Cragg News

ISSUE 48
SPRING 26

SPRING DIARY

MARCH, APRIL, MAY:

Every Sunday 9.30am
Communion or Morning Praise Service, St. John's

Every Tuesday 12 noon to 3.00pm Community Hubbub, St. John's

Every second Monday 2pm Yorkshire Countrywomen's Association St John's

Every Monday and Friday evening Yoga, St. Johns

Every 2nd Wednesday (TBC) 5pm Chair Yoga, St. John's

MARCH

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

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

Tuesday 10th March CVCA Annual General Meeting Robin Hood, 7.00pm start

Thursday 19th March History Group, St. John's 7.30pm

APRIL

Friday 3rd April Broadhead Clough Volunteers meet 10am at the reserve signboard, tools and gloves provided. For information contact Helen Pedley YWT 886195

Sunday 5th April 9.30am Easter Sunday Service followed by tea/ coffee and hot cross buns – all welcome.

Tuesday 7th April Music Group contact martynk666@outlook.com

Sunday 12th April Treasure Hunt details to be announced on facebook

Thursday 16th April History Group St. John's 7.30pm

Friday 24th April Whist Drive. St John's, time tbc

Saturday 25th April Dock Pudding Breakfast

MAY

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

Sunday 3rd May Spaw Sunday Celebration, details to be announced on facebook

Tuesday 5th May Music Group contact martynk666@outlook.com

Thursday 21st May History Group St. John's 7.30pm

Friday 29th May Whist Drive. St John's, time tbc

The NEWSLETTER

is produced each quarter, funded by local businesses (thank you) and is hand delivered by our team of volunteers (thank you, also) to every Cragg Vale household. It seems to be a popular publication, but just to make sure we're on the right track, we have a couple of questions:

1. Is there anything missing from our coverage of local issues and events?

2. Is there anything you particularly like about the newsletter? We'll ask the same questions on facebook and hopefully have a dialogue to inform future editions

Annual GENERAL MEETING (AGM) 2026

The 2026 AGM will be held in the Robin Hood on Tuesday 10th March, 7.00pm start at the Robin Hood. Following the AGM business, there will be free supper and a quiz with some wondrous prizes. If you'd like to be involved in helping to keep our community fabulous, we'd love to hear from you. Please come along, all welcome.

Membership OF CVCA



Membership is currently an annual fee of £5 per household. If people want to pay more by way of a donation, that's fine! Our members can vote at meetings, including the AGM, can become Committee Members and can help set priorities for the Association.

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.

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 £500 a year helps cover stationery for all admin, website costs, annual insurance (for our equipment, holding meetings and running events), and the cost of the Annual Return.

TO BECOME A MEMBER, GO TO THE CVCA WEBSITE
www.craggvalecommunity.co.uk and click on "about"

Cragg Vale Community Association
Supported by Hebden Royd Town Council
Funded by Calderdale Council

COMMUNITY News

Hoping everyone is now looking forward to Spring as we see the early snowdrops and crocus flowers, soon to be followed by swathes of daffodils and the spring lambs, it really does feel like "new beginnings" each year!

We've had lots of goings-on since the last newsletter, we have a new local representative on Hebden Royd Town Council, new managers at the Hinch (although really sad to see David and Rachael moving on). Work is starting on the new lift at St John's and there will be regular musical and historical offerings in addition to the annual Spring clean, Treasure Hunt and the Spaw Sunday celebrations.

Also coming up shortly will be the CVCA Annual General Meeting (AGM) on 10th March at the Robin where there's a chance to get involved in identifying community priorities and helping promote community activities. There's also a quiz and free supper, so please do come along, there's no community without "U".



WWW.THECRAGGS.CO.UK

CALL US 01422 888450

www.thearkmytholmroyd.co.uk/

ROAD SAFETY

At The Ark Mytholmroyd

At The Ark, teaching road safety is an important part of helping children learn how to stay safe and confident in the world around them.

We believe that even our youngest learners can begin to understand simple safety rules when they are taught in a fun, practical, and engaging way. Recently the children have been exploring road safety by learning to:

STOP LOOK LISTEN

before stepping off the pavement.

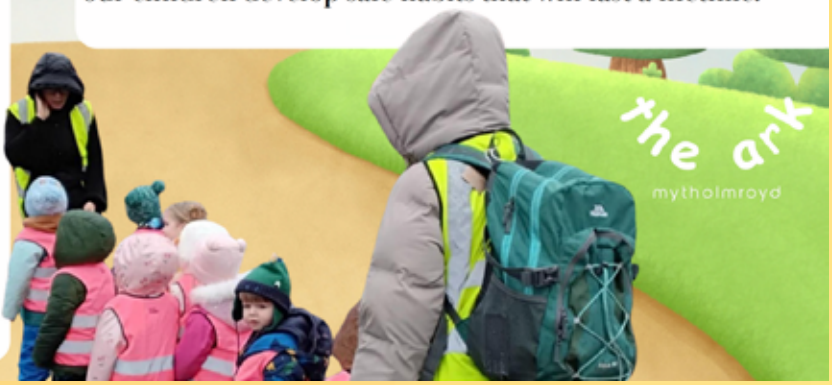
Through role play, stories, and outdoor practice, they learn why it is important to stay close to a trusted adult and to never run ahead near roads.

We also talked about the importance of wearing bright coats and high-visibility vests to help drivers see us more clearly.

The children enjoyed learning that their colourful clothing helps keep them safe.

Using a zebra crossing is another important part of our road safety teaching. We explain that zebra crossings are special places designed to help people cross safely. The children learn to wait, check that traffic has stopped, and walk carefully across.

Road safety is especially important for our Pre-school children who attend Forest School sessions. As we explore beyond the nursery grounds, these skills help keep everyone safe. By building awareness early, we are helping our children develop safe habits that will last a lifetime.



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Wednesday -Friday

MAIN MENU
4-8pm Weds -Sat
12-6pm Sun

Bar open 7 days a week

CROWS

The Countryside Rights of Way Service (CROWS) is a charitable organisation dedicated to maintaining some of the fabulous walkways we have around Calderdale and beyond.

Staffed by volunteers, with materials funded from contributions (including an annual donation from CVCA), the team turn out in all weathers to tackle repairs to stiles, signs and steps, clearing pathways and making boggy areas less treacherous.

Their facebook site and blogs provide updates on individual projects, showing locations as well as some lovely scenery, and shots of the volunteer members in action. You can find out more about their work by following them on facebook, via their website www.crows-coop.co.uk) or their blogs https://communityrightsofwayservice.blogspot.com/ and they will be delighted to receive comments and donations to support their super activities.



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MAKE A **BOLD** CHOICE

RAMSDEN RACING

LOOKING FORWARD TO A NEW SEASON

Local race heroes Steve and Matty Ramsden, had an exciting 2025 season, packed with highs, challenges, and proud moments for the team.

2025 SEASON HIGHLIGHTS

In the Isle of Man TT, Team Ramsden achieved 3rd and 4th positions among the standard engine competitors, emphasising their ability to compete against some of the strongest outfits on the course.

Strong performances followed in June and September at the Oliver's Mount meetings with good results and additions to the trophy collection, but hopes of securing the overall Gold Cup were narrowly thwarted by engine failure just before the final race

Toward the end of the season, Matty stepped into the driving seat with passenger Ben alongside him. The pair performed exceptionally well, demonstrating strong teamwork and promising pace for future seasons. Can't wait for the start of the 2026 season!

SUPPORT THE TEAM - JOIN THE 100 CLUB!

The team continues to appreciate the incredible support shown by the local community. One of the best ways to support Ramsden Racing is through the ***100 Club*.**

For just £5 per month (£60 per year), members are entered into a monthly draw for a chance to win £100!

Every contribution helps keep the team racing at the highest level.

CONTACT

E: ramsdencragg99@yahoo.com **T:** 07931 484050



The CRAGG VALE COMMUNITY FACEBOOK

site is becoming increasingly popular with now over 500 members. We use it for updates and reminders of events in the areas, in between the quarterly newsletters, so if you're not yet a member, look up the site and ask to join. Everyone (who is well behaved,) is welcome! Also, don't forget to keep an eye on the CVCA website www.craggvalecommunity.co.uk for upcoming events and information on CVCA.

MUSIC GROUP

The Music Group is still meeting on the first Tuesday each month, exploring new and creative versions of popular classics so if you fancy a singalong, you'll be very welcome.

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

Meanwhile, at

The Hinchliffe Arms

David and Rachael moved into the Hinch in September 2026 and worked tirelessly to make the pub into a popular local, serving delicious food. Sadly (for Cragg Vale) they called "last orders" for the final time at the end of January and will be exploring other opportunities, with David still offering his services as a talented chef (contact him at 1971topchef@gmail.com or 07849849171 for bespoke catering services) whilst Rachael will focus on her role in the NHS. The good news is that they will be staying local, so don't be surprised to see them on the customer side of the bar, enjoying a drink with their Cragg Vale friends.



Newly installed in the pub are Matthew and David, who were previously running a popular establishment in Bury. The duo say they are thrilled to begin this exciting new chapter and can't wait to meet and greet everyone in the local community. With a passion for hospitality, they're bringing a fresh yet cosy feel to the pub — serving up crafty, quirky drinks alongside really delicious, home-prepared food, all to be enjoyed around the pub's inviting fireplaces.

Matthew and David are also keen to make The Hinchliffe Arms a go-to venue for life's special moments, offering the perfect setting for birthdays, weddings and other celebrations. Beyond the bar and kitchen, they're looking forward to getting involved in community activities, supporting local events and building lasting connections. "We're so excited to become part of this wonderful community," they said, "and we can't wait to welcome everyone through the doors.

CALENDAR for 2026

A big THANK YOU to everyone who supported the 2026 calendar, whether by photo contributions, purchases or helping with sales, and a special mention for all our lovely local business sponsors. We raise almost £1000 each year, all of which recycles into community projects, whilst sharing the love for Cragg Vale, literally all over the world



Spring is in the air at

CRAGG VALE TENNIS CLUB

March marks the start of the Club's new membership year, with places open to new players from across the community. Whether you're picking up a racket for the first time, returning after a break or looking for an activity the whole family can enjoy together, the club offers some great value membership options to make tennis accessible to as many people as possible.

Coaching and junior development remain central to the club's offer. Sessions are delivered by Harry Haydon of Cultiv8 Tennis, with regular adult coaching, junior programmes and summer holiday camps planned to support young players and families during the school break.

"Tennis clubs like ours are about much more than sport," said club chair Chris Gifford. "They're places where people have fun, keep fit and feel part of something local. We're really proud of the role Cragg Vale Tennis Club plays in the community."

Looking ahead, the club is investing in its facilities, including new floodlights on the show court, allowing play and coaching to continue through darker evenings. Watch out for details of our club open day – coming soon.

More information, including how to join, is available at: https://clubspark.lta.org.uk/craggvaletennisclub

SPAW SUNDAY

The traditional Spaw Sunday celebrations are planned for Sunday 3rd May with folk dancing by the Ryburn Longswords and a free community picnic. Starting with dancing outside the Hinchliffe Arms at 2.00pm, then a procession down the fields, past the Robin to finish at the Spa for more dancing and picnic. You can test the healing spa waters if you dare!

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CRAGG VALE LOCAL HISTORY GROUP

A TRIP DOWN MEMORY LANE...

THE INDUSTRIAL REVOLUTION BROUGHT ABOUT MANY CHANGES IN CRAGG VALE. COTTON SPINNING MILLS WERE CONSTRUCTED IN THE VALLEY BOTTOM NEAR THE RIVER. A NEW ROAD WAS BUILT THROUGH THE VALLEY. HOUSES WERE BUILT FOR THE MILL WORKERS. OVER THE COURSE OF THE 19TH CENTURY THE VILLAGE GREW INTO THE COMMUNITY WE SEE TODAY.

THIS INCREASE IN POPULATION THREW A LIFELINE TO THOSE WHO CONTINUED TO FARM IN THE VALLEY. DAIRY PRODUCTS WERE IN GREAT DEMAND, ESPECIALLY MILK. FARMERS RESPONDED BY INCREASING PRODUCTION AND CREATING A DELIVERY SERVICE.

DAILY DELIVERIES WERE MADE BY PACKHORSE. THE MILK IN A LARGE METAL CONTAINER OR KIT WAS CARRIED BY THE HORSE, AND THE FARMER WOULD LADLE IT OUT INTO THE HOUSEHOLDER'S CONTAINER HOLDING A QUART OF MILK. THIS WOULD BE HUNG ON A HOOK, USUALLY HIGH UP ON THE HOUSE DOOR JAMB, SAFE FROM ANIMALS.

THE DAIRY COW WAS THE FARMERS PRIZE ASSET AND WAS ALMOST REGARDED AS ONE OF THE FAMILY, INDEED ON MANY FAMILY PHOTOS OF THE TIME THE COW IS OFTEN CENTRE STAGE!



William Wheelwright, his wife Mary and daughter Ellen, at Upper Lumb Farm, Cragg Vale, circa 1900.

CRAGG VALE'S COMMUNITY HUBBUB

VOLUNTEER HELPERS NEEDED PLEASE

As many of you will know, Cragg Vale Community Hubbub was set up jointly by St John's Church and Cragg Vale Community Association (CVCA) as a response to the cost of living crisis 3 years ago. It offered a warm space with hot food and drinks available, free of charge, plus a range of activities from jigsaws to arts and crafts to table-tennis.

We found as Hubbub went on, that the bigger need in our community is for somewhere where those who are feeling isolated or lonely can come and meet with others, have a chat, a hot (or cold) drink and a bite to eat. On a Tuesday afternoon we can have between 3 and 22 people popping in! Some are 'regulars', some find us by chance but all enjoy what Hubbub has to offer.

For safety and safeguarding reasons, we need 2 volunteers to be present for each Hubbub session. We have struggled over this winter to find enough volunteers and have had to rely on 2 or 3 people giving up a lot of their time. We know that some people don't want to be cooking or heating up/serving pre-cooked food but would be happy to help if they didn't need to do this.

We have therefore decided to change Hubbub to a more 'tea and cake' based session during spring and summer. So, after Easter, starting on Tuesday April 7th, Hubbub will run from 2pm – 4pm and will be offering hot and cold drinks, cake, biscuits etc.

We do need more volunteers. You would need to arrive a little before start time to get the hot water boiler on and put out cake, biscuits etc and to wash up/put things away at the end. During Hubbub, volunteers greet 'customers' and encourage them to get a drink and something to eat, have a go at some of the activities or simply chat with others there.

Please let us know if you'd like to help out. Contact Julie on gjwsa2@gmail.com or Marianne on marianne.hood@outlook.com



Following the local elections on January 15th, we have a new local representative, Scott Trickett, on Hebden Royd Town Council. CVCA will be looking to work with Scott to help deliver on local priorities. He can be contacted direct on scotttrickett@yahoo.co.uk

Hebden Royd Town Council

St John's Church, Cragg Vale

Dock Pudding Breakfast





A Traditional Breakfast with dock pudding

Vegetarian, Vegan and GF available

Saturday April 25th

9am – 11.30am



Full breakfast £10

Child's Breakfast £6

Includes toast, jam and marmalade + tea/coffee



Book your breakfast by emailing stjohnscraggvale@gmail.com or texting 07443420907 stating how many places you need, what time you'd like to come and if you require full or child and any meaty, veggie, vegan, GF breakfasts

Cragg Vale SCORE EVENT

December 2025

The annual event attracted around 100 local runners of all ages who were given 70-90 minutes to navigate to as many of the 15 'controls' as possible, in any order but the controls are given different points and time penalties apply, so careful planning is important before galloping off!

Two of the first 3 runners came from Cragg Vale: Alistair Pedley (1st) who found all 15 controls and Joey Scarf (3rd), so local knowledge is obviously important!

A big "thank you and well done" to everyone who gave up their time. It raised £922 for Cragg Church and all were treated to a hearty breakfast in the Church.

NEWS FROM ST JOHN'S CHURCH, CRAGG VALE

We are still in interregnum (without a vicar)and awaiting the results of the latest round of recruitment for a new Priest in Charge.

In the meantime we continue with our programme of services and social events. We'd like to say a big thank you to everyone who came along to, or helped with, any of our Advent and Christmas happenings!

There's lots happening over the next couple of months so please look out (on social media and notice boards) for things happening over Easter and don't forget to book in advance for our famous Dock Pudding Breakfast on April 25th (see poster).

Church continues to be used for a wide variety of purposes including yoga, exercise classes, Yorkshire Countrywomen's Association, Cragg Vale History Group, elections, community information evenings, meet your councillor sessions and Cragg Community Hubbub. There are going to be some changes to the Hubbub after Easter so please read the separate article.

We have ordered the lift which will be installed to make our meeting room on the first floor accessible to all. We are currently moving electric wiring and water pipes ready for cutting a hole through the ceiling/floor!

The addition of the lift means that everyone will be able to access a warm, comfortable space in which almost any activity could be run. If you'd like to run a class/ workshop/meeting in the space, please get in touch!

Thank you **Julie Harris** *Churchwarden*

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

LOCAL BUSINESSES

Cragg Vale is blessed with a large number of independent and innovative businesses, providing employment and commerce in our lovely Pennine valley. We like to try and connect the local residents to our business community by encouraging a "shop local" culture and will happily showcase individual businesses in our "business profile" features that appear in this newsletter. If you'd like to have your company appear as a business profile, please contact martynk666@outlook.com

COSY HEATING CLUB



Created for our fixed monthly direct debit customers, the Cosy Heating Club is our way of thanking you for your loyalty. As a member, you can spread the cost of your oil and enjoy a host of other great benefits too.

Avoid the pain of unexpected bulk payments

Big heating bills are a nuisance, and can catch you out when you least expect it. We want to relieve some of that pressure, which is why we created the Cosy Heating Club to help you spread the cost of fuelling your home across the year using manageable monthly payments.

But that's not all!

Cosy Heating Club membership also provides a suite of great benefits:

- **A chance to win 500l of heating oil in our quarterly draw**
- **Priority five-day delivery service**
- **Order as little as 300l**
- **Reduced boiler servicing costs save £45!**
- **Free boiler or Range cooker/AGA additive – one free update to premium heating oil per year**
- **Free tank sponge**
- **Free tank inspection**
- **£50 discount on a new oil tank**
- **Eco deliveries**
- **The Cosy Heating Club newsletter, for top tips and offers**

Monthly direct debits from just £50*

Sound good?

Well, with the Cosy Heating Club that's what you could look forward to, and it's simple and free to join too.

All you need to do is to set up a monthly Direct Debit with us and you'll become an instant a Cosy Heating Club member.

Just call our helpful team today, and we'll walk you through the process. Once done, you'll instantly be entered into our quarterly heating oil draw to win 500 litres of oil.

So, what are you waiting for?

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or visit **www.craggsenergy.co.uk**

*The actual amount you pay will be calculated by our team of experts based on your estimated annual oil usage.


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BROADHEAD CLOUGH FEBRUARY 2026 UPDATE

Yorkshire Wildlife Trust

Before Christmas I went to a public meeting in Cragg to learn about plans to plant trees in and around the Withens Clough reservoir. The National Trust are seeking volunteers to help plant 55,000 which seems a lot: but not when the trees will be species which can help stabilise the often eroded slopes. This type of planting is called "riparian" or river woodland. The trees are chosen carefully to cope with the wet, and the aim is to create a "fringe" margin, that acts as a buffer zone. This ancient method is now being re-introduced here. The trees soak up water from peaty hollows, and in time soften the margins of fens, bogs and mires. It would be great to see more of this habitat which may attract birds like willow tit or fly catchers.



Broadhead Clough is a great example of what the end result looks like. The local "wet woodland" team asked the Trust to take some core samples in two of our "boggiest" mires. We've never done this before, so two of the local reserve officers came to do the tests. They used a "peat probe", pushing it into the bog so that a small sample is caught at the tip. The probe is extracted and the depth it reached was measured: see action photo! Each bog had three to five samples taken and tested, to see if they contained grit, mud, or peat. These tiny, tangled fibres are the remains of years of decayed sphagnum mosses.

The lower mire contains a definite seasonal stream. It only had small depths of peat around the edges. However the top mire when tested gave samples which gradually deepened until the last was a peat core of over 1m which still had not reached the bottom. As peat forms at a rate of approx 1mm per year this suggests that our bog is over 1,000 years old.



If you missed the "Peat Zine" exhibition at the recently opened "Local Motive" (previously the Old Railway Station office) you might be interested in the Peat Appreciation Society's free exhibition at Hardcastle Crags. It's on each weekend and daily in half term week at Gibson Mill. They've used imaginative artworks and collaborative storytelling to reveal why peatlands matter more than ever.

If you'd like to join us in action at the reserve, we'd love to meet you at the entrance signboard at 10a.m. on Fridays March 6th, April 10th unusually due to Easter, May 1st, & June 5th. Bring food and drink for the time you intend to volunteer. Dress for the weather: lots of layers are best. We usually work until 3pm but earlier if it's bad weather. All tools are provided, including thick gloves.

Helen Pedley 07704032131



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