

# Cragg Vale Community Newsletter No 13

March 2011

**Cragg Vale Community**  
Carbon Conscious Cragg Vale



## Hello.

The joys of spring are starting to make it through the dull soil with daffodils, snow drops and crocuses all peeping through.



It's a lovely time of year to blow off the cobwebs and get out and about - in this issue we have some great suggestions for you including some local walks, a spring clean, Cragg tennis open day, galas and a blessing as well an insight into the wildlife world at this time of year and much more. Our 'what's on' guide has lots of ideas and functions to share with you. We hope to see many of you at the local events over the next 3 months.

Do you have any more suggestions/thoughts for the newsletter - please let us know via email at [info@craggvalecommunity.co.uk](mailto:info@craggvalecommunity.co.uk) or telephone Liz 881182.

We hope you enjoy this newsletter - thanks to our sponsors for their continued support. Without them this would not be possible ☺. Please let us know if you would like to see any other information. Our next newsletter is due out in June so if you want to include anything, please let us know by mid May.



Wishing you all a wonderful Easter.

Take Care.

**CVCA team.**



## **RESCUE MISSION for the BELEAGUERED TWITE!**

The twite, or Pennine finch as it is known locally, was once a familiar bird of upland areas, restricted to breeding in the uplands of the South Pennines, North Peak District and Lancashire, but numbers have plummeted in recent years. In 2008, the population was down to around 100 pairs in 15 colonies and things were so desperate for this poor little fellow that it has been added to the red list as a species of UK conservation concern.



It is a small, brown bird similar in size to a linnet but with a longer tail and stubbier bill. Its back is tawny, heavily streaked with dark brown, its flanks have dark-brown streaks and its belly is white. In breeding plumage the male's rump is pink. Home in winter is the East Coast of England where they flock to feed on the saltmarshes, returning to their breeding grounds in the hills in March and early April. Last year a Twite, ringed as a nestling on Rishworth Moor on 2nd June was seen on the coast on 18th October at Selsey, West Sussex!

The twite is very vulnerable to habitat change, and is dependent on moorland vegetation (bracken litter or tall heather/bilberry) for nesting, and moorland fringe meadows for feeding. It is one of the two British songbirds that have a diet consisting entirely of seeds, even as chicks (the other is the Linnet). The essential seeds are: Dandelion in the spring (a weed to us, but a vital food source for the Twite - don't take this bird's lunch away!), Common Sorrel in the summer and Autumn Hawkbit in the autumn. These herbs also provide nesting habitats for Skylarks, Lapwings and Curlew - all birds associated with the sound of a traditional English summer!

As farming methods over the years have changed, haymeadows and traditional lightly grazed pastures have largely disappeared, so too has the supply of late summer seeds, curtailing the Twite's natural habit of raising a second brood of chicks in early August, because there is not enough seed to feed the young on.

**FIGHT FOR THE TWITE!** Now, Pennine farmers are coming to the rescue of this little bird, which is in real danger of extinction in England - thanks the England Twite Recovery Project, a partnership between Natural England and the RSPB, which is helping to halt its decline.

The Twite Recovery Project's RSPB officers, Jenny Oldroyd and Kerry Gowthorpe, are enjoying working with local farmers to restore suitable feeding and nesting conditions for the birds on their land, accessing funding available through Natural England's

Environmental Stewardship Scheme, which it is hoped will encourage even more farmers to manage their land in a twite-friendly way.

RSPB conservation scientists monitor the success of the scheme, making regular visits each year to Blackstone Edge Moor, Turvin Clough and Withens Clough locally, recording the birds' location and behaviour, the number of chicks fledged or failed, the land types of all the fields around each of the colonies, and listing the plants available for Twite to feed on. Recent results are encouraging, showing an overall small increase in breeding pairs between 2009 and 2010, despite declines at some sites.

**Help the twite** - help the charming but rare Bilberry Bumblebee, identifiable by red hair all over its abdomen and bright yellow bands on its thorax. The future of these bees and the Twite are inextricably linked - they nest on moors where Twite breed but are also declining as a result of modern farming methods: they need nectar between spring bilberry flowers and autumn heather. Flower rich, late-cut hay meadows provide this source of nectar during the lean season - so what's good for the Twite is also good for rare bumblebees!



Bilberry Bumblebee

## The Hinchliffe

at Cragg Vale

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Moorland Fires, either managed moorland burning, that has become out of control, or accidental fires caused by discarded cigarettes, campfires that have not been properly extinguished, or sunlight on glass, are another hazard for Twite because they nest in mature heather or bracken, which take several years to recover after burning. Other birds affected by these fires include Golden Plover, Dunlin, Curlew, Short-eared owl, Skylark, Red Grouse and Meadow Pipit. The legal burning season ends on 15<sup>th</sup> April to protect these moorland breeding birds.



Twite nest lined with sheep's wool and feathers

Thus the Twite's survival or decline is also a barometer of the condition of local moors and upland hay meadows and pastures. The success of Pennine farmers in helping support local populations is very encouraging. It is great to see how their efforts are making a real difference to the fortunes of this much-loved upland bird.

#### How you can help

Can you volunteer to do field surveys, identify feed plants, keep a close watch on any twite in your area? Are you interested in restoring traditional hay meadows on your land? If so, please get in touch with Jenny Oldroyd or Charlotte Weightman, [jenny.oldroyd@rspb.org](mailto:jenny.oldroyd@rspb.org) 07841 317034, and [charlotteweightman@rspb.org](mailto:charlotteweightman@rspb.org) 07702 960895 respectively.



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## Wordsearch



Twite, Warley Moor

Can you find these hidden words relating to the Twite - all of which appear in this article? They run upwards, downwards, side to side and diagonally.

Good luck!

h	p	s	e	n	l	n	n	e	p
e	a	s	t	o	o	l	t	s	t
a	b	y	i	i	t	b	a	r	e
t	r	s	m	l	b	l	u	o	n
h	a	o	b	e	t	k	r	o	n
e	c	r	r	d	a	w	w	m	i
r	k	r	o	n	y	d	i	a	l
r	e	e	o	a	t	h	o	t	h
e	n	l	d	d	s	h	e	w	e
e	e	b	e	l	b	m	u	b	s

dandelion  
hawkbit  
bumblebee  
haymeadows  
linnet  
sorrel  
heather  
twite  
bracken  
brood  
moors  
pennines

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## Quarterly Recipe – Spring Superfood salad

There's nothing like kick starting Spring with a healthy fresh salad

### **Ingredients**

- 3 medium raw beetroot, about 250g each, unpeeled
- 6 tomatoes, halved lengthways
- 8 tbsp extra virgin olive oil
- 1 small (about 600g) butternut squash, peeled, seeds removed and chopped into 3cm cubes
- 1 heads broccoli
- 250 g fresh podded peas, shelled, or 60g frozen peas
- 3 tbsp quinoa
- 2 cloves garlic, chopped
- 200 g chestnut mushrooms
- 2 tbsp lemon juice
- 150 g red cabbage, finely shredded
- 3 tbsp toasted mixed seeds such as sunflower, poppy and sesame
- small handful alfalfa shoots
- French dressing, to serve



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## **Preparation method**

1. Set 3 shelves in the oven and preheat the oven to 200C/180C fan/gas 6.
2. Put two of the beetroot in a small roasting tray with a good sprinkling of salt and about 100ml water. Cover with foil and roast on the top shelf of the oven for about 1 hour 15 minutes to 1 hour 30 minutes, or until a knife goes easily into the beetroot.
3. Lay the tomatoes cut-side up on a baking tray, season with salt and drizzle with 2 tablespoons of the olive oil. Bake them in the oven for about 1 hour on the lowest shelf.
4. Put the cubes of butternut squash on another baking tray and roll them in a little oil and plenty of salt and pepper. Roast in the oven on the middle shelf for 45 minutes, moving everything around at least once during the cooking time.
5. While the vegetables are roasting, prepare the other ingredients. Bring a saucepan of lightly salted water to the boil and blanch the broccoli florets and peas for 2 minutes. Lift them out with a slotted spoon into a colander and run them under cold water until completely cooled.
6. Tip the quinoa into the broccoli water and stir; then simmer for 15 minutes. Drain and leave to cool.
7. Heat a frying pan until hot, then add 1 tablespoon of olive oil and when hot, lightly fry the garlic for a moment, swiftly followed by the mushrooms. Season with salt, pepper and the lemon juice and remove them from the pan in less than 4 minutes.
8. Place the shredded cabbage in a bowl. Peel and grate the remaining raw beetroot and mix with the cabbage.
9. When the roasted vegetables are cooked, leave them to cool, but peel the beetroot while it is still warm and cut into chunky wedges.
10. Layer the vegetables in a large glass serving bowl, starting with the quinoa on the bottom, then the cabbage and beetroot mix, followed by the broccoli and peas, squash, tomatoes, mushrooms, toasted seeds and the alfalfa sprouts. Serve with French dressing.

**Enjoy.** Please send us your favourite recipes for our next issue  
[info@craggvalecommunity.co.uk](mailto:info@craggvalecommunity.co.uk)



## Broadhead Clough YWT reserve - Winter update

Winter is a quiet time for wildlife at Broadhead Clough reserve. The background noise comes only from the stream and the dominant forces at work are wind and water. This year the leaves were barely down when the big freeze came. The minimum temperature fell to -12.9C and one day the maximum struggled to reach -7.4C. The thaw was slow, but a couple of wet

weekends have shown how quickly the water drains from the moor. Surface water runs over the grass and can dramatically raise the level of the streams in a few hours.



In the reserve this flow through of water is vital for one of the most important habitats. These are the mires around the stream, which form a type of wet woodland called "bog woods". They are not much to look at, and the footpath skirts round them because centuries of people have always looked for ways to keep their feet dry! This is exactly what they need to flourish but they do need a bit of looking after and the working day in January was the ideal time to do this.

The native oak and birch woodland is on acidic soil and each year falling leaves create wet, decaying organic litter which is great for larvae of the hover fly and soldier beetles. Conditions are good for fungi: 164 species have been found and they support many fungus-feeding flies. With wet roots, trees struggle, start to rot or topple as they age, and are short lived. Standing or submerged, dead wood is used by moths and crane flies to lay their eggs, and it's their larvae that attract the warblers and woodpeckers. At ground level our reserve has 65 species of moss and liverworts. Sphagnum mosses are the ones which love the wet mire most and it is these that over time decay and became "peat bog".

However too many trees in the wrong place can cause problems. Their need for water in summer will cause the mires to dry out and bracken, nettles and brambles take over. If the mires are shaded by tree cover poor light means the mosses don't flourish and there is less ground vegetation.

The management plan for the mires is to keep the drains along the path open so water flows to where it is needed, to take out scrub and fallen trees, and chop back overhanging branches. Last month, using bow saws and loppers we improved two of the lower mires below the main path and created log piles nearby for the bugs and beetles to enjoy. A few weeks later the Calderdale Conservation volunteers dug out the drain along the path by the entrance.

We've also refurbished and reinstated the information panel after it took a tumble into the mud. Now we've spring cleaned we are ready for more visitors enjoying better weather! Now we've spring cleaned we are ready for more visitors enjoying better weather and bluebells when it arrives!



Its a quiet time for action - no planned workdays until 16th and 30th of June, 13<sup>th</sup> July and the 16<sup>th</sup> August. We meet at the entrance to the reserve at 10am.

***Helen Pedley, 886195***

***Contact for Broadhead Clough Supporters Group***

PLACE YOUR ADVERT HERE! If you would like to advertise in the Cragg Vale Newsletter, for a small fee, please get in touch with Liz on 881182 or via email [info@craggvalecommunity.co.uk](mailto:info@craggvalecommunity.co.uk). We print and deliver 500 newsletters - received by all residents and businesses in Cragg.

## Work at Withens Clough Reservoir

Yorkshire Water's project at Withens Clough reservoir is progressing well.

Despite being hampered by the poor weather conditions in December and January, phase one is now complete. The reservoir has now been drawn down by four metres to allow our contractors, MMB, to work safely. These levels will be returned to normal once we finish the new spillway. Our road diversions and service diversions along with the temporary bunding are expected to be completed by March this year.



In April, we'll be carrying out some piling work in the tumble bay which may cause additional noise; however, we will try and keep this to a minimum. Following this, spillway-enabling works will start, with construction of the new spillway to be completed by March 2012.



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Since starting work onsite, we have carried out some concreting and tarmacing of the potholes all along the access road to the site. We also cleared the debris from one of the channels crossing the access road before Christmas. We continue to strive to be a good neighbour as we carry out this large civil engineering project and if anyone has any queries, they can contact John Bond, of Yorkshire Water, on 01274 692035, or via email at [john.bond@yorkshirewater.co.uk](mailto:john.bond@yorkshirewater.co.uk).



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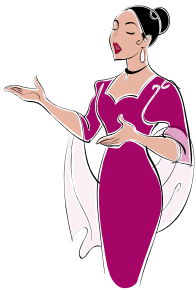
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## **CVCA Park Progress**

We are now awaiting a decision on the final application for funding for the Park Project. Our plan, if successful, is for the work to begin once spring approaches and the weather improves, hopefully with a launch event in June. Keep an eye on the noticeboards for any news!



If you want to suggest any activities or entertainment or would like to be part of organising the occasion please get in touch (info@craggcommunity.co.uk). Any questions or suggestions on the park refurbishment - please email [andyroberts@talktalk.net](mailto:andyroberts@talktalk.net) or telephone Andy on 883394

\*\*\*\*\*

**"Keep our moors a beautiful part of the landscape - don't let our natural land be spoiled by illegal activities"** is the message from a new website **Moorwatch.com**, recently developed by [Pennine Prospects](#) to help the police and local authorities keep an eye on the moors. Local people keeping a look out for anti-social behaviour such as fly tipping and illegal off-roading can really help, and with just a few clicks, you can record where you have seen something, upload a photograph and any additional details. All reports are read and sent to the appropriate authorities. In some cases they will be acted upon straight away; in others they may become part of ongoing intelligence-gathering and may well become a basis for future police crime targeting.

**Calderdale Countryside Team**, based in the Countryside Office above the library in Mytholmroyd, led by David Wilson, Area Countryside Officer for the Upper Valley, deal with conservation, environment and footpath matters. The team is soon to begin a survey of footpaths in Cragg Vale - if you know of any footpath queries or problems David is the man to contact on 01422 886371, mobile 07712867601, or email [dave.wilson@calderdale.gov.uk](mailto:dave.wilson@calderdale.gov.uk).



## **CRAGG VALE CALENDAR**

A big thank you to all who have supported the Cragg Vale 2011 Calendar! Once again it was a daunting task to choose from the many brilliant photos, and we hope you all enjoy the selected 12 throughout the year. If anyone was unfortunate enough to miss buying a calendar, there are a few remaining - available at half price! (leave a message at the Robin Hood, ask any committee member or email [info@craggcommunity](mailto:info@craggcommunity))

As for the 2012 calendar - the chosen theme is "**Cragg Vale History and Heritage**". Cragg Vale has had a varied and colourful past and there are still so many interesting and quirky features as evidence of this - buildings (some still in use), industrial ruins, relics, all with a tale to tell! Just for starters, (and this is by no means a definitive list) are Dauber Bridge, Paper Mill, Old Cragg Hall, St John's Old Sunday School, the Mock Airfield, Glen House, Penny Steps - and many more, the choice is yours! Photos old or new welcome.

The closing date is earlier this year on 30th June - please send entries to [info@craggcommunity.co.uk](mailto:info@craggcommunity.co.uk) (Would you believe - some of the distributors tell us that visitors are looking for calendars as early as May each year!!!)

Happy snapping!

### **Higher Clough Foot Barn Self Catering Holiday Cottages**

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## **“SPA SUNDAY” SUNDAY 1st MAY 2011**

Once again, you are cordially invited to join us to celebrate Spaw Sunday at Cragg Vale Spa!

The spa has existed in Cragg Vale for many centuries, and it was the custom for local people to assemble at the spa on the first Sunday in May, where they would drink some water to rejuvenate themselves after the long winter.

We plan to meet at St Johns Church, at 2.30pm, to walk alongside the river to the spa. Those not wishing to do the walk can meet us at the Spa at 3.00pm, where we will all be able celebrate the coming of Spring, and the brave can enjoy a glass of the spa water -complete with the traditional portion of liquorice! For the not so brave there will be more usual refreshment, and a picnic to enjoy. In the event of bad weather this will take place in the Robin Hood Inn. Also at the Robin Hood, after the picnic, there'll be the opportunity to try your hand at the Yard of Ale Drinking Contest!

**Word of warning - Hiking boots or trainers are recommended as the approach to the spa is very steep, and can be slippery.**



### **Early Warning!!**

CVCA will again have a stall at Mytholmroyd Gala - on 25<sup>th</sup> June this year. Tombola and a plant sale have been suggested, hence the early warning: any donations most welcome - please think of us when you're turning out your cupboards, wanting to re-home some of those cuddly toys or potting up cuttings and seedlings (shame to waste any surplus plants)!! You can get in touch at [info@craggcommunity.co.uk](mailto:info@craggcommunity.co.uk) or 'phone 883707 to arrange collection. Any other suggestions for the stall appreciated, and if you can spare an hour or so to help on the day you will be welcomed with open arms!!!



### **To Offer/Wanted:**

**Looking for new friends for 7 year old daughter:** Family who's recently moved to Cragg Vale (above the school) is looking for new friends locally. Our daughter, Holly, goes to the Steiner Kindergarten and has plenty of friends there, however it would be really nice for her to meet some more local families with children of a similar-ish age - she's just gone 7. Her best friends are currently aged 5 and 9 so they don't have to be the same age! She loves animals, fairies, dolls, playmobil, art, nature, make believe, imaginative play (and cooking & cleaning!)

### **Jokes Corner**

**Joke 1** - What did the dirt say when it started to rain?

**Joke 2** - Why did the chicken run onto the football pitch?

**Joke 3** - What did the dentist say when his wife baked an apple pie?

**Joke 4** - How do you hire a horse?



*Check out the back page for the punch lines.*



**Looking for anyone happy to have any assistance with their animals:**  
If myself and daughter could assist in any way with any animals that would be great. I was brought up on a smallholding and would love to assist our daughter to have more experience looking after animals.

**Childminding:** Holly's mum, Jan, has also done childminding in the past and will be setting up doing some childminding again shortly, so if anyone is looking for a local childminder do let her know. Contact Jan, Richard & Holly on 882190 / 07504 693497

**Piano/Keyboard Lessons:**  
Qualified teacher recently moved into the area is offering lessons to anyone who's interested (Introductory lesson free then by contribution). Playing to nursery, school groups or at parties by arrangement. Contact: Liz Bell on 833630

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If you have an advert or anything else wanted or to offer please let us know on [info@craggcommunity.co.uk](mailto:info@craggcommunity.co.uk)

## CARBON NEUTRAL UPDATE

### Learning about windmills

Several people from Cragg went up to Soyland on a snowy evening in January to visit a farmer who had installed a domestic scale windmill a little over a year ago. He kindly took the group through how he had set about the process and his experience of running it over the last year. Overall it was an encouraging story and there are several households in Cragg which are looking into supplying their own renewable electricity from the wind and feeding any electricity they don't need back into the grid.





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### Help with Energy Efficient Homes

Many old Upper Calder Valley houses have solid external walls and attic bedrooms, so are hard to heat efficiently. Calderdale Council has received confirmation of a grant from central government for a Domestic Energy Efficiency Program (DEEP). This will be for a pilot project for the central Hebden Bridge and Heptonstall areas. We'll publish the results in the CVCA newsletter.

### Open day for energy efficient home

A Victorian end-terrace home in Chorlton, Manchester has been updated to reduce its carbon footprint by 81%. You

can register to attend its free spring 2011 opening days on Tuesday 29th March 4pm-7pm and Saturday 2nd April 11am-2pm and 3pm-6pm, on the Sustainable Energy Academy website (<http://www.sustainable-energyacademy.org.uk/>).

### **WEA Course on Sustainability**

The Workers Education Association (WEA) is running a 10 week course as an introduction to sustainability from April 2011. The course will cover issues like: will the world face an energy and food shortage in the coming years? can we replace all fossil fuels with renewable technologies or do we need nuclear power? climate change how can we avoid the loss of biodiversity? what could a sustainable society look like and how can local communities take part in this process? Contact Finn Jensen 01422-846863 or [finn.jensen@rocketmail.com](mailto:finn.jensen@rocketmail.com).



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### **Digital Switchover dates for our area**

Dates for the digital switchover in our area, ie, the area covered by the Emley Moor transmitter, have been announced.

BBC Two analogue will be switched off on **7th September 2011** and the remaining channels will be switched off on **21st September 2011**.

Digital channels will not be fully available to those who haven't yet got them until the second date, 21st September 2011. Freeview digital services will then be available to reach virtually all households in our area.

Any roof top aerial in good condition is capable of receiving analogue and digital TV services. You don't need to have a 'digital aerial' for switchover. If you have good analogue reception now it is unlikely you will need to replace your existing aerial.

Information about which digital options are available at any specific address is available from the Digital UK predictive postcode checker or from our advice line on 08456 50 50 50.

### **Barmy Oil Prices.**

Is anyone else shocked at the price of oil these days? Interested in getting a better deal on heating oil? We were thinking it may be a good idea to form a local syndicate? We're hoping we can muster enough support from those households in or near to Cragg to get a



group discount from the same supplier to improve the price we all receive. You don't need to be low to receive it - we're expecting a single supplier will top us up once he is in the area, but tell us the price before delivering to ensure we know what to expect. We're looking at a range of

suppliers to get the best deal - but need to know the numbers before doing so.

Please get in touch if you are interested and let Zoe know if you have any special requirements such as maximum oil litre delivery and type of vehicle access on [zoeo@talktalk.net](mailto:zoeo@talktalk.net) or tel 01422 885633 (but prefer email)

+++++

### **Want to Support Cragg Church?**

From now on, if you want to support your local church financially, you don't have to wait for the collection plate to be passed around at a Sunday service, Funeral, Christening or special event. You can opt to donate by monthly Standing Order -by arrangement with Geoffrey Mowbray, the Treasurer of St John in the Wilderness [contact 01422 882545 or email [travlinmow@talktalk.net](mailto:travlinmow@talktalk.net)].

So many parisheners give up their time to organise dinners, pantos, Open Gardens, fell race, barbecues etc but they are all random events and Geoffrey is never sure how much they will raise. You don't have to be a regular visitor to church to help, just someone who wants to know our church will always be there for them. A Standing Order is simple to set up and can be for any amount. Just think £10 a month, plus if you are a taxpayer, an extra £2.50 from the government, would be a really good way of helping our church to manage a secure and regular income.

\*\*\*\*\*

### **Joining Cragg Vale Community Association:**

If anyone is interested in getting more involved, can spare a couple of hours for monthly meetings, and fancies helping to support our community in any way then please get in touch via email at [info@craggcommunity.co.uk](mailto:info@craggcommunity.co.uk) or phone 881182

## Walking in Cragg Vale

CVCA is planning to work with Mytholmroyd Walkers Action and Calderdale Countryside Service to encourage more people to enjoy walking in the Vale.

Initially 3 walks are planned for the summer, one through the valley terminating at Little Valley Brewery. The second is in Broadhead Clough, and finally a walk visiting the places used by the notorious Cragg Coiners. The dates and more details of these walks are in the newsletter ***What's On Guide***.

All of them start at  
Mytholmroyd station  
(Manchester platform),  
further details in *Wildside*  
booklet, available shortly

If these walks are successful then maps and leaflets will be produced which, along with improved signage, will ensure the walks are brought to the attention of the wider community.

We are hoping that a member of CVCA will volunteer to become our link with Walkers Action to coordinate the planning. If you are interested in this role (3 or 4 meetings a year) please contact CVCA ([info@craggcommunity.co.uk](mailto:info@craggcommunity.co.uk))

# Benchmark Travel

## Did you know Calderdale's fastest growing Travel Agency & Tour Operator was now situated on Topland Country Business Park, Cragg Vale?

Before you book anything travel related, why not give us a call or drop in to see us and discuss travel plans over a coffee. We normally beat any of the other Travel Agent/Internet/Teletext price for any type of holiday arrangement

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## Cragg Residents PROFILES 2011!

We're lucky to have lots of special people in Cragg. Many have lived here all their lives, others have worked in Cragg or helped to organise events/clubs/societies. The aim here is to put some names to faces and for residents to find out a bit about the folk that make Cragg a special place to live!

### Hugh Morgan

Although Hugh now lives in Mytholmroyd, he spends so much time in Cragg, it's like he never left! He loves Cragg's unique location, history and wildlife.....and the Robin Hood is great for relaxation.

Hugh and his late wife June, have 2 daughters who attended Cragg School; Caroline still lives locally. Hugh has always been very much involved with Cragg church.

He was the Secretary for 25 years, churchwarden for 8 and been the church Newsletter Editor for 12 years. *[He also delivers some of them!]* On top of that he's been a member of the Church Choir and Cragg Players for over 40 years, acting in many pantomimes.

During the 1970's Hugh remembers the determination of the Parish PCC in ensuring that we maintained an independent parish, after the sale of the vicarage; even enlisting the help of Jimmy Savile with his sponsored walks. The community generously raised £18,000 to repair the Church Tower, which was in danger of separating from the main church body. Hugh's career was in engineering [he designed and sold hydraulic systems to industry], but outside work and Cragg, he was a keen hockey player and umpire and has given a lot of time to The Samaritans. Hugh was very involved with Cragg Tennis Club and he started the infamous 'Progressive Dinners' with John Stenhouse..



He is currently a director of the CVCA and wishes more local residents would get involved with activities in Cragg, believing they miss out on a lot!

## Doris Hirst

Every village needs someone like Doris in it. Having been born and bred in Cragg, there is so much Doris has been involved in; most of it for the benefit of others.

Doris went to Cragg School until she was 11 and remembers the outside toilets, the downstairs dining room, as well as the old school house that was pulled down in the 1980s. At the age of 11, Doris joined the St John's Church Choir and she still sings there to this day. During the war she was involved in a Girl's club and Church Youth Group, followed later on by amateur dramatics, music [she's a good pianist] and singing [competitions]. She been involved with so many Cragg Pantomimes, At Homes and Dinners that she's lost count!

When Doris was growing up there were 3 busy pubs and a working men's club in Cragg, along with 2 sewing factories. There were 7 shops, plus one at Dauber Bridge; a post office, cobblers shop [+ blind cobbler who worked from home], co-op and more. There was even an ice cream factory. Dock pudding was a fashionable healthy dish made in the springtime and Doris still makes and sells it. She's been the local Dock Pudding Champion too!

Doris's son John and daughter Julie live in Cragg and Doris still lives at Lower Clough Foot Farm- she ran a licensed restaurant there for 23 years! When at home she knits a lot of her jumpers and cardigans and sews.

And her final word on Cragg.....'It's a beautiful valley!'



## **Marianne Hood and Kevin Cutts**

Marianne has lived in Cragg for 31 years. Originally, Marianne lived at Owlett Hill Farm with Russell and son Zak, *[who got married last year - best mate from Cragg School, Zaal Kabouli was his best man]*, but upon marrying Kevin in 1988 she moved to Green Bank. They have a wonderful wildlife friendly mill pond from the now demolished Turvin Mill.

Marianne is currently the Company Secretary of the Cragg Vale Community Association, but in the 90s she was Chair of Merrymen Limited, set up to save the Robin Hood, when we were in real danger of losing the pub altogether. During the 80s, Marianne helped to set up a Playgroup in Cragg with the vicar's wife.

In 2010, Marianne was awarded the OBE for her services to local government.

She loves the local landscape and wonders if anyone else has noticed the acoustics across the valley. Son Zak, used to call across the valley to his school friend Sam who lived on a farm on the opposite hillside- they could usually hear one another!



**More Cragg Profiles to come in the next edition of the newsletter.**



## Spring Clean up - Volunteers needed

Spring is almost here and it's that time of year again! Time to get out in force for the Big Spring Clean and turn that litter in to cash!

Hebden Royd Town Councils annual spring clean will take place on the weekend of 9th & 10th April. Not only is this a perfect opportunity to help to make a difference in your community, but it is a great way to earn extra funds for your project or a local charity!



We're looking for volunteers (teams of youngsters will require adult supervision) to target an area and clean it up. If you have an area in mind, that's great, if not we can suggest one.

Each team (6 people) that takes part will be sponsored £60, towards your organisation or chosen charity. You may enter more than one team, subject to Council's approval.

Hebden Royd Town Council will provide bin bags, litter pickers and gloves.

We do hope you will take part in this event and invite you to contact us on [info@craggvalecommunity.co.uk](mailto:info@craggvalecommunity.co.uk) or Liz on 881182 if you have any questions or have a team, area in mind.

\*\*\*\*\*

### **Event Listing...**

Be The Change...

Be The Change is about 'Bringing Forth a Socially Just, Environmentally Sustainable and Spiritually Fulfilled Human Presence on this Planet'.

see: [www.bethechange.org.uk](http://www.bethechange.org.uk) or facebook: be the change

## What's on Guide Spring.

**Sat 12th & Sun 13th March:** 'Be The Change' Gathering at Ponden Guest House, Stanbury, Nr Haworth. The weekend will be about connecting and sharing using 'The Circle Way'. For more information contact Jan: 07504 693497 - BTCI Northern Coordinator



**Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> March** - History Group - Education in Cragg Vale - Yvonne Broadbent

**Friday 25<sup>th</sup> March** - Cragg Vale J&I School Focus Quiz Night - 7:30

**Friday 1<sup>st</sup> April and Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> April** (matinee) - Cragg Vale Variety Performance - see poster in this issue of the newsletter.

**Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> April from 10:30 or 16<sup>th</sup> April (if the weather is awful)** - Cragg Vale Tennis Club Day for all members and anyone interested in joining the club. Come and meet other members and get some practice in before matches start at the end of April. Free Coaching available and refreshments will be provided.

**Friday 11<sup>th</sup> April** from 1 - 4pm: Calder Valley Steiner Education - Easter Cafe at The St John's Centre, Cragg Vale. This is a fund-raising cafe with vegetarian food and delicious homemade cakes - half the money goes towards raising money for a school in Nepal and the other half goes to other 3rd world initiatives (through Steiner Education). Any contributions towards food most welcome & please do come and visit the cafe.

**Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> April** - Cragg Vale History group Annual Meeting and "So You Think You Know Cragg Vale?"

**Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> May** - Spaw Sunday - see information in this newsletter

**Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> May** - Cragg J&I School annual May Day Fete - with ducks, ferrets and lots lots more.

**Weds 18<sup>th</sup> May** from 2 - 4pm: Calder Valley Steiner Education - Open Day at The St John's Centre, Cragg Vale - all welcome. Come and look around - light refreshments provided. New school from age 6/7 opening in September; Kindergarten from ages 3-6 and Parent & Child groups up to age 3 - Enquires to Marilyn: 01422 885249

**Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> May** - History Group - Matches and Dispatches Revd Cllr James Allison

## Future Dates for the Diary

**Friday 3rd June 11.30am - CRAGG WALK** "Visit our Local Brewery!" (booking brewery visit essential, via HB TIC 01422843831, £3) 6 miles, medium

**Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> June 11.00am - CRAGG WALK** "Tha Magic of Broadhead Clough". 5 miles easy/medium

**Thursday June 16<sup>th</sup> - History Group Visit to Peel House, Luddenden - Clive Lloyd**

**Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> July 11am - CRAGG WALK** "The Haunts of the Cragg Vale Coiners". 7 miles, medium/hard

## Cragg Vale Local History Group

Sadly the 2010 Christmas visit to Clegg Hall, Littleborough had to be cancelled because of a change in circumstances of the owner. We are keeping a look out for any news on the situation there.



At the first meeting of 2011 in January, the 1851 census proved very interesting, it's surprising how much more can be gleaned from a census than who lived where! In February Ian Dewhirst entertained, as always, with "An Informal History of the Twentieth Century"!

### **Meetings coming up:**

March 17 <sup>th</sup> - Education in Cragg Vale	Yvonne Broadbent
April 21 <sup>st</sup> - Annual Meeting and "So You Think You Know Cragg Vale?"	
May 19 <sup>th</sup> - Matches and Despatches!	Revd Cllr James Allison
June 16 <sup>th</sup> - Visit to Peel House, Luddenden	Clive Lloyd

See posters each month in the noticeboard and the Robin Hood Inn

All welcome to the meetings: Visitors £2, subscriptions £10 for CVCA members, £12 non CVCA members, seniors and students £5

If there is a subject you'd like to see covered, or you'd like to be more involved the group, please get in touch

***Reminder to members - Subscriptions due 1<sup>st</sup> April***





1. In a game of snooker, what colour ball is worth 3 points?
2. How many keys are there on a piano?
3. What was the name of Elvis Presley's manager?



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4. In which full length cartoon are the main characters called Pongo and Perdita?
5. The field of play for which sport is often called a grid iron?
6. What animal is a Canis Lupus?

**See next page for the answers.**

**CALVAG**

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**Trivia Answers:**

1. *Green*
2. *88*
3. *Colonel Tom  
Parker*
4. *101  
Dalmations*
5. *American  
Football*
6. *A Wolf*

**ATTENTION ALL READERS!**

If you have any suggestions about content you would like to see in our newsletter or fancy writing a column for us then please get in touch with Liz on 881182 or via email [info@craggvalecommunity.co.uk](mailto:info@craggvalecommunity.co.uk)

*Joke answers:*

- 1. If this keeps up my name's going to be mud.*
- 2. Because the ref blew for a foul!*
- 3. Can I do the filling?*
- 4. Stand it on 4 bricks!*



Thanks to all those who support us and advertise in the newsletter:

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Bob Wild Grass Machinery Ltd  
Little Valley Brewery  
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Calder Valley Skip Hire

Thornber Properties  
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Eternal Beauty Studio Ltd

More support required, so if you too would like to advertise for a small fee - please get in touch with Liz - see details below.

[info@craggvalecommunity.co.uk](mailto:info@craggvalecommunity.co.uk) or 881182

Thanks to all our volunteers who help us to deliver the newsletter to you all. If you would like to help us with deliveries (only 4 times a year) please get in touch with Liz.