Cragg News

ISSUE 49
SUMMER 26

SUMMER DIARY

JUNE, JULY, AUGUST:

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

Every Tuesday 2.00pm to 4.00pm Community Hubbub, St. John's

Every second Monday 2.00pm Yorkshire Countrywomen's Association St John's

Every Sunday & Friday evening 6.00pm - 7.00pm Yoga, St. John's (see https://www.oervalesandhills.co.uk/)

Every Friday 4.45pm - 5.45pm Chair Yoga, St. John's (see https://www.oervalesandhills.co.uk/)

JUNE

Tuesday 2nd June Music Group contact martynk666@outlook.com

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

Friday 12th June Spring into Summer at St John's, featuring Hebden Bridge Junior Band and supper. 6.30pm start Bookings: gjwsa2@gmail.com or text to 07443420907

Thursday 18th June History Group Afternoon Visit - Queen Street Mill Museum, Burnley

Sunday 21st June Cragg Challenge, longest day on the longest hill – Note Road closure 08.30 – 12.30

JULY

Wednesday 1st July Cragg Vale Fell Race 7.30pm start Register at the Church from 6.30pm

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

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

Saturday 11th July Duck Race. 2.00pm start, tickets £1 each. Duck Catching volunteers required

AUGUST

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

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

Friday 7th – Sunday 10th August CraggFest 3 day festival of local musical magic - see facebook site for details

CRAGG CHALLENGE 2026

LONGEST HILL ON THE LONGEST SUNDAY

SUNDAY 21ST JUNE

Not only is it Cragg Challenge Day but also Father's Day, an ideal opportunity to make it a family event. The day is almost here, the road closure is 30 minutes shorter but still with all the events. 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 every-one - 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
08:00	Registration Opens
08:30	**ROAD CLOSURE**
08:45	Cragg Sportive
09:00	Oliver Collinge Climb
09:30	Cycle Ascent
09:45	10-mile run

Time	Event
10:00	10K run
10:15	5K run
10:30	1 mile run
11:30	Time-trial
12:30 (latest)	**ROAD REOPENS**

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CRAGGFEST

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SATURDAY 8TH AUGUST
SUNDAY 9TH AUGUST

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LINE-UP ANNOUNCED SOON!

CONTACT hulljoanne@yahoo.co.uk or pop into the Robin and ask for Jo

Cragg Vale Community Association

Supported by Hebden Royd Town Council

Funded by Calderdale Council

COMMUNITY News

We're now whizzing into Summer and there's lots going on and coming up.

We've done the Spring Clean (well done everyone involved in the tidy -ups), the Treasure Hunt and the Spaw Sunday celebrations. Coming up we have the "big ticket" items of the annual Cragg Challenge on 21st June, don't forget the road closure, 8.30 to 12.30, so if you're not taking part, why not get out and give a shout to all the runners and riders?

Then there's CraggFest on 7th - 9th August, a full weekend of musical mayhem and merriment, featuring local musicians and with scrummy refreshments to be had. Hoping to beat last years tally of ££s raised for charity, so get along and join the fun.

There's also the summer events in Hebden Bridge which may be of interest, so there's no excuses for being bored this sumer!

On the hillsides, you may have noticed the tree planting that's been going on to help reduce soil erosion and "slow the flow" of water down to the valley to help reduce flood risk.

We're continuing to work with HRTC to manage speeds of traffic using Cragg Road, particularly downhill, along with requesting signage to discourage fly tipping.

Finally a mention for **Marianne Hood** and **Kevin Cutts** who after 47 years in Cragg Vale, much of which has been spent serving on CVCA, will be off to pastures new in North Yorkshire. They're planning a leaving do in July as a chance to say goodbye to the many friends they have made whilst living in Cragg Vale. Details will be posted on facebook.
We wish them both good health and happiness and a big THANK YOU for all that they have done for our local community.

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 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 library and sharing a book with friends or with their parents at home 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!

Transitioning to primary school is a big change for children and their families. Learn more here:

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CALENDAR 2027

Following the success of the 2026 Cragg Vale Calendar, we're already planning ahead to the 2027 edition, which starts with collecting pictures of our lovely area.

If you have any pictures that capture one of the many aspects of the area, whether it be beauty, interesting, amusing or even quirky, we'd love you to share them with us. Please send to martynk666@outlook.com.

Any pictures that are used as the main shot will receive a complimentary copy of the calendar. Please remember if you are out taking pictures, landscape works best for the calendar, so we don't lose anything in cropping.



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SPAW SUNDAY

The annual Spaw Sunday celebrations took place on Sunday 3rd May (first Sunday in May) featuring Country Dancing from the Ryburn Longswords outside the Hinch, before proceeding down to the Spa where there was a blessing of the Spa waters, a community picnic (big thanks to Jo for the yummy catering) and more dancing from the Longswords. Despite the cooler weather, the occasion was again a popular event, with the attendees eventually finding their way to the Robin to continue their carousing. What better way to spend a bank holiday Sunday afternoon?





ROBIN HOOD INN



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EARLY BIRD
12-4pm
Wednesday -Friday

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

Bar open 7 days a week

YORKSHIRE COUNTRYWOMEN

The Yorkshire Countrywomen's Association helps to bring women from all ages, areas and backgrounds together to enjoy the core values of companionship, crafting, community and much more.

Meeting monthly, usually 2nd Monday in the month, 2.30pm at St John's Church.

Pop in, we'd love to see you - we are due to meet 8th June, 13th July & 10th Aug .

MUSIC GROUP

The CVCA Music Group continues to make sweet sweet music on the first Tuesday of the month, 7.30pm start. As usual, talent is optional but a sense of humour essential, so if you fancy an evening of musical merriment, contact Martynk666@outlook.com for inclusion on the mailing list for reminders. Updates also posted on the cvca website.

TREASURE HUNT 2026

The 2026 Treasure Hunt took place on Sunday 12th April, with several teams competing for top prize (big thanks to Jo for the cake, and Rusty Hen Mel for the prizes) by finding clues and seeking out the hidden goodies along the treasure route.



The weather was kind (for once) so all teams made it back to the church in good spirits and without getting soaked.

CRAGG VALE FELL RACE

The 24th Cragg Vale Fell Race will be on Wednesday 1st July, starting at 7.30pm. Register on the day (from 6.30pm) at St John's Church, £8 cash. It's only 4 miles (details and map on the Calder Valley Fell Runners website), lots of refreshments and prizes, with all proceeds going to St. John's Church.

The race is kindly sponsored by Great Newsome Brewery.

Organiser, Jackie Scarf would welcome any help marshalling the race.

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CRAGG VALE LOCAL HISTORY GROUP

BERT HALL – CRAGG VALE RESIDENT & CONVICTED MURDERER BUT ..... HAD HE BEEN GIVEN A FAIR TRIAL?

Albert George Hall and Emily Austin were married in Cragg Vale on the 10th August 1936. They moved into Hill Top Cottage*, and took up positions as Parlour maid and Butler at Old Cragg Hall. By all accounts, Bert was an adoring husband and Emily a devoted wife.

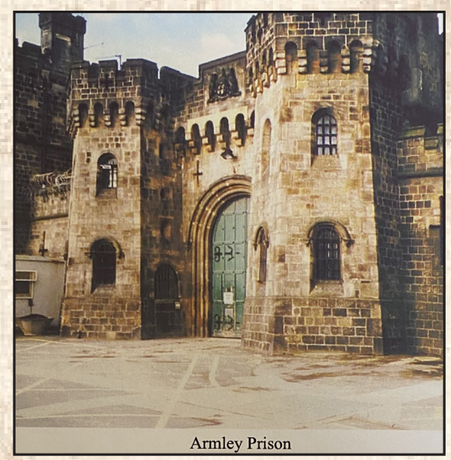
In later years, Bert was stationed in Germany as part of his post-war national service where he suffered a severe head trauma which left him liable to blackouts and "fragile mental health". Bert returned to the area where he was to have several jobs, his last being in 1953 as caretaker at Park Congregational Church, Francis Street, Halifax.

Frank and Anastasia Hackett and their four children moved to Halifax from Limerick, Southern Ireland, in 1951, for a better life. They lived at the Cemetery Lodge next to Lister Lane Cemetery and close to Park Congregational Church.

On Wednesday 12th August 1953, 6-year-old Mary Hackett was enjoying her summer holidays. However, when she did not appear for lunch, a search for her commenced. It was almost 6 weeks later, on 21st September, that Mary's body was found, buried in the crypt of Park Congregational Church where examination showed she had been murdered in a violent way.

The police now had a murder investigation on their hands, and were under huge pressure to find Mary's killer. For reasons not known, Bert, caretaker at Park Congregational Church, became the prime suspect and although Bert never confessed, a charge of murder was brought against him. Bert never stopped professing his innocence, but the jury found him guilty and Mr Justice Pearson sentenced him to death. Bert was hanged** at Armley Prison on 22nd April 1954.

In 2005, Judge Patrick Robertshaw published a book "The Inglorious Twelfth" which documents his findings of the case. His research found that significant evidence had been suppressed by the Prosecution and it was his belief that Bert Hall had been convicted on solely circumstantial evidence.



Armley Prison

Mary Hackett is buried in Stoney Royd Cemetery. Bert Hall, as was the standard practice for those executed, was interred within Armley prison grounds. Such burials were typically conducted in unmarked graves.

** In 1770, Hill Top Cottage had been home to David Greenwood, one of the notorious Cragg Vale Coiners.*

*** Bert was the last local person to be hanged, although it was 1964 before the last hangings in Britain were carried out.*

CRAGG VALE'S COMMUNITY HUBBUB

Cragg Vale Community Hubbub was set up jointly by St John's and CVCA as a response to the cost of living crisis nearly 3 years ago, providing a hot meal in a warm space.
It has since evolved into more of a place to meet old friends and make new ones (especially for those in our community who are isolated or lonely), have a bite to eat and a drink, have a good chat, maybe do a jigsaw or read a book, play chess (other board games are available!), do a bit of art or craft work or play table tennis.

Over summer, Hubbub will happen every Tuesday from 2 – 4pm and serve cakes, biscuits and drinks.
We do need more volunteers to help out at Hubbub, all you need to do is put cakes, biscuits and tea and coffee making things on a table, boil water and fill flasks and welcome people coming to Hubbub, chat with those who want to or show them what activities are available then wash up and tidy up after. We only really have 3 regular volunteers at the moment and they are struggling to cover every week as they are busy people!
We really want to keep Hubbub going but without more volunteers it may not be feasible. We would also like to see more people coming along to Hubbub to take advantage of what we are offering so please think about coming or encourage others to come along.
All ages are welcome and if you want to come along and maybe pass on any skills you have (crochet, knitting, drawing, card games etc) that would be fantastic!

Please contact Julie on gjwsa2@gmail.com if you can help!



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!)

Spring Clean

Big THANKS to the teams for tidying up around the park and collecting litter around the area. It's a lovely village so its great that people care enough to try to keep it tidy, despite the morons who think it ok to leave their rubbish lying around.

HRTC kindly collected the bags of rubbish collected by the teams.



BUSINESS PROFILE

IN THE DOGHOUSE

Friends, entrepreneurs and lifelong dog-lovers Amy Bottomley and Sarah Holmes have set up a mini doggie heaven by creating a purpose-built facility in the Turkey Lodge Business Park.

With indoor and outdoor exercise and rest areas, along with a hydrotherapy pool, the unit has been specifically designed to give dogs space to learn, play, recover, and thrive, whether they are staying on a full or part day basis, or needing help with physical conditions.

The pair explained that there's lots of dog owners in the area who have to travel some distance to find day care and therapeutic resources that provide their dogs with physical and mental stimulation.

"We're so much more than a dog-sitting service, with our bespoke facilities designed to keep your dog safe, healthy and socialised. Contact us to discuss your dog's specific needs and we can tailor their sessions to suit"

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BROADHEAD CLOUGH

Yorkshire Wildlife Trust

MAY 2026 UPDATE

Yorkshire Wildlife Trust is entirely dedicated to conserving, protecting and restoring wildlife and wild places in Yorkshire. On its 80th anniversary it embarks on a new mission: to put 30% of Yorkshire's land & seas into natural recovery by 2030, and 50% by 2050. This "Nature Recovery Network" will connect green spaces together, allowing wildlife to move around & access all they need.

The natural areas could be on housing estates, farms, in nature reserves, along road verges and riverbanks, in parks and gardens, or even on office roofs.

The Trust will be working within its 115 nature reserves, (including Broadhead Clough) and with many other collaborators e.g. Yorkshire Water tree planting at Withens Clough, in Luddenden village to protect the White clawed crayfish, and with farmers & ordinary gardeners throughout the county. I'm always amazed that if we follow Cragg Brook… we'll end up in the Humber Estuary! Could your garden play its part by growing native plants for pollinators, or putting up a bird or bat box?

If you'd like to join a task day it's usually the 1st Friday of the month, but plans sometimes change. Either contact the Trust (01904 659570), or phone me.



HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO YORKSHIRE WILDLIFE TRUST

80th ANNIVERSARY 1946 - 2026

CRAGGFEST 2026 PROGRAMME

It's back!!! CraggFest 2026 will take place on 7 - 10th August featuring live music from some fab local bands, with food and drink available on site and hopefully raising loads of £££s for local charities. Volunteer helpers always welcome, for setup, event support, dismantling and cleanup.

Fri 7th AUGUST — CRAGGFEST 2026

3:00pm	**Take 2 -** Transport you back to the golden bygone days of music
4:00pm	**Hutch -** Highly regarded for his street performances, beautiful voice and musicality
5:00pm	**Benthead -** Alt psychedelic space rock band
6:00pm	**The Coterie -** Four-piece beat combo with a punk rock heart
7:00pm	**844's -** Upbeat, dancy, rocky blues, with a bit of soul and funk
8:00pm	**Outer Zeds -** Hebden Bridge Ska legends!
9:00pm	**Gogo Mojo -** 4 piece band, playing a range of music from pop, blues rock, indie, funk and soul
10:00pm	**DJs Zac Greenwood & Simon Stansfield**

Sat 8th AUGUST — CRAGGFEST 2026

3:00pm	**Tarquina -** Captivating megamix of the powerful and soulfully subtle with surprisingly eclectic covers
4:00pm	**Jacky's Fantastic -** 4-piece power-folk band playing energetic, all original songs
5:00pm	**Dawn Bailey -** Covers with captivating vocals
6:00pm	**Sin City -** Rock music new and not so
7:00pm	**The Corellians -** Indie Rock n' Roll band
8:00pm	**Catch 22 -** High-energy punk rock band flipping chart-toppers into fast, loud, and fun anthems
9:00pm	**Headrushed -** Members of McCooney, Z List and Shockwaves united by a love of classic rock
11:00pm	**DJ -** TBC

Sun 9th AUGUST — CRAGGFEST 2026

3:00pm	**Frankie and Niamh -** Great duo who sing some great covers
4:00pm	**Landlubbers -** Leaders in Industrial Chant genre. Mix of trad. sea shanties and self-penned classics
5:00pm	**Orbit**
6:00pm	**Shockwaves -** Female fronted 4-piece covers band
7:00pm	**Mr Wilson's Second Liners -** Rave with a New Orleans Brass Band with 90s club classics vibe
8:00pm	**Repeat Offenders -** 5-piece rock band covering popular stuff that should keep you up dancing!
9:00pm	**Lady Gaskell -** High energy female-fronted band with a rock & funk feel and a fair mix of Lady Gaga
10:00pm	**DJs Zac Greenwood & Simon Stansfield**

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