-engage Exercise Group. 2-3pm, St John's Church

AUGUST

Every Tuesday Community Hubbub 12noon to 3pm St. John's

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

Tuesday 5th August Music Group. Contact martynk666@outlook.com

Friday 8th, Saturday 9th, Sunday 10th August Craggfest. Unmissable - live music, food and drink available

Saturday 16th August Afternoon tea. Cuddywood, 2-4pm

Monday 18th August Re-engage Exercise Group. 2-3pm, St John's Church

Friday 29th August Whist Drive. St. John's Church

CRAGGFEST *It's coming!*

From Friday 8th to Sunday 10th August, there'll be live music from local bands, food, drink and general merriment for everyone who enjoys a good time. Craggfest 2025 will again be in the fields behind the Robin Hood, pay at the gate, with proceeds going to worthy charities.

The event has grown in size and popularity each year and is now a regular feature in the Cragg Vale calendar. Can't wait! Fingers crossed for some good weather!

CRAGG CHALLENGE 2025

LONGEST HILL ON THE
LONGEST SUNDAY

SUNDAY 22ND JUNE



The day is almost here, and the latest news is that despite adding more events, the road closure will once again be for the morning only. The latest planning on times is shown in the table below, *but please note that these are provisional and could change.*

This series of events just couldn't happen without the support of *all* of our sponsors - we don't have space to namecheck everyone - and the small army of volunteers that are needed to ensure that things run safely and smoothly. To stay informed of the very latest on timings and events, follow The Cragg Challenge on Facebook or go to www.craggchallenge.co.uk where you can also enter your chosen event(s).

We will be leafletting all residents nearer the day with a final update and contact details for use on the day in case emergency or planned access is needed.

Time	Event
07:30	Registration Opens
08:00	ROAD CLOSURE
08:15	Cragg Sportive
08:30	Oliver Collinge Climb
09:00	10-mile run
09:30	10K run
10:00	5K run
10:15	1 mile run
11:00	Time-trial, Cycle Ascent
12:30 (latest)	ROAD REOPENS

Sponsored by



Additional support from

CALENDAR FOR 2026

A big THANK YOU to everyone who supported the production of the 2025 calendar (Cragg Vale – A Jewel in the Pennines) which again proved a popular addition to our catalogue of Cragg Vale-themed calendars, with grateful recipients from as far away as Australia – our goings-on are being monitored all over the world!

We're now starting work on the 2026 calendar, the proposed theme being "Cragg Vale – History and Mystery", looking at some of the interesting and unusual things that happen(ed) in the area and we're always on the lookout for photos for inclusion in this or subsequent editions.

If you'd like to submit any pics, (lovely, interesting, unusual - all welcome, and landscape orientation is best so we don't lose anything in cropping) **please send to martynk666@outlook.com** we'll try to include as many as possible. Any that are included as a main picture will receive a complimentary copy of the 2026 calendar.



Supported by
Hebden Royd Town Council

Funded by
Calderdale Council





CRAGG VALE'S COMMUNITY



HUBBUB

HUBBUB NEWS

The Hubbub continues to open at St. John's Church, each Tuesday from noon until 3pm, offering a warm space for a friendly chat, with lots of different activities and hot meals for everyone!

We are very grateful indeed to our funders: Hebden Royd and Calderdale Councils and the Mayor of West Yorkshire's Fund. We are also extremely grateful to our loyal band of volunteers, together with our funders, who make this all possible.

HELP STILL NEEDED

We still need more help. Can you spare half an hour to help us set up or clear away in the hall or kitchen? Or have you got time to make something to drop off to the Community Café?

We reimburse all expenses and also have loads of ingredients now in our well-stocked kitchen. Better still, could you help for an hour in the kitchen serving or cooking? We would like to spread the workload so we don't ask too much of any of our super volunteer helpers.

If you would like to get involved or can help in any way at all, please contact Marianne Hood on marianne.hood@outlook.com or (m) 07885 856155

BIG STEPS FOR LITTLE FEET AT THE ARK

There was great excitement at The Ark this April as our Pre-school children discovered which primary schools they'll be heading to in September. It's a special time for families, filled with anticipation - from meeting teachers to choosing school uniforms and preparing for all the new adventures ahead.

Every child approaches this transition differently. Some are raring to go, while others need a little

more encouragement and support. At The Ark, we've been helping all our children get ready for this next big step, building their confidence and independence along the way.

Our Pre-schoolers have been busy practising how to get changed for PE and Forest School, serving themselves at mealtimes, and learning to make healthy choices. They've been enjoying circle time, storytelling, and group discussions - all great for developing the ability to focus, and working on language skills, and social confidence. Mark making and dough gym sessions help strengthen the fine motor muscles needed for writing, and our Forest School activities nurture resilience, teamwork, and curiosity. Children have access to a lending library and have a book bag so they can borrow books to take home and share with their parents which helps encourage a love of reading.

Although we'll be sad to say goodbye this summer, we are incredibly proud of our Pre-schoolers and confident that they are ready for their next adventure. Good luck to all the children starting school later this year - we know you'll be amazing!



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PROUDLY LOCAL: HOW BRITISH RECYCLED PLASTIC IS BUILDING A GREENER FUTURE

Nestled in Cragg Vale, in the heart of the Calder Valley, British Recycled Plastic (BRP) has been "Transforming Waste into Wonderful" since 2009, offering sustainable outdoor furniture and landscaping products from recycled plastic that would otherwise end up in landfill. The team is made up of local residents who share a commitment to helping tackle the UK's plastic waste crisis.

Claire Platt of BRP says "Each year, the UK produces millions of tonnes of plastic waste, much of it polluting our land, oceans, and air. At British Recycled Plastic, we believe waste deserves a second life. In 2023, we recycled 28,938 tonnes of plastic— a big step towards a greener future."

BRP Products include picnic tables, garden furniture, landscaping products and fencing, and can be found at local sites, including The Piece Hall, Hebden Bridge Town Hall, Redacre Growing Project, and of course the lovely benches on Cragg Road



Contact: info@britishrecycledplastic.co.uk or visit their website for more information

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Fri and Sat 1 – 8pm
Sunday 1 – 5.30pm

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THE RUSTY HEN CRAGG VALE



COMMUNITY SHOP

Open Tuesday - Sunday
from 10am to 6pm
(2pm on Sundays)

Pop in for drinks, snacks, fresh fruit & veg, or other goodies, and a warm welcome for everyone.

Jane Redman



Our dear friend and Yorkshire Countrywomen's Association member, Jane Redman, of Underwood, Cragg Vale, died on Wednesday 7th May 2025.

Jane was a founder of our YCA group and previously of the Cragg Vale WI when it met at the CV school. She was a well loved member of the Cragg Vale community and her kindness and generosity was appreciated by many.

It's sad that she's gone, we will miss her. RIP.

St John's Church, Cragg Vale

Duck Race!

**Saturday 5th 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 gjwsq2@gmail.com or come along to the Hubbub to buy your ducks in advance or buy them on the day (unless all sold beforehand!)

COMMUNITY News

Members of the CVCA Committee recently met with our Community Wardens to discuss 2 items of ongoing concern:

Traffic Speeding into and through the village, especially on the downhill side. A speed monitoring crew (including CVCA members) will check out traffic speeds and report the results to Calderdale's Road Safety Team. Further actions will be investigated for problem spots. Any immediate concerns can be reported direct to the **Council's Road Safety Team**.



Fly Tipping, especially on the upper stretches of Cragg Road appears to be an ongoing problem. Signage will shortly be posted at the layby sites, but residents are urged to keep an eye out for fly tipping (and the culprits) and report any problems, online, to the **Council's Fly Tipping Team**. The Calderdale Council Website has some useful advice on personal safety and details to report, including photographs.

COMMUNITY *Communications*

We do our best to keep everyone informed as to what's going on in Cragg Vale, with the quarterly newsletters being a popular publication. We couldn't produce these without the support of some of our fab local businesses, so we ask everyone to return the compliment and shop local where possible.

For up to date messaging, the Craggvalecommunity facebook site is growing in popularity with over 450 members, so please sign up if you haven't done so already. And of course, there's always the www.craggvalecommunity.co.uk website with a lot of background information about Cragg Vale Community Association and it's various activities, hopefully offering something for everyone, but please do let us know if you've any ideas for other events or activities.

**PLEASE KEEP INVOLVED, THERE'S
NO COMMUNITY WITHOUT U.**

CRAGGFEST 2025 8TH - 10TH AUGUST

CRAGGFEST25.....this is what we have so far (confirmed).

fri 2pm guest DJ to open up Craggfest 25
70s, 80s, 90s remixed funk up classics
fri 5.30pm Sin City...
fri 6.30pm The Coterie
fri 7.30pm Henrys Radio
fri 8.30pm Jacky's fantastic
fri 9.30pm till close Repeat Offenders....

sat 3pm Naomi/Tarquin...
sat 4pm Duty Free...
sat 5pm Roving Thieves...
sat 6pm Vinyl Friday...
sat 7pm Landlubbers...
sat 8pm Lady Gaskell....
sat 9pm Stoneheart
sat 10pm. Elvis

sun 3pm. Jaygo
sun 4pm Liam Wetherall....
sun 5pm Raid Music
sun 6pm Ric Warwick
sun 7pm Owter Zeds..!!..
sun 8pm- 10.30 DJ guest dj to close up
craggfest25 1900s/2000 old skool
House music

CRAGG VALE LOCAL HISTORY GROUP

Memories of a childhood in Cragg Vale

Paul Andrews arrived in Cragg Vale in 1949 in the back of a furniture van. He had come to live in the Police House as his father had been appointed the local Police Constable.

From 1949 until 1956, until he was 11 years' old, Paul went to Cragg Vale School. His walk to school took him past Gates End Mill, which he remembers being demolished, and The Sportsman's Inn where his dad often sent him to buy cigarettes. Above the 'Sportsman', Ida Wheelwright sold bread and sweets. Sweets were rationed and Paul remembers the 'coupons'! Further up, at Littlewood, was another bread shop and a taxi service, on Church Lane there was a confectioner's and sweet shop and on the main road the Co-Op that sold 'virtually everything'!

When he was 9 years old, Paul remembers a terrible storm. The heavy rain bounced off the road, turning it into a fast-flowing river that poured down the 'Penny Steps' creating a hole 5 or 6ft deep in the rough ash road at the bottom. Water came through gaps in the stone walls "like jets"! However, from having too much water, sometimes there was none. Paul said "We used to get our tap water from springs that came down the wood and fields behind the houses hence the reason for the row being called Springfield Terrace. Somewhere underground in the back field was a large

tank that held the water till we required some from our taps". The spring water was collected in wells and piped into the large tank but this could become silted up, preventing the water from running. Paul remembered one summer, in an exceptionally dry period, when the tap water stopped altogether. He said "We had to use the pump on the front of the Castle Lodge row which never seemed to dry up. My parents sent me into the field to help Mr Disley, who was small enough to get into the tank to inspect the water level and check if a build-up of silt was preventing water going into the pipes to each house. I was told to assist Mr Disley but not go into the tank. He filled small bags with the sand and silt and tied a rope round them. I had to pull the sacks up out of the tank and empty them onto the field. I remember we had two sessions of this and cleaned out quite a lot of silt before the water started flowing again".

Paul said Cragg Vale was a wonderful place to grow up, especially in the summer when it was haymaking time. "I have really good memories of working in the hay fields at Crumber Hill farm on sunny afternoons until late on a Sunday and listening to Mytholmroyd church bells ringing out a selection of repeating tunes that carried right across the valley". These church bells can still be heard today.

The Hinchliffe Arms

Opening Times:

Monday • Closed

Tuesday • Closed

Wednesday • 3pm – 8pm

Thursday • 3pm – 8pm

Friday • 12 noon – 10pm

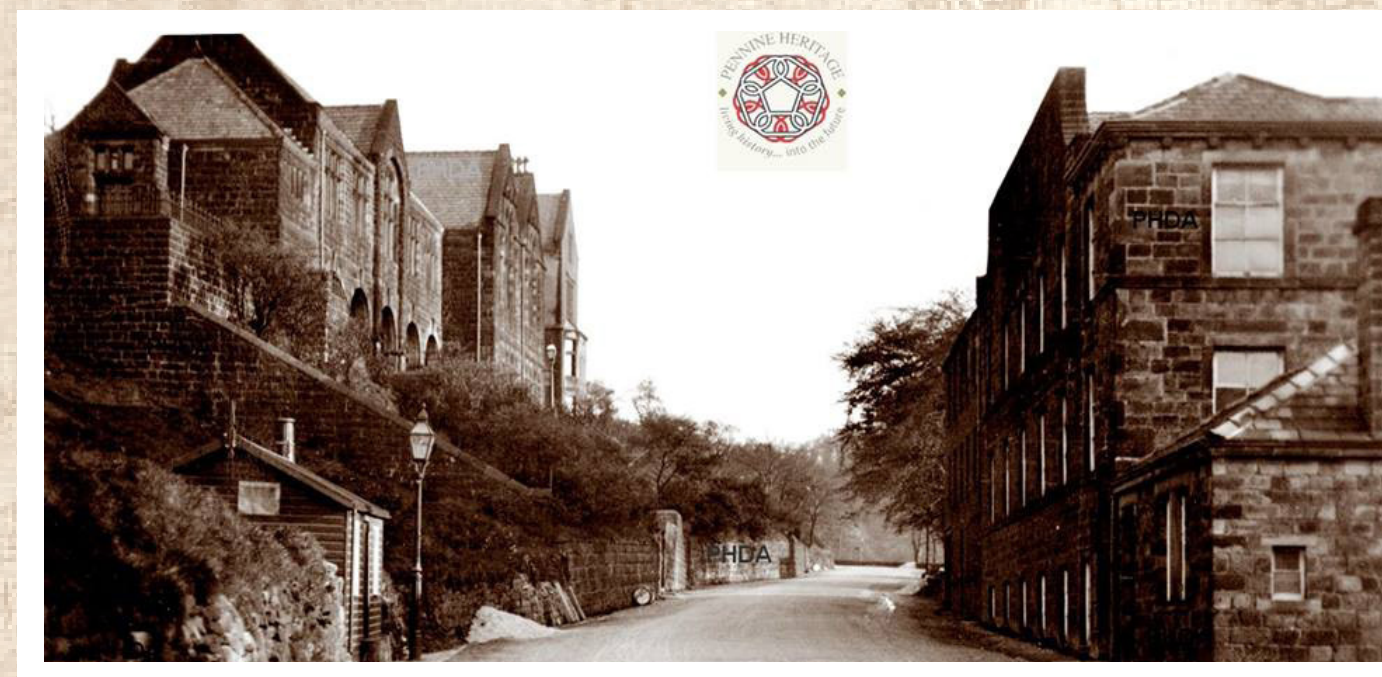
Saturday • 12 noon – 10pm

Sunday • 12 noon – 8pm

Bookings can now be made online
thehinchliffearms.co.uk
or by calling our landline: **01422 763332**

Food served Wednesday &
Thursday evenings and all day
Friday, Saturday, Sunday

Booking Advisable



22ND CRAGG VALE FELL RACE

WEDS 25 JUNE 2025 - 7.30PM START

This popular 4 mile fell race is open to anyone 14 yrs+ It's been organised by local runner Jackie Scarf for 22 years and has raised thousands of pounds for improvements to Cragg church. The race starts outside The Hinchliffe Arms at 7.30pm, heading in the direction of Swan Bank and Sunderland Pasture. More details and a map can be found on the Calder Valley Fell Runners website. [www.cvfr.co.uk]

It costs £8 to enter, register at Cragg church before the start of the race. Refreshments are available c/o the church ladies and the race is sponsored by Great Newsome Brewery [who took over from Little Valley Brewery], so beer is available afterwards!

Jackie is always looking for locals to help marshal on the night, so do please get in touch: thescarfs@hotmail.com

MUSIC GROUP

The music group is now in its 6th year of existence, bringing music and friendship to all who come along, meeting on the first Tuesday each month. We try out local versions of popular (and not so popular) classics, all done with a touch of humour, and over a drink or two, so if you're looking to improve your happiness levels, this is a no-brainer! Everyone welcome, musical talent is overrated as far as we're concerned!

Contact martynk666@outlook.com for inclusion on the mailing list for regular reminders of meetings.

Did you know...singing has been shown to reduce stress, anxiety and improve mood. It can also enhance cognitive functions like memory and attention. When combined with a social drink and good company, what can possibly go wrong?

NEWS FROM ST JOHN'S CHURCH, CRAGG VALE

We are still in interregnum (between vicars) after 2 rounds of advertising the post. We are hopeful that with the next round the 'right' person will appear. The new person will be 'Priest in Charge' of the Benefice of Erringden (St John's, Cragg Vale and St Michael's, Mytholmroyd) and the Parish of St Mary's, Luddenden.) We will keep you posted!

We still have a regular Sunday service at 9.30am. We either 'borrow' a vicar from somewhere to lead a communion service or have a 'DIY' service of Morning Praise with volunteers from our congregation leading, reading, putting prayers together and 'doing the sermon slot!' After almost 2 years without a vicar we are getting quite good at these!

Our social and fund-raising events continue as usual. Thanks to everyone who came along to the Dock Pudding Breakfast, it was lovely to see so many people, we served over 100 breakfasts!

We have regular whist drives (usually the last Friday of the month) and would love to have more people coming along to these. It doesn't matter if you're an expert, a beginner or anywhere in between!

Our next event will be the **Duck Race on July 5th**. Please see the poster for more information, buy your ducks as soon as possible and come along on the day!

Afternoon Tea will be served at Cuddywood (Sylvia's house) on Saturday August 30th.

Please keep an eye on social media and noticeboards for more information.

Hubbub continues every Tuesday from 12 to 3pm. Please support this joint venture between St John's and CVCA by either coming along to use it on a Tuesday, encouraging others to come along or to be one of our volunteers who help run things (you can volunteer to be in the kitchen or in the hall).

In September we hope to be involved in 'Heritage Open Days', England's largest festival of history and culture! The theme of this year's festival is 'Architecture'. We're not sure what activities we'll be doing yet but watch this space!

The spaces in church continue to be used for a variety of meetings, classes, parties and so on. Please get in touch if you'd like to hire the big church space or the smaller 'Crowther Room' upstairs for anything. It would be good for the spaces to be used even more and to help with this we are asking that people contribute to our lift appeal so that we can get a lift installed from ground to first floor making the Crowther room accessible to all. We would really like to get the lift in before winter so if you'd like to donate please use the QR code below or get in touch with Geraint, our Treasurer.

Please contact the churchwardens (Julie and Geraint Harris) if you have any queries about anything related to St John's. (email gjwsa2@gmail.com or text 07443420907)

Please scan the QR code To donate to St John's Lift Appeal.



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BROADHEAD CLOUGH MAY 2025 UPDATE



Yorkshire
Wildlife Trust

Conservation is a seasonal affair, and once we reach the end of March, work in the woodland stops as we enter the breeding bird season. Attention turns to maintaining walls, meadows and heathland, to keep a variety of flora and fungi. This issue, the focus is **volunteering: why people do it and what they get from it.**

Our core group of 9 locals come from Cragg Vale, Hebden Bridge, Mytholmroyd, and Norland: usually 6 are present each task day. Connor, the YWT Reserve Officer, brings all the equipment for the tasks. In Summer it's mainly clearing bramble, raking /removing reeds, pulling bracken, walling and fencing. Some of us do extra training: for stock checking roles, or surveying, flowers, birds, etc. Experts offer help: one is licensed to maintain bird boxes & ring chicks. YWT staff teach others to become competent dry stone wallers. We chat over tea break and lunch, sometimes with home baking! We all have a laugh, spot and share those unexpected special "nature moments" and gain huge satisfaction in leaving the reserve in better condition, after a job well done. In fact, research shows that time spent outside in nature has a positive effect on health and wellbeing.

In Summer the better weather encourages new people to join us for a single day: May 2nd was a good

example. We had 3 new people all of whom came because their employers offered a scheme for one or more days "volunteering" as part of their staff package. S, doing finance work in Leeds, was returning to Broadhead after enjoying the meadow so much last year, and has now booked another day off, at Ledsham Bank, to help wild flowers by pulling balsam. Two others, came via Swedish company SWECO, who, under the terms of each winning contract, has to give a fixed number of volunteer hours back to the local community. Both chose YWT conservation from a list of various opportunities. J, from Sheffield normally issues permits for "brownfield" building projects, but wanted to learn how to repair his own broken wall. M is an ecologist, living in Manchester, but seldom gets to actually spend time in the countryside. Both were blown away by the beauty of our nature reserve and went home vowing to come back to Calderdale and do more exploring. We've also had Cragg's own local company, SOL PV Group, bring a staff team out to help us in the reserve.

If you'd like to join us, see the insert or visit the YWT website. We meet at the reserve signboard at 10.00 am on June 6th, July 4th, August 1st and Sept 5th. Bring food and drink for the time you intend to volunteer. All tools are provided, including thick gloves.

Helen Pedley 07704032131





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