

# CRICH Standard

CRICH | FRITCHLEY | WHATSTANDWELL

Issue 108 | Winter 2023

[crichstandard.org](http://crichstandard.org)



**COMMUNITY CHITCHAT**  
**LOCAL AWARDS AND SPOTLIGHTS**

Issue 108 | Winter 2023

## Contents

- 2 News in brief
- 6 Green belts and green fields
- 7 A view from the boundary
- 8 National Award for Olivia Slack
- 10 The Hinderstitched Up
- 12 The Old Black Swan interview
- 14 Tors Spring - what's in a name?
- 16 Community round-up
- 22 What's on
- 24 Short story
- 26 Crich Pub Crawl - final I instalment
- 30 Schools round-up
- 33 Robins and the festive season
- 36 Quick quiz
- 37 The last word



# WELCOME

## TO THE WINTER EDITION OF CRICH STANDARD

This edition marks five years of Crich Standard!  
Wow, time flies when you are enjoying yourself

In that time we have gathered up the long-standing following of the brilliant 20 years of Crich Area Community News, found new friends and introduced new residents to the joys and benefits of living in Crich.

We've gained lots of new contributors. Thank you. The magazine is all and only about what people are prepared to write and send.

We've also attracted new advertisers. We are so grateful for your support but also appreciate the feedback from many about how good Crich Standard is and continues to be, for your businesses.

All in all, what's not to like?

Enjoy our latest edition

## Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year

Crich Standard Team

# WELCOME

---

## TO THE WINTER EDITION OF CRICH STANDARD

This edition marks five years of Crich Standard!  
Wow, time flies when you are enjoying yourself

In that time we have gathered up the long-standing following of the brilliant 20 years of Crich Area Community News, found new friends and introduced new residents to the joys and benefits of living in Crich.

We've gained lots of new contributors. Thank you. The magazine is all and only about what people are prepared to write and send.

We've also attracted new advertisers. We are so grateful for your support but also appreciate the feedback from many about how good Crich Standard is and continues to be, for your businesses.

All in all, what's not to like?

Enjoy our latest edition

*Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year*

**Crich Standard Team**

## News in brief

### Crich Calendar 2024

Treetops Hospice in Derby will be benefitting this Christmas from the sales of a limited edition Crich Calendar, produced by local photographer Jonathan Amos.

100% of the profits from every sale will be donated to Treetops Hospice, which recently was featured in filming for an episode of DIY SOS for the construction of their new children's counselling and therapy centre.

Jon is not costing his time nor taking any financial reward – the direct production costs are c£4.00 each and at a price of £8.00 per calendar there will be a minimum of £4.00 profit for Treetops Hospice.

The calendars are available from Crich Post Office, Crich Hair and Beauty or directly from Jon himself, email: [jon@jamos.co.uk](mailto:jon@jamos.co.uk)



### WI group update

September saw our scarecrow festival. Many early WI members were suffragettes and their campaigning zeal echoes in the modern WI. Current campaigns on clean rivers, awareness of neurodiversity, stem cell and organ donation, reducing plastic microfibres and stopping modern slavery are all descendants of the WI's long role in campaigning on health, environment and social justice: [thewi.org.uk/campaigns](http://thewi.org.uk/campaigns).

Now nights are long and the scarecrows seem long gone. We have donated over 20 home sewn bags to Sew Powerful to take to Zambia to give to schoolgirls on their periods. We have a newly elected committee and our thoughts turn to Christmas and the new year. As well as a party at our December meeting we are going out to Santos for a Christmas lunch, there is a county carol service and we are making gift boxes at craft. We are wreath making with the PTFA and Cancer research on 4 December.

A slow stitched bunting project will take us through the winter in preparation for our 90th birthday year in 2024. We are planning special speakers, a display, opportunities to reminisce and to examine our archives, meals out and a trip.

We are delighted to be welcoming new members from our local villages who can discover the world of the WI from local to county to national. We do coffee, we craft, we cook, we learn, we walk and we support each other. Do join us, we'd love to meet you

At 7.15pm in South Wingfield All Saints Hall on the first Tuesday of the month. Find out more on Facebook: [wisouthwingfield](https://www.facebook.com/wisouthwingfield) or contact Kate on 01773 778493 or text 07981 437888.

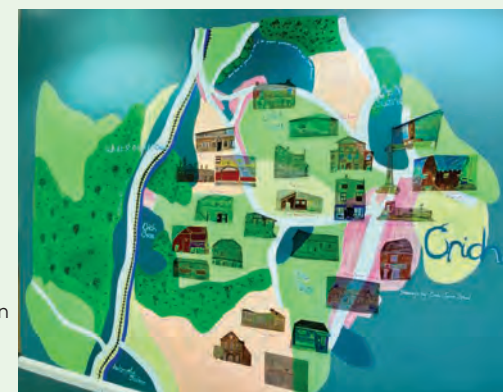
### Crich Medical Practice Art Project

In the last edition we reported that the Medical Practice was working with the Junior School to create a mural in the waiting room depicting well-known Crich landmarks.

The project, funded by the practice, has been undertaken by Michaela Haynes, an artist living in Crich who has a studio gallery in Ripley. She has been working as a part-time receptionist at the practice. Having been previously involved with art projects in schools, she saw a great opportunity to combine her interests and suggested the idea as a way for the practice to engage with the community.

Michaela initially specialised in sculpture and ceramics but has more recently focused on drawing and painting. Between 2006 and 2012 she was a technician and artist at Alfreton Grange School where she became involved in art projects with feeder schools. At that time she helped to create sculptures in the gardens of both Crich and South Wingfield junior schools.

From 2014 to 2019 she moved away to work at the Tate Gallery in St Ives, Cornwall. She then had her own exhibition at the Tate Modern in



London in 2019. She has also appeared on Sky TV's Landscape Artist of the Year programme. She has recently begun training to qualify as a teacher.

For the project at the Medical Practice, Michaela engaged with Crich Junior School to encourage the children to draw pictures of well-known buildings and landmarks in the village. These have been mounted on a mural painted on one of the walls in the main reception area. Crich Standard photographers were happy to help by providing images for the children to work from.

It is hoped that in the future similar projects will be undertaken at the South Wingfield and Holloway practices.

### Crich Village Fete

As you read this, we hope that there will have been another successful bonfire and fireworks evening. This short, but hopefully spectacular event is a key fundraiser which allows us to put on the fete each summer.

And talking of the fete, we remain sorry that we had to cancel this year's event at the last minute. However, we have now turned our attention to 2024 and already have a number of the key entertainments booked. The date for your diary is Saturday 13th July. We are confident it will be hot and sunny! 2024 is also barn-dance year! We run these popular evening events every two years in late summer.



Watch this space and our Facebook page for more information. Scan the QR code to follow us. We can also be contacted on [crichfete@gmail.com](mailto:crichfete@gmail.com).

### Waterpark – myth, legend or only a matter of time?

**At the time of writing the Crich quarry planning application for a 'giant waterpark' remains in a state of relative limbo with no response received by the County Council from the applicant to the Regulation 25 letter sent to them last June.**

DCC have granted (yet another) extension to the end of this year and understand that the detail will be provided before then. The further information requested is far reaching and will almost certainly involve material changes to the plan.

That in turn could well mean the whole project will have to go back to the beginning, meaning the start of a brand new 16-week consultation period for consultees and residents.

The Residents Opposed to Amber Rock (ROAR) group is ready to reassess whatever is proposed and recommend next steps in the process. The group encourages all residents, whether for or against any alternative plan, to get involved. Look out for notification of any new consultation and send comments into the DCC Planning website portal.

If you do want to object, also check out the ROAR Facebook page where measured and objective comments will be published to help guide residents of the issues that really count.

After a process that started with a postcard and website marketing push in early 2021, this proposal may finally reach a conclusion in the coming months.

### Well Dressing 2024

*By Sylvia Nutt on behalf of Well Dressing Core Team*

**Building on last year's successful event, the Well Dressing Core Team are preparing for a repeat in 2024!**

We've had our first open meeting, and in view of the devastating reports on British wildlife and the concern generally for the planet, we have decided that the subject for the 2024 Crich Well Dressing is 'Our World', with the theme being climate change. Each organisation involved can decide on an aspect to represent this. There are so many different subjects to choose from – trees, animals, seas, rivers... It will be wonderful to see how each group interprets this.

We already have seven groups who are willing to participate again, which is great, especially the contributions by the schools. But we'd also like to include other groups offering to make a Well Dressing, and would like to hear from anyone who thinks they might be able to take part.

We would also love more volunteers to join in with the event. It has been such a joy taking part, with friendships formed, talent and skills coming alive and a true community spirit and camaraderie.

**If you are interested and want to know more, or feel you can help in any way, please contact Trish Howard: [trishhoward143@gmail.com](mailto:trishhoward143@gmail.com), or Sylvia Nutt: [sylviajoan@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:sylviajoan@hotmail.co.uk).**

**We look forward to hearing from you!**

### Fritchley Village Hall compares well with New York's Carnegie Hall!

Well maybe that's stretching it a bit, but at a recent private event that I was lucky enough to attend at the hall, the award-winning flamenco guitarist Samuel Moore was performing, along with local jazz guitarist Jamie Taylor. Samuel had returned from playing at Carnegie Hall in New York after winning the Manhattan International Music competition and both complimented the intimate atmosphere and acoustics of playing at our hall.

You may have hopefully enjoyed (or missed) the recent Northern Soul evening. We would love to put on some other types of music performances suitable for the hall's stage, so if you have any local favourite performers or types of music that we might be able to afford to promote to use our lovely hall's special atmosphere, please get in touch.

Elaine's new Book Group launched in October and will run on Thursdays every six weeks, there may be a few places left. Also welcome to new member of the committee, Mark, who organised a litter pick around the village recently using equipment funded by the Council. Please help to keep the place spick and span by taking your litter home or using bins.

Our next event is the village Christmas tree lighting on Saturday 9 December with music, refreshments and maybe even an appearance by Santa!

The rear window repairs on the hall should by now be complete, and painted in time to protect them from the ravages of winter weather. It's not a very glamorous or obvious improvement, but we can look forward to being able to keep out the winter weather and better ventilate the place in the summer as more of the windows can be opened.

Look out for information on all the above on our social media and around the village.

**Contact us at [fritchleyvillagehall@gmail.com](mailto:fritchleyvillagehall@gmail.com) with any ideas, comments or offers of help.**

### Art in our community

Our ArtStand group of local artists and makers will be exhibiting again in 2024. We hope you enjoyed our "Artumnal" exhibition and sale of work at The Glebe in October. If you didn't come, you missed a treat! We are already planning to return to the shop at Haddon Hall Gatehouse in July, plus we may have plans for another exciting new venue! The excellent reputation of The ArtStand group is growing apace.

**If you would like more information, please contact: David Hunns, 07835 886595 email: [djhunns@gmail.com](mailto:djhunns@gmail.com)**



# Green belts and green fields

The green belt is probably one of the best-known pieces of planning rules and regulations in England – and possibly one that has had most impact on our landscape.

Green belts were established in the 1940s – there was a worry that towns and cities were spreading more and more and people living in large built-up areas wouldn't be able to get to any open areas unless there was some sort of control. This meant that areas of land round towns and cities were designated as 'green belt' and almost no development was allowed. It might not be particularly attractive land, just open land.

It's important to remember that farmland such as that in Crich Parish is not in the green belt. We have green fields – with beautiful views and lots of footpaths – but they have no protection under green belt rules. This means that sometimes developers like to apply to build on what is now farmland as it can be easier to get planning permission than in the green belt.

Some areas are called brownfield sites – these are places which have been built on before, but the buildings are either out of use or derelict. The new housing at Bullbridge is a typical brownfield site – where the Stevensons Dye Works used to be. It makes sense to re-use building land but it can be expensive if the ground had to be cleared or cleaned if, for example rubbish or chemical waste has been left from its previous use.

We can't create more land so we have to use it carefully. Green fields, green belts and brownfield sites are all part of the planning process.

# A view from the boundary

by Roger Bode

**Cricket has been propelled to new heights in the last few years with an upsurge of interest. Much of this has been down to the shorter form of the game creating exhilarating battles on the pitch in both the men's and women's games. The innovation has been terrific, with new rules to make the game more exciting, and new colourful and elaborate kits!**

Our team, skippered by yours truly, featured its usual range of ages, talents and abilities, newcomers and old hands – literally! However, everyone contributed in one way or another in spirited team performances across the season. Even wasp stings and cricket ball sized bruises couldn't sidetrack us from playing as a team right down to the last man.

Our great battle with Chatsworth, at the home of aristocracy, was a game in point, where we almost snatched defeat from the jaws of victory, and ended up tying the game! A rarity even in the professional game. Bowlers were steaming in, fielders were launching themselves, and our last pair at the wicket (one in his 70s) scrambled the two we needed for the tie. Phew!

As with the professional game we have a fair few nicknames on the pitch. We also indulge in a little sledging from time to time (no snow needed), depending on the opposition and state of the game! Thug, King of Jaipur, and That Bloke From Work #TBFW to name but a few, all turned in stellar performances. Ask me sometime and I'll explain!

So we ended our season on a high, and go into next year wishing for warm summer evenings, a chip butty or two, and a few victories of course! Our end of season dinner and awards at the Cliff Inn will round off events nicely, something I will no doubt report on in the Spring.

If you are interested in finding out more about us and even joining in please email me: [rogerbode64@gmail.com](mailto:rogerbode64@gmail.com)

# National award for Olivia Slack at Crich Butchers

by Tony Mills

In a glittering award ceremony at The Royal Lancaster Hotel in London on Friday 17 November Olivia (Liv) Slack received a Women in Meat National Award in the Independent Retail category. Presented by TV personality Jennie Bond, this is a long standing and national award scheme recognising the importance and value of women in the meat industry. Other awards were presented to leaders in the industry from all parts of the supply chain.

Liv was joined at the event by her partner Andy and Crich Butchers owner Jake Fleetwood and partner Janet, for an incredibly well deserved but perhaps also surprising achievement. Surprising as Liv was easily the youngest and least experienced of the six shortlisted for the award, being a part time member of the Crich Butchers team. But deserved for so many reasons that I found out when talking with Liv before the results were announced.

Image © Meat Management Magazine



We first saw Liv in Crich when she took up a part time post in May 2022 by which time she had already completed a level 2 apprentice course that was duly passed with excellence in November 2021. This has enabled her to continue studies whilst working 'hands on' and is now expecting to complete level 3 extended butchery, by June next year. This is not quite enough for Liv though so she is also training in management, first aid, food training supervision, food hygiene and health and safety. Already impressed? It turns out that this is almost the tip of the iceberg!

Liv, who is 25, was born and raised on a dairy and sheep farm where she was involved with lambing at the age of 13. After school, a time away from home and early experience working part-time for a butcher in Hope Valley, Liv moved to Chesterfield with Andy and started their own farm. That enterprise now has over 400 sheep and 100 cattle on a 250 acre own tenancy farm, combined with their agricultural contracting business.

Like many with a rural background, Liv spent 10 years in Young Farmers, competing in cookery competitions, tug of war and after dinner speaking. Though it sounds the most surprising of all, the public speaking is a family trait, going back as far as grandpa and also enjoyed by three siblings!



*"Liv works extremely hard in all that she does, juggling farming and all that brings, with studying and always getting top marks; whilst being an important member of the Crich Butchers team constantly bringing new ideas to my business. Liv is a force to be reckoned with, who knows how much she will achieve."*

This all sounds like an amazing amount of work requiring reservoirs of drive and determination to deal with practical, emotional and financial challenges but clearly Liv is up to the job. Liv was nominated for the award by Jake at Crich Butchers and I'll leave him to explain why the recognition she has received is so clearly deserved.



# The Hindersitched Up!

## – a test of grit, determination and thirst

by David "Ozzy" Unsworth

In 2018 during one of the many Friday night 'planning sessions' in The Cliff; the Whatstandwell Social Club were considering ideas to augment the calendar of events beyond the already successful Whatstandwell Festival, village litter picks, Open Gardens and Winter Gathering.

The brainstorming session was rapidly deteriorating as the evening progressed and the empties filled the table.

As usual little could be agreed upon.

A beetle drive? Only one of us owned a VW and we were not aware of many others in the village who might have one. One of our older members told us we were idiots. Bring back the duck race! No go due to the potential plastics pollution of the Derwent. Whatstandwell v Crich 'It's a Knockout' – too ambitious but still on the table...

Ideas had dried up or were becoming even more outlandish when one of the members

eventually turned up for the meeting:

*"Where have you been, we started ages ago?"*

*"Had to have my tea and then walk up the hill"*

*"Good grief – how long does it take you to eat your tea?"*

*"It's not eating my tea that takes the time – it's getting up that hill!"*

*"Get out of it – it's only a brisk ten-minute walk from the bottom if you're thirsty!"*

*"As if! You can't get up here in ten minutes"*

As the argument ensued regarding how long it took each of us to walk up the hill and how this is impacted by thirst, somebody in the group, who was somehow still on task, managed to join the dots.

*"How about a short uphill race from The Family Tree to The Cliff?" BINGO!!*

After some toing and froing the concept of a 'fun' time trial format event was created and seemed to tick a lot of boxes – no other events like it in the area, it connected two of our village trading establishments, took place through the village hopefully attracting supporters, was relatively safe with no large numbers charging up the hill in one big pack, a good challenge open to all abilities, everyone could set their own PBs and thirsts could be quenched at the finish courtesy of The Cliff. Perfect.

*"How about a short uphill race from The Family Tree to The Cliff?" BINGO!!*

...and so the first 'Hindersitched Up' (HUP) was born and took place in September 2018 with an ambition to make it a fun but challenging annual event open to all abilities. Since then the HUP has been run four times – unfortunately 2020 and 2021 falling foul of COVID restrictions.

The course from the Family Tree to The Cliff via Hindersitch Lane (a renowned steep hill often visited by running and cycling clubs for a challenge) is 1.15 miles in length and rises 456 feet with sections as steep as 1 in 8. For those who have the energy to take in their surroundings the route offers some spectacular views up the Derwent valley and if a rest is required a quick sit down to soak up the view on Coddington bench will make it all worthwhile.

Since 2018 the male course record has been set three times and is currently being held at 8 minutes and 2 seconds by Chris Sleath. The female course record has been set twice with a fantastic new time this year of 8 minutes and 56 seconds by Alice Wright.

However – for the mere mortals amongst us, typical good running and walking times are around 12 and 17 minutes respectively.

The event attracts runners, walkers, pram pushers, dog walkers etc – and has rewards across a number of categories – seniors, vets, first Whatstandwellian and juniors. The prestigious, but annoying to dust for a year, CBA Award (Could Be Anyone) was introduced in 2019 and is for participants of note, special grit, determination and effort on the day. The 2023 CBA was awarded to Stan Tomlinson who is always first in supporting village initiatives –

this year making sure he turned up early at the start to fit the HUP into his longer weekend run; whilst also being able to get to The Cliff for the start of the rugby. Stan did a great time up the hill and was there for KO!

Also worthy of note this year were the Matlock Athletic Club contingent turning up after already participating in (and winning) other events on the day. Thanks for the support!

The HUP is purely looked after and managed by volunteers and thanks go out to all the marshals and members of the WSC who make the event possible and as ever thank you to both The Family Tree and The Cliff for hosting the start and finish.

**The next HUP will be in September 2024 when we would love to see as many people as possible either participating or supporting this friendly fun event – so please keep an eye on the WSC Facebook page and website for the dates of this and other events.**



Stan (left) being awarded the 2023 CBA

# THE OLD BLACK SWAN INTERVIEW

by Claire Ganthony

**Rob and Emma Collyer took over the licence of The Old Black Swan in Crich in August. I chatted with Emma about how it's going and their future plans for the pub.**

## Why did you decide to take on the licence of the Old Black Swan?

Prior to taking on the pub, Rob was regularly working 85 hours per week. We work really well as a team and we wanted to look for an opportunity to do something together as a family. We thought long and hard about it as we knew it would be a challenge and wanted to be sure we could rise to it before committing. Hard work doesn't faze us, and we both feel strongly about doing something for the community. Rob has a background in leisure and we've both been involved in planning and running events, so we knew we had the skills needed to make the business a success. We wanted to help keep the pub going as it's such an important asset for the village.

## What have you enjoyed so far about the role?

I love people and running the pub means I get to meet and chat with so many people from different walks of life every day. I learn something new from the conversations I have, and no two days are the same. I especially enjoy the chats with our regulars, who have been so warm and welcoming to us. We really feel strongly that the pub belongs to our customers, and we try and listen and take on board the opinions of those who visit us regularly, as well as the views of new customers too. We also both love making new furry friends and enjoy meeting the dogs who visit us with their owners.

## Have you encountered any difficulties?

Moving house, starting a new business, and getting ready to open within two days of taking over the licence during the summer holidays with our three girls to look after was a real challenge. Looking back, I'm amazed we did it, but it was also a really positive time, with staff and friends all pulling together to get us ready. There is more structural building work to be done with the Cygnet Room (barn off the garden area) than we anticipated but we hope to be able to get that underway soon.



## What does the Old Black Swan have to offer?

As well as a well-stocked bar, we offer hot drinks and hot and cold snacks too. We have a roaring fire for the colder months and a courtyard and garden to enjoy in the warmer weather. We show major sporting events such as the Women's World Cup and the Ryder cup on the screens in the bar and have regular Sky Sports events on offer. We have two quiz nights: a Wednesday night league for serious quizzers and a fun Sunday night quiz, which always has a great atmosphere. We also have a darts team and dominoes night on a Wednesday and a record club meets every second Wednesday of the month.

## What are you looking forward to?

Getting the kitchen back in place and looking for a cook to be able to start serving high quality traditional pub grub. We're aiming for this to be around Christmastime but know that

things don't always go to plan. We are working hard to get up and running with it though as we know it's something the community are really keen for us to offer. I'm looking forward to Christmas and getting the pub decked out for the festive season. We will also be reopening The Trough Bar in the courtyard for parties and live music. We plan to have this open for New Year's Eve. As well as having a darts board in there, we plan to also have a pool table. When work is completed on The Cygnet Room we'll hire this out for functions and hope to hold community events in there too. Mostly we're looking forward to providing the local community with a traditional pub that's at the heart of village life.

Follow The Old Black Swan on  
Facebook, TikTok and Instagram  
for all their latest news and events.

# WHAT'S IN A NAME?

*Tors Spring – David Billyeald, in conversation with Stephen Woolley*

**Newcomers to Crich may not appreciate that the apparently pastoral name of 'Tors Spring', just off the Common, is a gentle nod to a former significant local industry and employer.**

Tors Spring Company Ltd was first established around 1961 by Fritchley father and son Cyril and Paul Vardy, and Paul's friend Jeff Sanders. Paul and Jeff had worked at Lichfield Brothers Springs next to the Fisherman's Rest pub nearer Belper. Indeed, it was there that I completed my own apprenticeship in 1968.

The company first operated from the old cinema building further up the Common, expanding to include the old Chapel on Sun Lane. All production moved in 1972/3 to a new factory on what is now Tors Spring, and the old farmhouse and two barns there became used for storage.

I knew Jeff through my parents and had asked if he had a job. He did, and I started in Crich in 1968 as tool maker.

From the outset, one of my important jobs was to use the van each morning to visit our outworkers. These ladies in Crich used hand operated equipment in their homes, and I would collect the previous day's production, and deliver new wire for that day. Our wire came from Birmingham, strangely cheaper than buying from Johnson and Nephew on our doorstep at Ambergate.



The work was very precise and demanded high skills. Our customers included many nationally based companies including Lucas Industries; Imperial Typewriters; the GPO for delicate telephone and exchange equipment; and Hotpoint, to name but a few. All had the need for metal springs to operate in a precise and consistent way over a prolonged period. For the GPO exchanges, we used gold wire for heightened conductivity.

In our heyday we employed upwards of 100 local people, mostly ladies; and we even had a manufacturing partner in Turkey, we being prominent member of a well-recognised Spring Research organisation. We were very much a family, and I well recall annual day trips to Blackpool by bus, all paid for by the owners, where we had a splendid lunch at the Queens Hotel, always pausing for further liquid refreshment at a pub en-route home. Sadly, a change in drivers' regulations brought an end to this when the firm had to pay for two drivers rather than one for the lengthy journey.

Another happy annual occasion was the Christmas 'break up' party at the Sun Inn. Other than Blackpool, we didn't seem to stray

far from the Common! Our preponderance of young ladies proved an attraction to the young men of the village and assisted the copious consumption of much fine ale from the landlord's well-kept rock cellars.

As we progressed towards and through the 'nineties, the ownership of the company changed; I became Technical Director; and we embraced new CNC technology which unavoidably but substantially reduced the workforce and the need for homeworkers. The Tors Spring site became too large, and was sold for the small residential development now there, the barns and farm returning to domestic use. The factory moved briefly to Alfreton, before closing down in 2002.

*"...I well recall annual day trips to Blackpool by bus, all paid for by the owners..."*



**I am sure I am not the only one with many fond memories of our close-knit working community of those days.**



## Community round-up

### JKB Productions presents: Ladderworld meets Robin Hood

by Jim and Kate Baker

Ladderworld the Musical was first performed to audiences at the Glebe and The Arkwright Hall in Holbrook during December 2021. This completely original show was written by Jim and Kate Baker, who live in Crich, and was performed by their company JKB Productions.

Ladderworld was written for children as a fantasy story; it shared the adventures of Jack, a boy who climbed a golden ladder and met Santa Claus, his elves and reindeers, including Rudolf! He also met Jill, who had climbed up the ladder too, and together they used magic to rescue Rudolf, Bushey (the chief elf) and the MTM (Magic Toy Machine which makes toys for children at Christmas) from the evil goblins. The story ended well, with Santa's sleigh ready to leave for Realworld, so that children would get their toys on Christmas day.

So, how does Ladderworld meet Robin Hood and his band? Will the evil Sheriff be at Nottingham Castle? What happens to Jack and Jill? Will Rudolf's shiny nose find the way? What about the Christmas puds?



To find out, come and see Ladderworld meets Robin Hood, a sequel featuring 16 new songs with a live band. Many members of JKB live locally and will appreciate your support as a community.

#### PERFORMANCES:

Holbrook – Saturday 2 December, 6.30pm  
and Crich – Saturday 9 December, 6.30pm

Tickets are on sale from:  
[www.ticketsource/jkb-productions](http://www.ticketsource/jkb-productions)  
or from the Glebe Mon-Thurs 9–5pm  
(for Glebe performance only).  
Or you can scan this QR code:



**Jim & Kate will also be at The Glebe on Saturday 16 December as part of the band Retro, playing hits from the 50s,60s,70s. ALL proceeds will be used to support Crich Youth Club. Tickets and further information are available as above.**

## Volunteer Spotlight

by Gwen Roe

We are so lucky to have a parish full of people willing to get involved and provide help and support to enable a huge range of groups, activities, clubs, networks and much more to thrive. The impact of volunteers on a community cannot be underestimated; and volunteering has a positive effect on those who benefit directly and often on the volunteers themselves.

**We thought we should shine a light on some of those volunteers as they often go unnoticed and unthanked for all their efforts:**

Sharlene Lievesley has been one of the driving forces behind the All About Women group and The Starlight Club, both of which meet at the Glebe. The Women's Group meets on the last Wednesday of every month from 7.00 – 9.00pm. All women are welcome. Sharlene initially set up a Facebook group called PMP Perimenopause and Menopause and Post-menopause support group over a year ago so she could help other women. But after a chat with the management of the Glebe, it was agreed it was a much-needed group, but not just for menopausal women but all women. We'd like to thank trustees and management of the Glebe charity for supporting this new wellbeing group.

Sharlene says: "I knew my mind and body were going through some changes and I found it very hard. So, I thought it would be good to get together with other women experiencing the menopause so we can support each other in this chapter of our lives. It's a hard subject to discuss, but if I can help just one other person feel that they're not alone, it's worth it".

***"It's a hard subject to discuss, but if I can help just one person feel that they're not alone, it's worth it."***



The All About Women group is run by Trish Howard, Dawn Harper, Sharlene Lievesley and Marie Whittaker and offers an evening of speakers and informal chat and support for each other with whatever life throws at us.

You'd think that was enough for Sharlene but, no, she's also been very involved in the setting up of the Starlight Club – a social club for young adults with learning difficulties who meet every four weeks on a Wednesday night. Once again, Sharlene has come to this through her own personal experience: her son Daniel has learning difficulties and that makes him vulnerable. She says that people can be mean, and she and Daniel have both experienced that. She wanted him to be able to go somewhere where he can meet others and make friends in a safe environment. That wasn't available so she and a few others with like minds have made it happen for Daniel and others who value a safe place to just have a good time. At the Starlight Club there is a disco, as well as pub games, such as pool and table football.

Sharlene says she has never done anything like either of these things before – maybe the menopause has had some positive effects on her! Sharlene has recently found enjoyment in watercolour painting and poetry too. Sharlene wanted to pass on her thanks to Gwen in return: "I would like to say thank you to Gwen for all her support. We couldn't have got Starlight Club up and running without her, she is one of the best and most hard-working volunteers in Crich; she puts everything into the community".

## Community round-up

### Befrienders Needed!

Derbyshire Carers Association (DCA) is looking for enthusiastic volunteers

Hello, my name is Rachel, I am the Telephone Befriending Project Worker for Derbyshire Carers Association based in Ripley.

Our telephone befrienders support our unpaid carers in Derbyshire.

Caring for someone can be a lonely experience, particularly for those without a network of support from family and friends to share the responsibility.

Befrienders provide a regular phone call, once a week to a carer and there are no qualifications needed, just the willingness to listen and be patient. This service relies on volunteers and calls can be made from your own home.

If you feel you could make a difference, or know someone who would be interested in volunteering, provide a listening ear and a friendly voice to a carer, and would like to know more about becoming a befriender please contact:

Rachel on: 01773 833833 or email: [info@derbyshirecarers.co.uk](mailto:info@derbyshirecarers.co.uk) – it would be lovely to hear from you! Please scan the QR code for more information or you can also visit [www.derbyshirecarers.co.uk](http://www.derbyshirecarers.co.uk)



## CRICH LIVE

### Crich Live Update!

by Roger Bode, Promoter

Our 2023/2024 season is in full flow, so we hope you have been able to come along and see a show in the last couple of months. If not, we hope to welcome you soon!

Being able to walk to a venue, or take a short drive, is a big plus when considering going out these days. And what better way to reduce costs, and use of a vehicle, than by supporting your local venue, and Crich Live, whilst being entertained by some amazing artists and shows.

As we approach the festive season we are delighted to bring you a spectacular Christmas show, featuring The Mellstock Band, on Saturday 2 December. Do not miss this one, as it is guaranteed to get you in the Christmas mood!

We will be taking you into the New Year with some equally exciting and varied shows. Here's a reminder of what we have confirmed so far. However, do look out for offerings in January and March! Check out our website: [crichlive.org](http://crichlive.org) for further details, and to sign up to our mailing list to ensure you're the first to get news of future shows.

Remember we have a bar at each show, and hold a raffle with some great prizes, including being able to win tickets to a future show.

**Our confirmed shows are:**

**Saturday 2 December**

**'The Mellstock Band at Christmas'**

**Saturday 10 February**

**Cantaloop – 'Whichever, Wherever, Whenever!'**

**Saturday 27 April**

**Ruth Angell – 'Hlywing'**

All shows at 7.30pm

at the Crich Glebe Community Centre.

Further details on the shows are in the What's On section.

## Great nights at Starlight

by Sharlene Lievesley

Over the last few months, you may have heard the DJ, seen the disco lights or enjoyed the smell of fried onions and burgers at the Crich Glebe Community Centre – that's because there's a new club night in town!

Every fourth Wednesday, members of the Starlight Social Club gather for a night of chatting, dancing and socialising. The club is open to anyone 18+ who has additional needs, including autism and learning disabilities.

There's something for everyone, including a professional disco, games area and chill-out zone. If you fancy your skills off the dance floor, then there's a pool table and air hockey to enjoy.

Bring a friend or carer, or come alone and make some new pals. Admission is just £5 per person, free for carers. Your entry includes a ticket for our raffle, so cross your fingers that you bag one of the brilliant prizes. Every month we have a licensed bar at the club and a food van in the car park (this is open to all in the village, and a portion of profits go to help the Starlight Club).

But don't take my word for how much fun we have – here is what some of our members say:

*"The people were friendly... I enjoyed the disco, had a few drinks at the bar, played a bit of pool and I won a raffle prize."*

*"I like the food and disco and making new friends."*

The last meeting for 2023 will be 6 December, 7pm 'til late. Then we're back on 31 January.

Interested in coming along? If so, please contact one of the team on Facebook (find us at: [bit.ly/starlightcrich](https://bit.ly/starlightcrich)) or call the Crich Glebe Community Centre and leave us a message (01773 857894).

We're always looking for volunteers to come and join the fun too. Get in touch as above. Lastly, if you're a local business or villager who'd like to donate a prize for the raffle or to support the club with a donation, let us know.

Or if you'd like to donate directly, our bank details are 'Starlight Club', account no: 42123453, sort code: 60-40-09

## Crich Wesley Methodist Church

by Gwen Roe

Crich Wesley Methodist Church is on Chapel Lane and was built in local stone in 1765; for Christian worship on the edge of what was then a real common. It is the oldest Methodist church in Derbyshire still being used for its original purpose and we believe it to be the second oldest in the country. John Wesley preached there twice – his horse was stabled in what is now the kitchen!

We are a small congregation, but a warm welcome is extended to all who participate in our activities and all are welcome to join us for worship, friendship and fellowship.

### REGULAR ACTIVITIES:

#### Sunday

8.00am – Holy Communion with Rev Jim Gray

3.00pm – Service worship  
– ordained and lay people

3rd Sunday of the month – 9.30am  
Family Café church

#### Monday

9.00am – Prayer meeting  
(at 16 Culland View)

#### Tuesday

3rd Tuesday of the month – 2.00pm  
– Healing prayer service

#### Wednesday

Alternate Wednesdays – 2.00pm  
– Muddle Along (knitting and craft)

#### Friday

9.30am – Pop Along for children 0-3 years accompanied by an adult (term time only)  
2nd Friday in the month – 2.00pm – Come Along/Singalong. For people coping with dementia, their carers and friends. Local musicians entertain, followed by tea, cakes and chat.

## Grow Outside

Here at Grow Outside CIC we have been looking at new ways to reach out and encourage more people to feel inspired by nature. Whether you have just a few minutes, or more time to follow your passions, we have a new offer to suit you.

Plus, every order placed supports our vital community work, as well as helping to support you, your wellbeing and your lifestyle. Options include our new full Grow Together Membership, where for just £60 per year (that's only £5 per month) you will enjoy personalised guidance towards your own slow living journey, plus a complimentary copy of our new slow living calendar (worth £12) and a voucher to one of our 2024 wreath making workshops (worth £45).

Our seasonal slow living calendar is also available to purchase separately for £12. Each month includes activity ideas, exclusive recipes or journal prompts to help you design the seasonal lifestyle you truly want to live by helping you plan your activities and reflect on your monthly goals.

If you'd like to come and see us at the garden, or closer to home in Fritchley, we have our upcoming 2023 wreath making workshops now live for booking! See What's On for dates.

Speaking of Christmas, if you're looking for a unique and special gift (or a treat for yourself to look forward to spring) we have a very limited number of cut flower subscriptions available to start in May 2024. The flowers are grown at our Butterley site by the team, including our wonderful volunteers, using zero chemicals, regenerative horticulture practices and sustainable materials and packaging.

Find out more at [growoutside.co.uk](http://growoutside.co.uk) or get in touch by emailing: [hello@growoutside.co.uk](mailto:hello@growoutside.co.uk)

## Youth Club Update

We are so proud to announce that Crich Youth Club has just celebrated its second birthday. Like many parents or guardians, we regularly check in on the progress of our youngling to make sure it's reaching the correct developmental milestones.

**Here's what Dr Google suggested a two-year-old should be doing:**

*"By the age of 2, your toddler is talking, walking, climbing, jumping, running and bustling with energy. Your child now has a growing vocabulary and acquires new words on a regular basis. She/he can also sort shapes and colours."*

So, let's see how our youth club is getting on with regards to each of these milestones...

### Talking (and developing a growing vocabulary)

Youth club staff and volunteers are a mix of youth workers, parents, grandparents, workers in social care and therapy. This provides our members with several trusted adults to chat to about their accomplishments and concerns. In the last two years, we have joined our members in celebrating birthdays, exam results, new love interests, schools, and friendships. We've also been on hand to console those who needed support through friendship and family challenges, exam nerves and breakups. The youth club is meeting its talking milestone whilst also providing a listening ear, empathy and advice where requested. We've also proudly noticed how much members are supporting each other too. Some know each other from school, others have met at youth club, either way, they are regularly huddled in groups forming bonds, building friendships and supporting those in need of advice.



### Walking, climbing, jumping, running and bustling with energy

Oh yes, the youth club is full of energy! Each week, our members get together to engage in games such as pool, table tennis, basketball and Wii sports, alongside organised team games. The Glebe is crammed full of energetic activities for our members to release some of the stresses of a school day or simply learn new physical skills.

### She/he can sort shapes and colours

We've met this milestone well and not just with the regular games of Uno! When not feeling energetic, our members spend time crafting or playing board games. Over the last two years members have had the opportunity to learn many new skills: stained glass making, sugar crafting, origami, diamond art, scratch art and jewellery making to name a few. We're currently working with a local artist to create a joint piece of street artwork with some of our grant funding – a new experience for all members.

I think we can safely say, our two-year-old Youth Club is meeting all its milestones and we're looking forward to further development and growth over the coming year.

Thank you to everyone who has supported us over the last two years – we really appreciate it.

# What's on

Below are the events scheduled at time of going to press.

## DECEMBER

### GROW OUTSIDE FESTIVE WREATH MAKING WORKSHOP

**Friday 1 December (7-9pm) and  
Saturday 9 December (10am-12pm)**

**Fritchley Village Hall**

All (locally sourced) materials provided. £40pp. Mulled wine, refreshments and festive treats included.

For more info and to book email:  
hello@growoutside.co.uk or call:  
07960 249816

### CRICH LIVE – THE MELLSTOCK BAND AT CHRISTMAS

**Saturday 2 December, 7.30pm**

**Crich Glebe Community Centre**

From the West Country to Crich! Brought to you by this multi-talented group, this delightful evening will get you in the Christmas spirit with sounds and images of midnight carollers, mummers, wassailing, dancing and making merry! Book early!

Tickets available at  
[www.ticketsource.co.uk/crichlive](http://www.ticketsource.co.uk/crichlive)

### FRITCHLEY VILLAGE CHRISTMAS TREE LIGHTING

**Saturday 9 December**

**Fritchley**

Tree light switch on with music, refreshments and maybe even an appearance by Santa!

### LADDERWORLD MEETS ROBIN HOOD

**Saturday 9 December, 6.30pm**

**Crich Glebe Community Centre**

A musical for children and adults with original songs and a live band.

Tickets are on sale from:  
[www.ticketsource.co.uk/jkb-productions](http://www.ticketsource.co.uk/jkb-productions) or from  
the Glebe Mon-Thurs 9-5pm.

### CHRISTMAS DANCE AT THE GLEBE

**Saturday 16 December, 7.45pm**

**Crich Glebe Community Centre**

"RETRO" is a five-piece band playing classic hits from the 50's, 60's & 70's. A great evening full of nostalgia and fun and help to support the local community! All proceeds are in support of Crich Youth Club.

Tickets are on sale from:  
[www.ticketsource.co.uk/jkb-productions](http://www.ticketsource.co.uk/jkb-productions)

### CHRISTMAS CAROL SERVICE AND AFTERNOON TEA

**Sunday 17 December, 3.00pm**

**Crich Methodist Church**

Christmas Carol Service, followed by afternoon tea.



FESTIVE WREATH MAKING

## JANUARY

### CRICH HERITAGE - PESTILENCE, INTRIGUE AND MURDER WITH IAN MORGAN

**Thursday 25 January, 7.30pm**

**Crich Glebe Community Centre**

The plague feared by all. Derbyshire had its fair share without a doubt. Imagine the hopelessness of being caught up in a plague and find out how the people coped not only with illness but with murder and intrigue as well. This trip through time brings back to life those bygone days when Kingdoms were won and history was changed simply by surviving.

Admission for non-members: £3

## FEBRUARY

### CRICH LIVE – CANTALOOP

**Saturday 10 February, 7.30pm**

**Crich Glebe Community Centre**

'Whichever, Wherever, Whenever!'. This West Midlands feel good funk band bring their unique blend of 'Ol' Skool, New Flavour' music to Crich.

Tickets available at [www.ticketsource.co.uk/crichlive](http://www.ticketsource.co.uk/crichlive)

### CRICH HERITAGE - MORLESTAN WITH ROBERT MEE

**Thursday 22 February, 7.30pm**

**Crich Glebe Community Centre**

South East Derbyshire before the Norman Conquest: the administrative and landscape history of the early medieval period.

Admission for non-members: £3



THE MELLSTOCK BAND

## ST MARY'S CHURCH THROUGHOUT DECEMBER

**Sunday 3 December at 4.00pm**

Christingle Service

– lead by Lynn Penson and team

**Sunday 17 December at 6.30pm**

Service of Nine Lessons and Carols

– lead by Martyn Offord and team

**Thursday 21 December at 7.00pm**

Carols round the Tree in the Market Place

– lead by Martyn Offord and team

**Sunday 24 December at 10.00am**

Holy Communion lead by Ven. Andie Brown

**Sunday 24 December 24 at 4.00pm**

Crib Service lead by Lynn Penson and team

**Monday 25 December at 10.00am**

Christmas Day Service

– lead by Archdeacon Karen

**Sunday 31 December at 10.00am**

Morning Service – lead by Lynn Penson

Look out for special events and check for any changes: <https://www.achurchnearyou.com/church/13152/>

# Was it here or there?

Della awakens to the radar sound of her alarm. It's 4am and the ceiling fan barely cools the remnants of the oppressive New York night. She showers, dons the garishly coloured polo shirt she is required to wear at work, gulps down a glass of bottled water.

Before she leaves, she feeds the pair of mourning doves which inhabit her kitchen window sill with grain she can ill afford to buy; they cease their tapping on the grill outside and tuck in.

She runs down the four flights of worn marble stairs that lead to the battered front door of her pre-war apartment block, steps over the vagrant who is lodged in the door recess and heads for the subway. Concrete surrounds her on three sides and the residual heat from the last months' sun cocoons her slim form as she heads for the subway. It's only 4.30 but she chooses her carriage carefully as several are occupied by what appear to be bundles of clothes but which move slightly as the grinding carriage doors open and shut.

Della finds today's Wordle on her phone and settles down to hopefully avoid eye contact

with anyone. At Union Square she leaves the subway thankfully able to take a deep breath again even though the air is still tainted by refuse and last night's takeaway packages. She enters the store and heads for the basement where the staff room is. It already stinks of dope and the unwashed bodies of the night shift. The shop floor is a cacophony of harsh New Jersey voices and rap music which immediately set her nerves on edge but Della heads over to the management station hoping she's been assigned to the freezers where there might at least be a chance of a chill blast.

"Della, please get over to the flowers ASAP, we got sunflowers today and they gotta go quickly." "Sure" she replies and heads to where a dozen cardboard boxes await her attention. The golden brightness of the sunflowers lifts her mood temporarily and she almost enjoys constructing the pyramid display of which she feels proud.

8am and the doors open; commuters rush in for the pre-prepared salad boxes and the homeless and hopeless drift in hoping for a freebie from the demonstration stand and a

quick shoplift when the dilatory security men are otherwise engaged. Della reluctantly takes her place at the checkout where she is not only required to retrieve the customers' shopping from their trolley but she is also supposed to pack it to their specific orders in numerous carrier bags. She rarely gets thanked for this but sees it as her lot.

After about an hour, her name is called over the tannoy: "Della, to the front door please". Always relieved to leave the checkout behind she heads over to the bustling entrance area. An old lady with a guide dog is standing and 'looking' round. "Della, this lady needs help with her shopping. See to it please". "Hi" Della says "how are you today?" "I'm very well thank you" replies the lady in an accent more Manchester than Manhattan. "Would you mind helping me please?" Della, the English lady and her guide dog trawl the store for a small list of essentials, and Della takes her time - this is a real break from the repetitive humdrum of everyday store life and she is enjoying watching the guide dog snaffle treats from the lower shelves and the comforting phrases and intonations of the

lady's conversation. She checks the lady out and packs her small tapestry bag. Afterwards she escorts her to the entrance and asks where she is heading: "oh somewhere and nowhere my dear" she replies. "Wait one moment" Della says "I'll get you across the square. Just let me let my supervisor know" "You are a sweetheart" the old lady says and plants a kiss on Della's cheek - the old lady's skin as soft as a marshmallow. A few seconds later, Della returns to see the old lady across the several lanes of erratic traffic in Union Square but she's gone. She couldn't have got very far in that time and Della searches the park benches and shop doorways for the lady and her dog but they appear to have evaporated.

Della returns to the restroom at the store and takes her mobile from her rucksack. There's a message from her mum in England. She returns the call to learn that her grandmother died an hour or so ago, "Della I'm so sorry you missed her" her mother weeps. "Maybe I didn't" Della smiles to herself.

# CRICH PARISH PICTORIAL *Pub Crawl*

BY CLAIRE GANTHONY  
& PAT LESTER

IN THIS FINAL INSTALMENT OF OUR PICTORIAL PUB CRAWL WE CONTINUE UP BOWNS HILL FROM THE SWANS TO CRICH CROSS, THERE'S A SHORT DETOUR DOWN ROES LANE BEFORE WE HEAD UP CROMFORD ROAD REACHING TOWN END.



## THE JOVIAL DUTCHMAN

Our first stop is at the Jovial Dutchman by Crich cross.

Originally built in 1830, The Jovial Dutchman is situated at the junction of Bowns Hill and Cromford Road. The pub closed in 2009, and was a holiday let for some years before opening as Jovial Lodge therapeutic residential rehabilitative service in 2019. The pub originally had a thatched roof as shown above.



Seen here with Belgian refugees posing in front of Crich cross during World War I. It was thought to have been popular with the 'Navvies' working on the Cromford canal and was the lodge/meeting rooms for the 'Bufs', the royal antediluvian order of the Buffaloes, one of the largest fraternal movements and a charitable organisation.



*The Royal antediluvian order of the Buffaloes outside their lodge, The Jovial Dutchman.*

## THE GREYHOUND

From the Cross, we pop down Roes Lane to The Greyhound

The Greyhound, now demolished, was sited across from what is now known as Ebenezer house (formerly a chapel, then a joinery business). Built sometime prior to 1846, it was run by the Roe family. It is believed that this is where the name Roes Lane originated.

Coursing (hunting game animals, such as hares, with greyhounds using sight rather than scent) was thought to have taken place near its location.



## THE WHEATSHEAF

Now we head back to Crich cross and up Cromford Road towards St. Mary's Church.

The Wheatsheaf, Wheatsheaf Lane just off Cromford Road, built in 1840.

George Stephenson was reported to have stayed here and entertained guests whilst overseeing the construction of his mineral railway between Cliff quarry and the lime kilns at Ambergate. Owned by Hardy's brewery, the small building across from the main entrance (left) was where they brewed the beer for the pub. Barrels were rolled through the archway on the right and into the cellar. It was known as a Poacher's pub, opening early in the morning for poachers returning from the fields. The small cottage attached to the building as you head up Cromford Road (now part of the house) was known as Honeymoon Cottage and it is said couples would marry at St Mary's Church, then celebrate with their guests at The Wheatsheaf before spending their first night together as a married couple at Honeymoon Cottage. The Wheatsheaf closed as a Public House in 1921 and the deeds state it can never be one again! It is now a private dwelling.





## MORE PUBS *This Way*

4

### THE BULLS HEAD

Further up Cromford Road, past St Mary's Church, we come to The Bulls Head.

Bulls Head, Cromford Road. Built sometime prior to 1851 and closed in 1955. It is recorded as owned by Hardy's brewery in 1891. The pub was used as changing rooms by the Crich Rangers football team. It was also a pick-up point for coaches travelling to Nottingham, Matlock, Buxton and Manchester. There were stables to the rear.



### RED LION

5

As we reach Town End, we make another detour, this time through the gates of Crich Tramway Museum to The Red Lion.

Originally located opposite the Potteries tram depot in Stoke on Trent, the Red Lion was demolished in the 1970s, but was carefully taken down brick by brick by members of the Tramway Society and rebuilt at its current site at Crich Tramway as part of the museum's street scene. Internally, the bar came from the recreation bar at Nottingham prison. Opened in 2002, it offers snacks and hot and cold beverages, including real ales to museum visitors.



6

### THE CLIFF INN

For our final stop, we dip down Leashaw towards Holloway for a last tipple at The Cliff Inn

Sited near to Crich Tramway village and the now disused Cliff quarry. Another of the three remaining pubs still open. Built around 1800, it was acquired by Hardy's Kimberley brewery in 1879. It may have previously been a quarryman/manager's cottage when originally built, before becoming a public house. It is rumoured that the quarry workers' wages were paid from here.

WE HOPE YOU ENJOYED OUR PICTORIAL PUB CRAWL THROUGH TIME. IF YOU'RE STILL PARCHED, YOU COULD ALWAYS NIP DOWN HINDERSITCH LANE TO THE WHEATSHEAF ON WHATSTANDWELL MAIN ROAD OR THE DERWENT ARMS (NOW FAMILY TREE) BY THE BRIDGE.

IF WE'VE MISSED ANY, DO LET US KNOW!

# Schools round-up

## A busy summer term at Crich Infants

We extend a warm welcome to all new families who have joined our school community this September. The atmosphere is brimming with anticipation as we embark on a journey of education, exploration, and achievement together. We are delighted to witness children, both new and returning, settling seamlessly into the school year.

Our Year One students have already dived back into their Forest School sessions at the wonderful Tramway Village. These sessions immerse our young learners in the wonders of the natural world. We recently embarked on a mission to construct extraordinary tree-top shelters, saving Owl from the Gruffalo! All our children showed their creativity and teamwork, setting the stage for a year of exciting learning experiences.

We have lots of exciting trips and events coming up during the school year, one of which is our eagerly anticipated school Christmas trip to Derby theatre. We are all looking forward to celebrating the holiday season with joy and theatrical flair!

For families interested in joining our school community, applications for primary places open on 6 November 2023. (Our Year 2 children need to apply for a place at their chosen junior school by the same date.) If you're considering enrolling your child at our school, we encourage you to reach out to us. Visits, enquiries, and further information can be obtained by contacting our friendly school office on 01773 852165.



## Fritchley Primary – a church school with the community at its heart

**The beginning of a new school year always brings excitement and extensive planning for the year ahead. Visits to Fritchley Congregational Chapel, St Mary's Church and to The Dementia Group are always high on the list.**

We've recently updated our curriculum and in doing so comes the opportunity to reflect and consider what it means to be part of our local parish. In recent years, the history curriculum has become much more focused on the local area with even the youngest of our children being taught to observe the changes in the wider world alongside those, quite literally, on their doorstep.

This richness of our curriculum in both history and geography has allowed our children to explore the local area in great depth and recently, our younger children have embarked on a history topic investigating 'changes in living memory.'

For those children, these changes are quite clear. They see houses popping up and old buildings, such as The Canal Inn, being brought back to life. But what of the Fritchley of old? How do we help our children see the changes beyond their memory but within that of their parents and grandparents?

This is where the community steps in. We are lucky to have a former teaching assistant who gladly volunteers to guide us around the village in which she has lived all her life. Memories of the donkey shed are shared to the disbelief of the children yet the architectural features of the post office, former school and 'Mary's Shop' are clear to see.

This coupled with the superb photo archive shared by [crichparish.co.uk](http://crichparish.co.uk) allow the children to glimpse into a past that is just as foreign as a different country.

Most recently, we've discovered a wealth of photographs long forgotten from when our school was first built. Children sit working at tables with teachers, playing in the playground, washing paint pots in the sink. Our original school may have opened in the 1800s but you can still witness these everyday moments in Fritchley C of E Primary and Nursery School today.

It serves as a timely reminder that, although times change, our values do not. We value our community, we value being included and we respect the way in which our community treats each other.



## Crich Carr Primary School Update

**We've had a fast start to the new school year - we started our programme of sports festivals with 'This Girl Can' at Ashbourne which encourages girls to try different sports (dance, tennis and circus skills) they may not otherwise have tried. We launched our new history topics for the Autumn term. In collective worship we have been learning about our value of 'Harmony' while the children wanted to tell you about our fabulous drama performance at the end of last year.**

In September we had a trip to Magna Science Museum. There were four pavilions, each with a different theme, inside an old steel factory. The zones were the earth, fire, water and air. In the earth zone we crawled through tunnels that made you think you were in a mine. There were JCBs and we got to control the hydraulic arm to pick up balls. You could also lift incredibly heavy weights using pulleys.

Fire was very interesting. Firstly, we went to a fire tornado—which was made out of kerosene and loads of fans. Next, there was a little game where you had to spot the fire hazards in a house. The Big Melt demonstrated how to melt metal. Fire came out of the pipes and a voice guided us through the process.

The water zone also had fun activities and exciting experiments, such as a whirlpool and a wave creator. You pushed and pulled a handle to create waves—we got very wet! Finally, we had a fantastic light workshop using fibre optic cables and laser pens to learn about how light travels.

In July we put on the school performance of the 'Rocky Monster Show.' The school play was based in the 1800s. It was about two scientists, Rebecca Shelley and Daniel Stoker, who got a job far away in a remote castle.

The villagers didn't like the castle. Professor Funton, who owned the castle, was a maniac who created four monsters related to Frankenstein—Mungo, Elsa, Maureen and Elsie—and wanted to bring them back to life.

The costumes were amazing. Some people had orange and purple hair with stitches all over their faces; others had grey hair, glasses on a chain and a walker.

The show was amazing and we loved performing it!



**As part of our art topic, sculptor Dean Allen helped us create fantastic arts and crafts inspired birds, which are now lodged in the rafters of Class3.**

## Robins – A Christmas card favourite

*by Don Zmarzty*



This year my Christmas cards seem largely to feature our national bird, the ubiquitous little robin. I like 'em! As a keen gardener, one robin or another seems ever present when I'm digging over a bit of ground or perhaps doing a bit of pre-winter tidying up. Fixing a beady eye on the work area in case I turn up a worm or other edible attraction that might be of interest. And if I do, then down it comes, almost as if I wasn't there, to snatch up the delicacy. Although it perhaps appears that robins like and seek out human company, we should not be too flattered, as they actually follow any large non-threatening mammals where there is a chance of disturbed ground and a free meal. This classic behaviour is of course familiar to most of you I would think. But what of the other aspects of the robin's life, and why are they so popular on Christmas cards?

Again, I think most folk will be somewhat familiar with the links to Christianity, through folklore and legend, so I won't risk insulting anyone's intelligence by repeating those explanations. A quick Google search will turn up most of them. However, the link I turned up in researching this piece, which I didn't know, was that in Victorian times, postmen were nicknamed 'robins' because of their red-breasted coloured uniforms. So the robin on the Christmas card came to represent the postman who delivered the card. It certainly seems to have stuck as they are still so popular today. That and the fact that they are so photogenic, especially with a wintry backdrop.

There can't be many who don't know that the robin is our national bird (since 1960). Such a little scrap of a thing compared to, say, the crowned crane of Uganda, the Gallic rooster

of France or the imperial eagle of Spain. This may be partly due to the fact that various factions in Britain have continued to persecute our larger birds to the point where their numbers are now very low (A really big round of applause to all those organisations which continue to struggle to turn the situation round). However, despite its size, the robin punches well above its weight in other ways.

They are extremely territorial and will go for anything that shows a little red colour. Well, actually orange! The phrase robin redbreast stems from a time before the 16th century when there was no word in the English language for the colour orange. Many things that were orange were called red before then, even though we did have oranges! Bizarre. Anyway, pumped up birds will attack others, either male or female if they feel threatened.

## The phrase robin redbreast stems from a time before the 16th century when there was no word in the English language for the colour orange.

Apparently up to 10% of males and 3% of females are killed in fights. This may be partly due to the fact that they lead such short lives – two years is typical – and in that time they have to do their best to defend a territory, find a mate, raise a brood or two, all before it's too late.

The robin is one of the few UK birds that sing all year round. Only for a short spell in late summer do they stop, when they are moulting and inconspicuous. Again this is partly to defend their territory. The song is distinctive and there are plenty of recordings of it to access online, which I would recommend doing. It is usually delivered from a concealed perch and can be strong and confident at some times of year, e.g. spring, yet more subdued and melancholy in the summer. As I recently experienced, while wrestling to deal with a particularly overgrown shrub in my garden. A cute little bird came and perched really close, watching for a free meal, while at the same time singing a very quiet and melodious little warbling tune. Singing for his supper I thought, but likely that was anthropomorphic. They are adapted to sing at night if light levels are sufficient. There is an amusing little tale that during the Thatcher premiership, she breezed into a meeting one day and announced that the night before, a nightingale had serenaded

her from outside her bedroom window at No. 10. A bold yet foolish civil servant pointed out that nightingales are migratory and would have left for Africa by then. What she heard was almost certainly a robin. Maggie is said to have then hissed in his ear, "If the Prime Minister says she heard a nightingale then she heard a nightingale!" One can just picture the scene! On a similar note, the nightingale that was said to sing in London's Berkeley Square would have been a robin.

Some of us like to put out supplemental food for our wild birds, especially during the winter months. There are arguments for and against, but did you know that on a cold night a robin, and I would guess other small birds too, can lose up to 10% of their bodyweight. In a single night! Imagine that for a diet. If we could shed significant amounts of that ever present surplus weight that so many of us carry around by simply sitting outside in the cold for a night! For that reason alone I will carry on putting food out for the birds. Robins are said to particularly enjoy mealworms but have a pretty varied diet, the details of which can easily be researched online.



*Photo by Sue Zmartzy*



## As your magazine comes in four parts over the year, so do our seasons. Here we explore our winter season with a few challenging and informative questions!

compiled by Roger Bode

- From which Shakespeare play does the line 'Now is the winter of our discontent' come?
- What European city is home to the Winter Palace?
- The word winter comes from what language family?
  - Hellenic
  - Germanic
  - Celtic
  - Rubbishic
- Where were the first Winter Olympics held?
  - Australia
  - Canada
  - Austria
  - France
- 5) Which British animal, and which British bird, change their colour to white in winter?
- They took part in the 1988 Winter Olympics. So from which Caribbean country did the bobsleigh team come, who inspired the film 'Cool Runnings'?
- In fiction which land has the White Witch ruled over for 100 years of deep winter?
- Which is the odd one out?
  - Bears
  - Bumblebees
  - Snakes
  - Snails

Answers  
 1) Richard III 2) St. Petersburg  
 3) b. Germanic 4) d. in Chamonia 1924  
 5) The Stoat and the Ptarmigan  
 6) Jamaica 7) Narnia  
 8) c. Snakes - all the others hibernate.  
 Snakes enter a low energy state called brumation

## We asked a simple question...

Did you know that this is the last edition of the FIFTH full year of Crich Standard? In turn following over 20 years of Crich Area Community News.

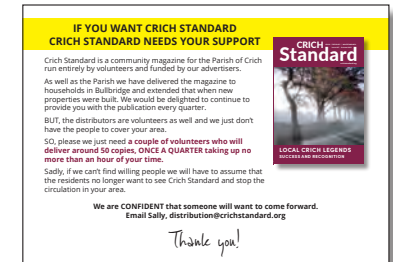
Apparently, parish and community magazines are declining. Why? Perhaps it's because some don't understand the wants and the needs of the particular community. And, importantly don't have the people to make it happen.

In our five years Crich Standard has seen around 300 new households created in and around the parish meaning circulation has increased by 20%. Print costs have risen in that time of course, while at the same time we have tried to keep the advertising rates at levels that represent great value for our brilliant trades and services. Yet that is all the easy bit.

Did you know that there are almost 40 people directly involved in getting Crich Standard through your letterbox? Consisting of about 12 on the committee and almost 30 volunteer distributors doing the door-to-door work. Not to mention the countless contributors who write the content. Unlike the print numbers, the costs and the income, aside from the odd personnel change, these volunteers have stayed constant across the same five years. Which can only mean ever increasing burdens on the fantastic distribution team.

Perhaps most obviously, we have seen a major development of new homes around Bullbridge over the last two years and as these have become occupied, so our distribution pressures have increased finally reaching a tipping point with the last edition. So we had a decision to

## The last word



make: apply more and more pressure to the distribution team, or stop the deliveries to that part of the community altogether.

Unless...We asked a simple question: "Do you want Crich Standard? If you do we need your help"

In late September we did a rapid leaflet drop to almost 150 homes in Bullbridge with the question, the facts and the commitment needed, asking for two or three new volunteers. The response, we thought, would answer our question.

Well it MOST CERTAINLY DID. Within less than two days we received support and offers to distribute from THIRTEEN residents. About 10% of those we asked.

To the Bullbridge area, thank you so much for showing support and enthusiasm for what we try to do. It will be our pleasure to continue to offer you a quarterly take on Crich and the surrounding area.

And to everyone else in the community, thank you for the continuing support of Crich Standard and do let us know if you have skills or knowledge that might help the magazine continue to thrive.

Finally, with very great pleasure for the fifth time, may I wish you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

**Tony Mills**  
 Chair, Crich Standard