Cragg News

ISSUE 50
AUTUMN 26

AUTUMN DIARY

SEPT, OCT, NOVEMBER:

Every Sunday 9.30am (Exc 20th Sept – No Service)
Communion or Morning Praise Service, St. John's

Every Tuesday 2.00pm to 4.00pm Community Hubbub, St. John's
Last Tuesday (after Hubbub) Whist Drive

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

Every Fourth Monday 2.00pm to 3.00pm
Movement to Music, St John's

Every Monday & 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/)

SEPTEMBER

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

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

Saturday 12th & Sunday 13th Sept Heritage Open Day "Everyday Histories" St John's 11.00am – 4.00pm

Thursday 17th Sept History Group 7.30pm at St John's

Friday 25th Sept Heptonstall Hilltoppers at St John's 7.00pm

Saturday 26th Sept, MacMillan Coffee Morning, St John's

Wednesday 30th Sept Quiz Night at the Hinch

OCTOBER

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

Sunday 4th Oct Gift Day Service, Supporting St John's

Tuesday 6th Oct Music Group contact martynk666@outlook.com

Sunday 11th Oct Harvest Service, St John's

Thursday 15th Oct History Group 7.30pm at st John's

Friday 16th Oct Autumn Curry Club 7.00pm at St John's

Wednesday 28th Oct Quiz Night at the Hinch

NOVEMBER

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

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

Friday 6th Nov Bonfire Night at the Hinch

Wednesday 25th Nov Quiz Night at the Hinch

Sunday 29th Nov Community Lights Switch On and Lantern Procession. Meet at the Robin 5.00pm

DECEMBER (SNEAKY PREVIEW!) **7th Wreathmaking, 11th Cragg Christmas Cracker, 20th Carol Service**

CRAGG VALE FELL RACE 2026

The 2026 Cragg Vale Fell Race took place on Wednesday, July 1, 2026, at 7:30 PM, starting outside the Hinchliffe Arms. Organized by Calder Valley Fell Runners, the 6.4 km (4-mile) race featured 244 meters (801 ft) of climb through the lovely (sometimes boggy!) Cragg Vale hillsides.

1st Place was Billy Cartwright (Keswick AC) in a record beating time of 25 mins and 09 seconds, beating the previous 2022 record of 25 mins, 44 seconds.

The event raised around £600 for Cragg Vale church, so very well done to everyone involved.



IT'S A RECORD YEAR!
MORE ABOUT CRAGGFEST INSIDE.

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

COMMUNITY *News*

We've bounded our way through a very hot summer, so hope you and your pets and livestock have managed to cope with the sweltering temperatures!

It's been action packed, with **Cragg Challenge**, the **Cragg Vale Fell Race** and then **CraggFest** all attracting lots of attendees as well as raising literally thousands of pounds for some fabulous causes, so WELL DONE to everyone involved.

There's lots coming up as we fall into Autumn (see "diary" listing on front page) so hopefully there's something for everyone. Many of the activities now focus on wellbeing to help ensure that as people live longer, they can stay healthy to actually enjoy that extended lifespan. There's also support from wider afield via the **Staying Well Project** which anyone can sign up to, (look up https://stayingwellhub.com) and which we'll be exploring
as a CVCA group to see if their offerings can enhance the local activities programme.

Finally, a special diary note that we're already planning ahead to the Candlelight Procession on 29th November where we'll Light up the Valley with a special addition to our local light show. Put it in your diary!

St John's Church, Cragg Vale
Come and join us for An Evening With

HEPTONSTALL HILLTOPPERS COMMUNITY CHOIR

Friday September 25th at 7pm

Adults - £12 | Children - £6 | Family - £30
(Family = 2 Adults + 2 or more children)

Includes a pie and pea supper. There will be a donations bar

Book your place at gjwsa2@gmail.com, 07932542508 or at church during Hubbub
(Tuesdays 2 – 4pm)

HUBBUB

Hubbub is still happening every Tuesday afternoon from 2 - 4pm.

It's a place where you can find a hot drink, cake and biscuits and some good company along with a variety of activities to do.

However, we do need more volunteers to keep Hubbub running smoothly. If you think you can help us, please get in touch with Julie (gjwsa2@gmail.com).

Safer Sleep at the ark mytholmroyd

At The Ark, the safety and wellbeing of every child is our highest priority. We are committed to following the latest safer sleep guidance from the Department for Education and The Lullaby Trust to help create a safe sleeping environment for all children in our care, and thought it would be useful to share the information with the wider community:

- Sleep rooms at a comfortable temperature of 16˚C–20˚C. If it goes over or under, make appropriate reasonable adjustments.
- All cots, mattresses and sleeping bags used at The Ark meet the appropriate British Safety Standards (BS/BS EN) you can check yours at home by going on the DfE website for the codes.
- Cots are kept clear of toys, teddies, comforters, blankets and cot bumpers, helping to reduce the risk of accidents during sleep.
- Babies are always placed on their backs to sleep.
- Once a baby can roll over independently, it is perfectly normal for them to find their own sleeping position. However, they should always be placed on their back at the beginning of every sleep.
- Dummy clips to be removed at sleep time.
- Thick hooded jumpers, jeans, and cardigans to be removed when a child is going to sleep.



- Weighted blankets are not used unless they have been recommended by an appropriate healthcare or education professional as part of a child's individual care or support plan.

  Where a weighted blanket has been professionally recommended, it will only be used following a documented risk assessment and in line with the professional's guidance.

By following these simple steps, we can all work together to provide children with the safest possible sleeping environment.

Scan the QR code to learn more.

the lullaby trust

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CRAGG CHALLENGE 2026

LONGEST HILL ON THE LONGEST SUNDAY

SUNDAY 21ST JUNE



Sunday 21st June, (Father's Day!) the annual 'longest hill on the longest Sunday' event took place on a very sunny, very calm, day in Cragg Vale. The water stops were set up and waiting to keep the competitors braving the heat, hydrated.

The Cragg 60K Sportive cycling event started things off, closely followed by the 'Oliver Collinge Climb' (school relay) with some excellent runs and slick baton changeovers, the team managed to shave another 4 seconds off the record to achieve 36m 21s for the 8Km relay.
This was followed by the mass cycle ascent and continued with the 4 runs (10mile, 10K, 5K, 1 mile), ending with a cycle time-trial.

As well as the main Start/Finish activity area there were groups of spectators out on the course to cheer everyone on and even some mini street-parties! The views of a stream of runners and riders up and down the valley was spectacular, with lots of encouragement being offered as they passed by.

Our fundraising **https://craggchallenge.co.uk/fundraising** this year for Overgate Hospice and Cancer Research UK, is running at £1000 and still receiving donations after the event!

There are hundreds of photographs from the day (and previous events), all accessible and downloadable free by following the link on our website **https://craggchallenge.co.uk/all-media**

We are already planning for Sunday 27th June next year, which will be our 10-year anniversary Challenge.

The event could not happen without the help of our sponsors and supporters. Many thanks to all involved in delivering a wonderful day.

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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

MOUNTAIN RESCUE ENGLAND & WALES

1966 - 2026 Sixty years of service

On Monday 29th of November 1965, 55-year-old reservoir keeper Robert Akrigg left the Gorple Cottages to check the reservoir water gauges in treacherous blizzard conditions, and never returned.

After 69 days of searching, the snows receded to reveal his body, a testament to the ferocity of the weather on the wild and remote South Pennine moors. This tragedy led to the Calder Valley Moorland Rescue Association being formed, as no formal rescue organisation existed locally at the time. The Inaugural Meeting was held at Hebden Bridge Council Offices in February 1966.

Sixty years on and after a couple of name changes we now have the Calder Valley Search & Rescue Team (CVSRT). Name changes apart, the team still carries on it's basic function of rescuing people in wild and remote places. 50 trained operational members and supporters including five search dogs and their handlers, and four fully equipped rescue vehicles.



The team responds to incidents across West Yorkshire and beyond. This mainly consists of rescues of those lost or injured in upland or inaccessible places. Many team members are trained in advanced medical practices and are qualified to administer pain-killing drugs to casualties. The team are regularly called to search for people who can be missing for many reasons, this can take the team into semi-urban environments which often contain areas of woodland, quarries and water courses. The team has members qualified to the same water rescue standards as the fire and ambulance services.

Averaging between 60 to 80 calls per year, the team is on call 24 hours a day, 365 days a year and is funded entirely by voluntary contributions. The cost of running the team currently stands at £80,000 per year.

For more information, go to www.cvsrt.org.uk where you can learn more about the work of the team, and how to support them, along with some of their lovely 60th anniversary merchandise and other ways to donate towards their running costs.



CRAGG VALE LOCAL HISTORY GROUP

ANNUAL VISIT JUNE 2026 – REPORT BY HEATHER

In June, the History Group visited Queen Street Mill Textile Museum and Industrial Heritage Site, in Harle Syke, Burnley – a town once dominated by the textile industry. It was a lovely warm day and, despite having to cross the county border into Lancashire, we were all in good spirits as we approached the mill and had first sight of its 120 ft Accrington red brick chimney, with the iconic Pendle Hill in the background.



Queen Street Mill is believed to be the last working steam powered weaving shed in the world. It opened in 1895, as a workers' cooperative, capitalised with £20,000 of £5 shares. In 1918 fire gutted huge parts of the mill. Fortunately, the engine survived the fire. The mill reopened in 1919, and remained a working mill until 1982. It is now owned and run by Lancashire County Council, but relies heavily on volunteers, not least the tour guides who provide loom weaving demonstrations, illustrating the complete process of "coal to cloth".

In its heyday, the weaving shed housed 900 looms, producing Callico cloth, unbleached woven cotton, for the world market. Each weaver would have run 4–6 looms, and were paid on a piecework basis, with a good weaver expecting to be paid 24 shillings a week. When the mill closed in 1982, 440 looms remained. This has now reduced to 308 original Single Shuttle Lancashire looms.





The Steam Engine was originally called Prudence after the name of the first Chief Engineer's wife. However, after the First World War, it was renamed Peace to commemorate the soldiers lost in the war. It is now fired up only once a month so that visitors may experience the "true" working life of the mill. One of the two Lancashire Boilers is used to fire up the engine. The boiler required a large amount of coal (now imported from abroad) and holds a huge amount of water, up-to 5,000 gallons, taken from the mill dam, which is fed by a spring and an ingenious water-catchment system that collects all the rain and dew from the roof. It takes two days to warm up.

The roof of the weaving mill was designed to be a critical factor in the working of the shed. The panes of glass face the northern aspect and the tiled side face the southern aspect. This allows the maximum amount of light into the building whilst not allowing the sun in to heat up the factory unnecessarily or allow strong sunlight onto the cotton itself whilst being worked.
The Mill is currently open through to October, 12 noon to 4pm. Steam Days are normally the 4th Friday in the month.

heritage open days

Join us at St John's, Cragg Vale to find out about some of the Everyday Histories connected to the church and the village.

Look at the history of some of the people, places and events that have 'made' Cragg Vale

Learn about some of the people involved in the church over the years

Find your family history in our registers dating back to the 1830s

Discover some of the various shows and events that have gone on in Cragg over the years!

Saturday 12th September 11am – 4pm
Sunday 13th September 11am – 4pm

Refreshments available

Find out more: www.heritageopendays.org.uk
/heritageopendays
@heritageopendays
@heritageopendays
In partnership with National Trust
POSTCODE LOTTERY TRUST

CRAGGFEST 2026

CraggFest 2026 finally closed its gates on Sunday 9th August, after three fabulous days of live music from 21 local bands, some show-stopping DJ performances and, not to mention, plenty of enthusiastic partying from the hundreds of happy attendees who joined us over the weekend.

The food and drink were standard Robin Hood Inn fayre – in other words, lots and lots for everyone! The fantastic support team worked like troopers throughout the three days to make sure everyone was well fed, watered and looked after.

CraggFest organiser Jo Hull, of Robin Hood Inn fame, said: "WOW! After weeks of preparation, it's been an absolute whirlwind of activity, and I can't thank all the acts, DJs, volunteers and helpers enough for making it such a fantastic event.
"We're delighted to have raised a record amount for local causes, and I'm so pleased that everyone seemed to have an amazing time.

"Seeing hundreds of people enjoying themselves, listening to brilliant local music and supporting some very worthwhile causes makes all the hard work worthwhile. "I'm happy, proud and absolutely exhausted – and now I'm in serious need of a holiday!"



Once again, a massive **THANK YOU** to every band, DJ and performer who gave their time for free, all the volunteers and helpers who worked tirelessly behind the scenes, and every single person who came along and supported CraggFest 2026.

We couldn't do it without you.

NEWS FROM ST JOHN'S CHURCH, CRAGG VALE

Good news from St John's! The platform lift from ground to first floor has now been installed making our upstairs room accessible to all. That means that anyone with limited mobility will now be able to access anything happening upstairs such as Cragg Vale History Group meetings. We thank Hebden Royd Town Council, the Community Foundation for Calderdale, the Ethel and Gwynne Morgan Trust and many individuals who donated financially towards the lift, plus those who supported various fundraising events.

We can now move meetings and classes to the upstairs room which is a more modern, cosy space. This also opens up opportunities for other groups to meet in the room. If anyone would like to hire the room for an exercise or activity group, parent/grandparent/carer and baby/toddler group, a training, work or retreat space or anything else please get in touch!

The larger church space is still available to hire for bigger events, parties and so on.

We are still seeking a Priest-in-Charge for the Benefice of Erringden (St John's, Cragg Vale and St Michael's, Mytholmroyd) and the Parish of Luddenden (St Mary's). It's 3 years since Cathy Reardon retired as vicar of Erringden Benefice and despite several rounds of advertising we haven't had any appropriate applicants. We still have a service every Sunday at 9.30am, sometimes a communion service taken by a 'borrowed' or retired priest, sometimes a 'Morning Praise' service led by members of the congregation.

Our social and fundraising calendar continues as usual.

On September 19th and 20th we'll be taking part in the national 'Heritage Open Days' festival. The theme this year is 'Everyday Histories'. We'll have displays and documents relating to the history of St John's and Cragg Vale. We'll also have our baptism, marriage and burial registers, some of which date back to when the church was built, open to help with any family history questions.

We have a 'new' event on the cards for September – an evening with Heptonstall Hilltoppers Community Choir, this will be on September 25th.

We'll be holding one of our popular curry nights on October 16th so book your place soon to avoid disappointment!

If you have any questions about anything happening at church or about life events (weddings, baptisms, funerals) please get in touch with the Churchwardens at gjwsa2@gmail.com.

Thank you **Julie & Geraint Harris**
Churchwardens

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BROADHEAD CLOUGH
AUGUST 2026 UPDATE

Yorkshire Wildlife Trust

We all love summer weather, but I guess those of us on spring water supplies are watching the flow, (or drip!) closely, and implementing our own water saving measures. Calderdale as a whole is still in a "prolonged dry monitoring" stage, rather than drought, but areas south of us including Lincolnshire, where we recently spent a few days, are suffering. It is the driest July since 1836: the fields are already harvested but with lower yields, blackberries are early but many just small and wizened, and trees are dropping their leaves and even whole branches due to lack of water. One of the coastal nature reserves has completely dried up, and another has such little water the geese are walking rather than swimming! To help wildlife please try and keep a small water source in your gardens: even a saucer with some gravel in it, where insects can land and drink.

It is good to see that Rishworth moor has recovered after the early wildfire, but we are lucky that we have not had other incidents on the moors around Cragg. They are still bone dry and at serious wildfire risk.
Finally, although not a YWT project, I know people were concerned about the future of the newly planted trees to clothe and stabilise the reservoir intakes and gullies. The project manager has said that there is a full monitoring project in place to measure success including some replanting if necessary.

If you'd like to join a task day it's usually the 1st Friday of the month, but plans sometimes change. The next task day is Friday 4th September. Either contact the Trust (01904 659570), or phone me.

Helen Pedley 07704032131



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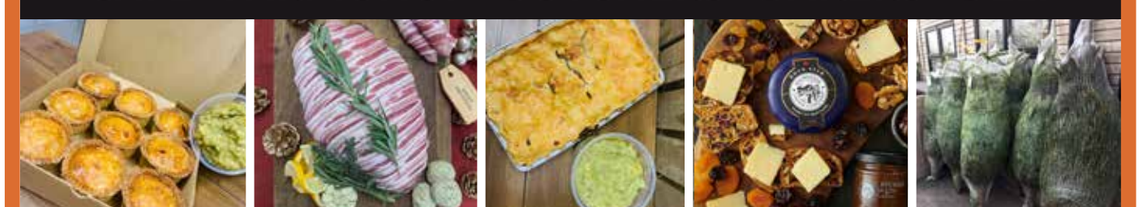
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CALENDAR 2027

Last call for photographs! The calendar is now being compiled so if you have any favourite pics of the area, whether they are lovely, amusing or quirky, please share (send to martynk666@outlook.com) and we'll try to include as many as possible – any pictures used for the main monthly shot will receive a complimentary copy of the calendar, so your work will be showcased literally all over the world!

Come and join us at Cragg

CURRY CLUB

St John's Church, Cragg Vale

Friday 16th October from 7pm

A chance to unwind at the end of the week and chat over chaat with friends old and new!

A choice of curries (mild/hot/veggie/meaty)
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£12 | Children £6 | Donations bar

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