

# Crich Standard

CRICH | FRITCHLEY | WHATSTANDWELL | BULLBRIDGE

**Issue 110** Summer 2024



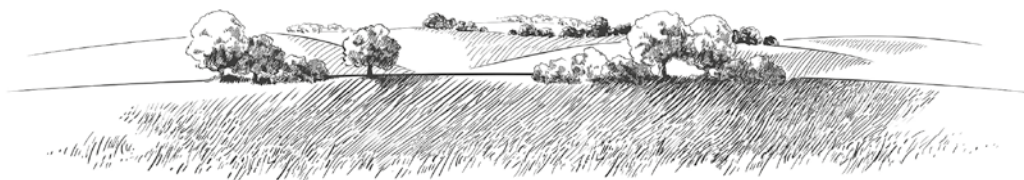
## A Community Magazine for the Parish

Crich Standard is a non-profit community magazine, run by volunteers and delivered quarterly to the Crich, Fritchley, Whatstandwell and Bullbridge area.

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



# Crich Standard

## About us

Thanks to all of the volunteers who make up the core team, as well as the wider photographers, contributors, distributors and advertisers. Without their ongoing ideas, skill and hard work Crich Standard wouldn't exist. We continue to build on the original vision of the founding CACN committee.

## Contact us

Mail: Crich Standard, Crich Glebe Community Centre, Glebe Field Close, Crich DE4 5EU (thank you to the Glebe).  
Editor: [editor@crichstandard.org](mailto:editor@crichstandard.org)  
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## Publication dates

The magazine is published four times a year. Deadlines for submission are 6 January, April, July and October. The editorial committee cannot be responsible for the accuracy of information contained in the magazine. The views and opinions expressed are not necessarily shared by the committee.

## Crich Standard team

Tony Mills, Stephen Woolley, Karen Davies, Claire Ganthony, Geoff Brown, Linda Philo, Jan Rowland, Julie Woolley, Sally Bestwick, Siobhan Conroy, Louise Maskill, Emma Nicol.

## Advertising Rates (for 2024)

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**Support your community and advertise to your local customers.**

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3 issues £55 Full year (4 issues) £68

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**Advertising deadline:** Deadlines for submission are 6 January, April, July and October.

**Please send enquiries to:** [advertising@crichstandard.org](mailto:advertising@crichstandard.org)



Photo by Paul Yorke

# Thank you...

**... the Crich Standard team is delighted with the positive feedback that we have received about the new format of the magazine.**

Of course, this is something of a relief after some inevitable moments of doubt about whether we were doing the right thing. However, we are very fortunate to have professionals on the team who really do know what they are doing!

A format change is only that, of course, and the real thanks go to all of the contributors, regular, occasional or even first time. Our committee meetings usually start with the question of whether we have enough for the next issue – and we almost always end the meetings thinking we have far too much!

This edition is a perfect example, as it's absolutely chock full of dates, events, news, features and updates. Even as we publish we are already brimming with ideas for the for the next one as well!

If you, or an organisation you are part of, has something to say or share, please let us know and we will try to fit you in. Even if you don't feel able to write an article yourself, you could give us the information and we could write something for you.

The volunteers do this all for fun, but our goal continues to be to inform and entertain the community. We need all of the support that we can get!

## Fête Committee Report

The Fête Committee is a small, dedicated team of volunteers working throughout the year to organise the annual Crich Village Fête. As this is expensive to stage and does not seek to make a profit, the team also organises other key events during the year to help with funding.

This year we are pleased to confirm that we are planning the following:

### CRICH VILLAGE FÊTE:

**Saturday 13 July, Crich Recreation Ground, from 1.00pm**

### VILLAGE BARN DANCE:

**Saturday 7 September, Crich Recreation Ground, from 7.30pm**

### CRICH BONFIRE AND FIREWORKS:

**Tuesday 5 November, Town End, from 7.00pm**

Once again we invite other parish-based clubs, societies and organisations to book a stand at the fête and use it as an opportunity to engage with potential members, provide entertainment and raise money for themselves.

**We remain so grateful for the community support we receive, and we look forward to seeing you at one or more of our events.**

Further details are available on our Facebook page (URL below) or by email: [crichfete@gmail.com](mailto:crichfete@gmail.com)

[www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100076240337160](https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100076240337160)

## Do you want to know what is going on in your village?

Come along to the Glebe on Wednesday 5 June from 6.00pm, and you'll be able to have a chat with local organisations, charities, schools and the Parish Council to find out what they do and what they can do for you. There will be people to meet from sports groups, family clubs, environmental groups, social organisations and many more.

This is a chance to find out what goes on in your parish, and if there is anything you'd like to get involved with. You might have your own ideas about what you'd like to do or see happening – come along and have your say! Fancy being a volunteer? Now's your chance! All the groups in attendance would welcome new people to help out.

The evening is being organised by and held at the Crich Glebe Community Centre, and runs from 6.00pm to 9.00pm. All are welcome, just turn up on the night. We look forward to seeing you there.

**Crich Glebe Community Centre  
Glebe Field Close  
Crich DE4 5EU  
01773 857894**

**For local trades  
people and businesses  
see pages 24–27**

## Fritchley News

I am writing this catch-up on a cold, wet and windy March day, but thoroughly enjoying thinking about what will be happening in Fritchley at the end of August. By then we should be enjoying the joys of summer – long days, warmth, harvesting what we planted, and generally feeling the magic of being surrounded by nature.

The point of this meandering is to draw your attention to our new Fritchley venture – the Fritchley Village Show. On Saturday 31 August we will be holding the first show in what we hope will become an annual tradition for the village residents and anyone else who wants to join in. The aim is to hold a light-hearted community-focused event with something for everyone (no need for midnight guarding of your huge pumpkins!). There will be produce classes of all kinds, ranging from the biggest, the best, the longest or the heaviest to the tastiest and the wonkiest – something for everyone, including children of course.

Another focus will be a photographic competition, aiming to brighten the village hall with your submissions. The subject will be *Local Landmark or Scene*, and entries will be judged and winners announced on the day of the show. You can find information on our Facebook page and on posters around the area, with more details to come. Emma and Rob at the Old Black Swan in Crich have kindly donated a prize and offered to hang some of the photos in the pub, where you will be able to enjoy them over your favourite tippie or Sunday lunch.

We also have other sponsors and special prizes for particular classes in the show, including:

- Scarsdale Vets, Alfreton – pet photo
- The Loaf, Crich – homemade bread
- Crich Butchers – jar of homemade preserve
- Woodward Estate Agents – constructed and decorated bird box
- Grow Outside CIC, local social enterprise – three homegrown blooms in a vase

We hope this event will become a regular fixture for the community to get together for a fun day, and we want to get as many people involved as possible, whether by inadvertently growing the wonkiest vegetable, helping out on the day or joining in the preparation. So, if you would like to help to 'grow' (sorry, awful pun!) this event, drop a line to [fritchleyvillagehall@gmail.com](mailto:fritchleyvillagehall@gmail.com) or pop a note in the Village Hall post box on Chapel Street in Fritchley. We look forward to seeing the local (and wider) community's creativity on show this summer!



Photo by Geoff Brown



## Open Gardens



The Open Gardens gang had our Meet and Greet evening at the Old Black Swan in March, and we're pleased to announce that this year we will be opening our gardens on Saturday 29 June and Saturday 20 July. We are also pleased to say that we have all agreed to open for an hour longer on each of these days, from midday until 5.00pm. Our numbers have risen yet again, even after losing a garden due to a house move; we wish those members all the luck in the world, and hope they manage to stay in Crich and open their new garden next year.

Once again maps will be available on each of the days from the Market Place telephone kiosk. There will also be maps available from about three weeks before each Open Day from the Black Swan and the Post Office. Our Facebook page will also have a digital version that you can download.

Previous years have seen each garden raise funds for a variety of charities by asking for donations. This summer donations will once again be encouraged,

but for this year only all the donations will be channeled into an Open Gardens account so that we can operate on a firmer financial footing, enabling us to buy banners and fund the maps each year. We are also all aware that being asked for a donation at every garden can sometimes put people off visiting, so please don't be afraid to make a single donation at one of our gardens and simply enjoy the rest.

We have discussed lots of ideas for inclusion in this year's and future events, but one that has been germinating for quite a while came from Ruth, one of our founder members. She suggested that we might try to get the whole village involved in a Plant-a-Boot scheme. Simply find an old unwearable boot or shoe and plant it with a flower, then put it outside so that all the village can see it. This is not a competition, just an easy way to brighten up our community.

We all look forward to seeing you during our long hot summer... Here's to a successful Open Gardens season!

## Police update

*This article has been supplied by PC Jamie Wragg, a Police Community Support Officer for the Derbyshire Constabulary Safer Neighbourhood Team based in Alfreton.*

We are Alfreton SNT, which stands for Safer Neighbourhood Team. We consist of two police constables and two police community support officers, and we cover Alfreton town and the Alfreton rural patch which includes Oakerthorpe, South Wingfield, Crich, Whatstandwell and Pentrich.

The SNT team operates from 7.00am to 11.00pm, seven days a week. We are based at Horsefair House, King Street, Alfreton. There is a yellow phone outside the station where members of the public can report incidents, or they can be reported via 999 for an emergency or 101 for non-emergency situations. You can also report things online via our Derbyshire Constabulary webpage, which can be found by searching for Derbyshire Constabulary.

I have worked the Crich area for the last seven years and two of the other officers have done so for the last five years, so the team is very familiar with Crich and the surrounding areas. In the village we hold a monthly 'Cuppa with a Copper' event, usually in the mobile office at Crich Medical Centre. We also try to attend the monthly Crich Parish Council meeting, although this does depend on which officers are on duty and what shift they are on. If we cannot attend, the clerk sends any issues raised in our absence via

email. All information is displayed on our Facebook page or via Derbyshire Alert.

We include Crich in our daily routine; this isn't always in a marked vehicle, it may be in a plain vehicle or on foot. If there is a reported increase in anti-social behaviour we will patrol and monitor the area accordingly.

We operate in addition to a local policing unit from Ripley, who patrol the whole of Amber Valley 24/7 365 days a year.

**Updates are always available on the team's Facebook page:**

**[www.facebook.com/AlfretonSNormantonPinxtonSomercoatesRiddingsSNT/](https://www.facebook.com/AlfretonSNormantonPinxtonSomercoatesRiddingsSNT/)**

**You can also stay up to date by subscribing to Derbyshire Alert:**

**[www.derbyshirealert.co.uk](https://www.derbyshirealert.co.uk)**



## Transition Crich

We held our first Share and Repair Café of 2024 in March. The repair team were busy sharing their skills throughout the morning, giving advice and making sixty-one repairs. Opening for an extra hour created a more relaxed atmosphere where visitors felt comfortable staying longer to peruse the stalls and enjoy the homemade cakes and savouries in the café.

The theme for this event was 'growing', and Ryan Sandford-Blackburn from Earthed Up! gave an excellent talk on plant propagation, bringing along plants to sell and seeds to share with the community. The Seed Swap made its debut, taking plenty of donations to aid the build-up of Crich's new Seed Bank.

We have introduced a recycling stall, where we are collecting hard-to-recycle waste including Tetra Paks, batteries and medicine blister packs. Tetra Pak cartons should be washed and squashed with the lids on. Please pull out the wings first, and squash flat..

Thanks to funding from transitionnetwork.org, we are working to improve our website [www.transitioncrich.co.uk](http://www.transitioncrich.co.uk) and our social media presence. The website is a great way to find out what we're all about and the things we get up to. In addition to the Share and Repair Cafés we are organising regular litter picks, gardening activities, creative and well-being workshops and guided walks. We are also running a clothes swap at Whatstandwell Festival and we will have a stall at Crich Fête, so please come along and say hello.

Our monthly meetings take place on the second Tuesday of each month at Crich Comrades Club. Everyone is welcome, since new people with new ideas are always good. Email [transitioncrich@gmail.com](mailto:transitioncrich@gmail.com) if you would like more information or to get involved.

**Ade Smith and Joe Walters**  
Co-Chairs

**Transition Crich (Together for a Greener Community)**

## Whatstandwell Social Club Committee Meetings

These are held by arrangement at the Family Tree or other locations around the village. Anyone interested in joining the Social Club or the Committee would be most welcome. Please email for details on [whatstandwellsocialclub@googlemail.com](mailto:whatstandwellsocialclub@googlemail.com) and we will get back to you.

**See the Community Diary on pages 24-27 for details**

## Have you heard?

Shh... don't tell everyone... but did you know there is an incredibly fun group in Whatstandwell that organises exciting stuff for local people? It's true! Amazing, right? If you come closer, I'll whisper and tell you all about us.

We operate from a secret hideout somewhere in Whatstandwell, popping up every now and then to organise events around the village. Our best-kept secret is the Summer Beer and Music Festival, but we do like to keep it varied and put on other events during the year.

Our committee (or should that be cell?) is a strong functioning unit full of ideas and the will to make things happen. However, we are always keen to enlist new recruits and welcome new ideas. (We should point out we are a peaceful group, so you are unlikely to be asked to head to the battlefield.)

So the 'hush, hush' question is this: do you fancy joining our group, either to become part of our planning team or to join our volunteer squads? Either way, you'll be made welcome.

**If you are interested send us a message, or chat with one of our current members. Not-so-secret contact details are as follows: [www.whatstandwell.org](http://www.whatstandwell.org), find us on Facebook, or ring David on 07835886595.**

David Hunns, Whatstandwell Social Club

## Whatstandwell Open Gardens

Whatstandwell Social Club is once again running an Open Gardens event this summer, which will give visitors two reasons to visit the area:

1. To enjoy what the village itself has to offer by way of scenery, history and attractions, and
2. The opportunity to spend a few hours looking at what some of our gardeners have achieved with their often challenging plots.

This year the Whatstandwell event will be held on Sunday 14 July, with gardens opening from 12.00pm until 5.30pm. Tickets are available on the day from any of the gardens except for the Family Tree Restaurant on the A6 at the bottom of the village. The admission programme includes a suggested route map, which will help visitors to work their way around the village as well as providing details of any refreshments or comfort stops along the way.

With the addition of a musical element to the afternoon (from the local choir) as well as exhibits from a number of local artists and craftspeople, there should be plenty of interest for everyone. Details can also be found on the Whatstandwell Social Club website ([www.whatstandwell.org](http://www.whatstandwell.org)). All the proceeds will go to a local charity, which varies from year to year. We hope to see you there!

## Crich Well Dressing WriteHereWriteNow

Preparations for this year's well dressings are under way!

We are delighted to announce that we're hoping to have seven well dressings this year, and we are especially pleased that all our schools will be involved, together with other village organisations. Our theme is 'Our World', thinking about conservation and care, climate change or simply appreciation!

The event will take place on Saturday 6 July in the Market Place. Rev. Andie Brown will lead the blessing at 12.00pm, and we will be entertained by the schools, the choir and Morris Dancing! Look out for the number 7 hidden in the dressings... Trail maps will be available.

We are grateful to be supported by our local businesses, and this year we have also received a generous contribution from Wheeldon Builders and Severn Trent Water towards our costs, and P. James Housing will be donating a wonderful hamper to be raffled separately on the day.

We know all the different organisations are beginning to design their contributions, and it won't be long before the process of puddling, adding the clay, pricking out and petalling will begin!

We hope you will come along and enjoy this ancient Derbyshire tradition of thanking God for the gift of water.

Whether you're a seasoned professional writer, you write as a hobby, you are at the start of your writing journey or maybe just interested in writing, I'd like to hear from you.

I'm a local writer, and I'm interested in starting a writers' group. You might be stuck on a novel or story you have on the go, you may have ideas for projects you want to start but need to bounce them off someone, you might be keen to know more about writing in different genres, or you might just want to chat with other writers about anything to do with the occupation and process of writing.

As a writer myself I know that I can talk writing ad nauseum to anyone who will listen, but writing can be a lonely activity, and when writers get together it builds enthusiasm, excitement and energy for the work. So, if a local writers' group is something you might be interested in, please drop me an email, and if we have sufficient numbers we'll get something organised.

**Angela**

**[littlecastleonthehill@googlemail.com](mailto:littlecastleonthehill@googlemail.com)**

## Crich Parish Council update

### Crich Quarry planning application

A big thanks to everyone who attended the second public meeting about plans to develop a hotel and waterpark in Crich Quarry. Huge thanks also to ROAR for all their hard work in support of our community in our joint efforts to prevent this wholly inappropriate development. We know that Derbyshire County Council received a large number of objections, including from the Crich Stand Memorial Trustees. It has been really good to see our community unite against a development that would negatively impact us all.

### Resident's concern

At a recent parish meeting a local resident expressed concern over walking dogs in the local farmers' fields, and the continuing problems with some owners failing to pick up their dog poo. As a result, the Parish Council thought it would be helpful to publicise the relevant sections of the Countryside Code for all dog owners:

Dog-specific information from the Countryside Code

As a responsible dog owner, you should follow the following advice from the Countryside Code in order to keep yourself and your dog safe when out and about.

Dog mess is extremely unpleasant and can cause infections, whether you come across it in the countryside or on the streets. Please therefore always clean up after your dog and dispose of the mess in a dog bin or in a responsible manner. Your dog should also be wormed regularly to

keep your dog, other animals and people healthy.

Keep your dog under control at all times, so that you do not scare or disturb farm animals or wildlife. Take extra care around sheep and lambs, and keep away from ground-nesting birds and other wildlife.

If you and your dog get chased by farm animals while on your walk, don't try to protect your dog and get hurt yourself. Let your dog off the lead, and make your way quickly to a safe place.

If your dog has an unreliable recall or you are walking somewhere new or near farm animals, as a general rule it is best to keep your dog on a lead. By law a farmer is entitled to destroy a dog that worries or injures their animals.

The new open country and common land rights require that you must keep your dog on a short lead between 1 March and 31 July, and all year round when near farm animals. Some areas do not allow dogs at specific times of the year. Please look out for official signs.

### Fruit trees

You may have noticed that we have planted a number of fruit trees on the recreation ground, including plums, pears and apples. These will eventually produce great fruit, which the community will be able to pick and eat.

**Please do not hesitate to contact us if you think we can help; visit our website for contact details: [www.crich-pc.gov.uk](http://www.crich-pc.gov.uk)**





*Fire engine from 1984, Crich Chase and one of Paul's first call-outs*

## Paul Sayles – forty years a firefighter

*Article by Geoff Brown*

In early March local farmer Paul Sayles achieved the remarkable accomplishment of serving forty years as a retained firefighter at Crich Fire Station. Retained firefighters are trained to the same standards as their full-time colleagues but live and work in the community, responding to emergencies when required. It is estimated that Paul has provided on-call cover for over a quarter of a million hours, serving not only the local community but the whole of Derbyshire and, frequently, surrounding counties. This is in addition to his commitment to his farm and other local community groups, notably the Crich Fête team! We talked to Paul about his memories of those many hours of service.

One constant has been the fire station itself, which opened in 1967. It has been threatened with closure more than once,

but recently it has been modernised and upgraded.

During Paul's time fire fighters' rankings have changed from a military style to more descriptive terms. Under the new terminology the senior crew member at Crich is a Watch Manager; Paul has only worked under four Watch Managers during his forty years, indicating the dedication of the team.

An advantage of a rural retained crew is that members bring a wide range of practical skills. Several of the Crich crew are farmers, so their knowledge of farm machinery can prove very useful at incidents. You may notice that the station forecourt is sometimes congested with tractors (with various attachments) and quad bikes when the crew is out!



**His first call was the day after qualifying, followed by twenty-four fire calls in his first two weeks, mainly to Crich Chase!**

Over his forty years Paul has attended incidents including domestic, commercial, agricultural, woodland and moorland fires, road traffic collisions, industrial, animal and water rescues, and flooding incidents. There have been many memorable 'shouts'. His first call was the day after qualifying, followed by twenty-four fire calls in his first two weeks, mainly to Crich Chase! There were a lot of wildfires in The Chase and Shining Cliff Woods in those days.

On one particular day he attended twelve incidents in and around Chesterfield while local crews were dealing with a big incident and Crich was providing cover. Other memories include a fire at Mortimer Wilson school in Alfreton, where the Crich crew were on their own for some time before backup became available, the serious fire at the McArthur Glen outlet village in 2004, a house fire in Whatstandwell to which access was blocked by badly parked cars, many moorland fires in and around the Peak District, particularly in recent years, the Whaley Bridge dam collapse in 2019, and more than one call to his own farm when machinery has caught fire!

There are few (if any) retained firefighters in the country who can match Paul's record. We salute him.

Paul originally joined the Derbyshire Fire Service, which changed its name to the Derbyshire Fire and Rescue Service in the early 1990s to reflect its changing responsibilities. The equipment carried on the fire engine has changed accordingly, now including much more sophisticated cutting and rescue equipment. The service also undertakes rescues from water, so the crew are fully equipped with dry suits, flotation devices and other technical equipment.

The clothing and Personal Protection Equipment has improved significantly over the years, meaning that the quality and intensity of training has also changed considerably. Incident command training increasingly uses virtual reality scenarios, although there is still a practical focus. Sadly, the training now includes dealing with anti-social behaviour and aggression towards fire crews. A fuel bowser for re-fuelling appliances at large incidents is also based at Crich, so the crew are trained and certificated to transport fuel safely.



# Crich Stand Tea Rooms

Article by Essie Prosser

Meeting Sophie Cuthbertson reminded me of the famous quote about New York being the city that never sleeps, because she has to be the woman who never sleeps! Sophie has recently taken over the running of the tea rooms at Crich Stand and single-handedly prepares and bakes its offerings, as well as serving customers with the cheeriest smile and friendly chat. She admits that her parents sometimes muck in with the washing up, but otherwise she is a lone worker and is very happy about that.

Sophie's career started in banking, a long way from her newly-fitted kitchen in the tea rooms. She worked as a senior personal accounts manager, but always wanted to get into catering and hospitality. The chance came when she

and her husband Martin decided to take over the School House restaurant in South Normanton, where Sophie learnt her culinary skills from the chefs who worked there. They sold that business in 2023, and spotted their next opportunity when the post of Warden at Crich Stand was advertised. In the past this position has been filled by an ex-military person, but the Mercian Regiment, to whom Crich Stand and its grounds are dedicated, had been finding it increasingly difficult to fill this rewarding but demanding post with someone fit enough to manage the site's lawns, gardens and events. In stepped Sophie and Martin – who, coincidentally, have grandparents who were in the military – and Sophie's dream of being her own boss and running her own café was realised.

The café is small but perfectly formed and has undergone a makeover, although the Mercian memorabilia is still on show. Sophie and Martin have installed a catering kitchen in their bungalow at the side of the tea rooms, from which Sophie bakes her own bread, cakes, scones, sausage rolls and other savoury and sweet treats as well as offering hot bacon rolls and soup. At the time of writing the tea rooms are open on Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays, and visitors will also find a small but interesting supply of souvenirs and pottery for their perusal.

I mentioned that Sophie doesn't ever seem to sleep; not content with the tea rooms, she recently decided to take over the Reunion café in Belper as well, and supplies it with her own baked goods although she has staff running it for her. And as if that weren't enough, Sophie would also like to create a community garden to grow herbs and vegetables. She would welcome input from local sponsors, horticulturalists and keen amateurs when she finds time to establish some raised beds at the Stand. I told you she was a busy bee!

On the day I visited the tea rooms, as well as keeping her varied clientele happy (some veterans, a table of ladies visiting from down south, and three youngsters sharing a generous slice of cake), Sophie was also coping with a burst pipe in her Belper café (have you tried finding a plumber on a Sunday morning?) as well as finding time to talk to me, all of which she managed with good humour and a smile. The tables looked great with fresh daffodils on each, and the panoramic view from the terrace is always amazing,

even if you've seen it a hundred times before. Oh, and not forgetting the snap (quiche and a scone in my case), which was totally delicious.

Go on, walk up that hill and pay Sophie a visit – and when the garden gets going, take your trowel with you. Happy growing, and happy eating!







## Henry VIII to Mr Bates: The rise and fall of the Post Office

Article by Phil Dolby. Photos by Geoff Brown

### The Rise

The Post Office is a national institution that began in 1516, when Henry VIII created a 'Master of the Posts' to serve the privileged upper classes. In 1635 Charles I made the postal service available to all citizens, and during the English Civil War a monopoly of the postal services was granted so that only the Office of Postage was allowed to handle mail.

The General Post Office (GPO) was established by Charles II in 1660, and the use of a postage date stamp was introduced in 1661. Adhesive postage stamps were invented by school teacher Roland Hill in 1837, and the Penny Black stamp was introduced in 1840.

### The Fall

In 1986 the Post Office was split into three divisions, Letters, Parcels and Counters, all in competition but still working together! Oliver Cromwell's postal monopoly of 1654 was rescinded in 2006, allowing anybody to offer a delivery service, but only the Post Office was compelled by law to deliver six days per week to every address in the United Kingdom. Other carriers could cherry-pick the shorter and easier deliveries and make higher profits.

Post Office Counters used accounting systems that Scrooge would have recognised: two big ledger books to record daily totals for income and

outgoings. These totals were then transferred into a weekly ledger together with the stock holdings. A resulting balance was produced, which should have been zero; in practice this was usually a few pounds up or down, but there were paper copies of everything, so if the balance was out the paperwork was rechecked to find the error.

The Post Office used the UK company ICL (bought by the Japanese IT giant Fujitsu in 1998) to develop a computer system to automate this accounting. This is what we now know as the Horizon system. In 1999 the system was installed in all 14,000 Post Offices. Many offices had multiple counter positions, each with its own computer; altogether, about 35,000 computers were connected to a data centre run by Fujitsu, streaming live data and recording every transaction as it happened. At the time it was the biggest computer network in Europe, other than military systems.

Every time there was a transaction, for example selling a stamp, the clerk would 'tell' the computer a stamp was being sold. The computer would then 'tell' the clerk to take the payment, and would automatically reduce the stamp holding by one stamp and increase the cash holding by the cost of the stamp. Every four weeks a full balance would be performed; the clerk would check the cash and stock holdings and enter the figures into the Horizon system, which would then compare those figures with the system's own records. Any difference would have to be made good by the Sub-Postmaster; there was no way to question the computer's calculations, and no independent records were kept.

### How did this go for Crich Post Office?

After sixteen years of balancing manually, where 'overs' were cancelled out by shortages, we soon noticed the new Horizon system was producing far more shortages than 'overs'. The figures were usually a few tens of pounds short, but the deficit was sometimes in the hundreds, and they added up to thousands of pounds over a period of fifteen years.

We questioned the shortages with an audit team, and they investigated but reported no problems with the system. Like most Postmasters we had no idea that the same thing was happening to everybody, because we rarely had contact with other Postmasters.

The poor Postmasters who featured in the recent TV programme Mr Bates vs. the Post Office did their balance, the same as us, but instead of being £30 short Horizon told them they were £30,000 short. This triggered an audit, a criminal charge, repayment of the supposed shortage and, in some cases, prison sentences – very frightening! For seventeen years the Post Office executives denied there was a problem with Horizon, preferring to assume that one in fourteen postmasters had become criminally corrupt (but strangely only since Horizon was introduced).

While the Horizon problem was being denied by the executives, they were also tasked with reducing the company's operating losses – and rightly so, since these were covered by taxpayers' money. They hatched a scheme called Network Transformation, which encouraged (forced) Postmasters to relocate their offices into large shops (like WHSmith) and



supermarkets (like the Co-op) if they were not already in one. They were then given a new contract that drastically reduced the Sub-Postmaster's income. The Post Office used to pay a set fee towards the running costs of the building bought by a Sub-Postmaster to house the office. The new contract stopped that payment, allowing the Post Office to use buildings at no cost to itself.

Thousands of Postmasters refused the new contract, either because they could not find new premises in large shops (a particular problem in rural locations), or

because they chose to stay as they were. However, over the years the pressure to accept the new contract has continued, and through office closures and retirement the number of offices on the original contract has dwindled from thousands to a few hundred. These are now termed 'hard to place offices' – like Crich.

Times have changed, and are continuing to do so because of technology and online services. It's a shame that this 500-year-old company could not react appropriately, and has been left behind.

# Thank you!

On behalf of all of us at Crich Live I would like to extend my thanks for supporting us, and coming along to see our varied live shows during the season. And what a great season we've had with the many different acts and artists we've brought you, from our collaboration with Live and Local to the wonderful local talent that is John Tams! John's performance in March was a sellout, treating the audience to an engaging evening of anecdotes and song.

As we move into the summer months planning is well underway for our 2024–2025 season. By the time you read this I will have submitted my bids for acts from the Live and Local menu, which appears in the spring and features over 70 acts. This organisation allows us to bring artists to our rural venue who may otherwise be out of reach. They are subsidised, meaning that we pay a guaranteed fee and a percentage of other ticket sales. It's a win-win situation for promoting groups like ours; although we can't guarantee we'll get all the acts we want, we are generally very successful.

Due to return to us following their sold-out show in January, are True Crime Investigators UK. Their latest case, *The Pottery Cottage Murders*, promises to be another dramatic and suspenseful evening.

I am also in negotiation with a semi-finalist from ITV's *The Voice*! This act was mentored by Olly Murs, although Tom Jones wanted him too. More details to follow!

# CRICH LIVE

Last year we had booked a 'walkabout' act for the Crich Fête, although unfortunately due to the weather this didn't happen. Undeterred we are looking at possibilities for Saturday 13 July this year.

Work continues on improvements to the Crich Glebe Community Centre (the location for the majority of our shows) following their award of a Lottery grant. Their new Centre Manager is now in post, and we are collaborating closely with them on plans to launch a film club later this year. More details will follow once available.

For up-to-date information on our activities, check out our website at [crichlive.org](http://crichlive.org), or, better yet, sign up to our mailing list to ensure you're the first to get news of future shows and events. Details for how to do this are on the website, and tickets for all our shows are available at [www.ticketsource.co.uk/crichlive](http://www.ticketsource.co.uk/crichlive)

Finally, to echo my opening remarks, thank you once again for your support. It is vital to keep the arts alive and thriving, especially in rural communities. If you've not been to one of our shows before, we'd be delighted to see you. There's always a fun and friendly atmosphere, and they offer a great local night out.

**Roger Bode, Promoter, Crich Live**



# Local shops in times gone by

Article by Claire Ganthony

## Shops along Crich Common

On the left you can see a little of the forecourt of Gervase Taylor's garage. The shop with the awning on the right was called Tor's Stores, and was also a tea room at one point. The shop in the right foreground was Lorraine's hairdressers, and in the background there is a fire engine outside what was once the Fire Station.



## Marketplace

The building on the right, currently Nisa, is Crich Village Shop. On the left-hand side, the building which is currently Jeera has been George Smith's hardware shop and a newsagent run by the Woods, Taylor and Worthy families over many years, before a brief spell as a Londis. In earlier days it was Blount's shop and tea rooms.



Mrs Lynam's shop behind the water troughs. Kath Lynam is remembered fondly by many, as is a very cheeky mynah bird that used to swear at customers!



## Crich Cross and Roes Lane

At one time there was quite a cluster of shops around Crich Cross: a barber's, a hairdresser's and later a chippy on the corner with Jeffries Lane, a blacksmith opposite, and a cobbler's on the corner of the farmyard, seen here with a sign advertising Sellors Petrol Station further down Roes Lane.



## Town End

August 1969: a coach and four horses from the 'Transport Extravaganza' passes Harrison's Shop, with the café just visible at the back. Harrison's was renowned for their homemade ice cream.





# Gardening ideas for summer

Article by Chris Mills

Here are two ideas for easy-to-grow plants that will flower each summer.

## Erigeron karvinskianus (also known as Mexican Fleabane)

This lovely plant will flower continuously from May until the first frosts, and forms a mound of daisy-like flowers some 30cm tall, opening light pink and fading to white. It will be happy in well-drained soil or in a pot with good drainage, and looks lovely trailing over low walls. It survives Crich winters; it generally loses most of its leaves, but grows again each April. It is an inexpensive plant to buy and can be grown from seed; it self-seeds and loves gaps in walls and paving, but is easy to remove so it isn't a 'thug' plant.



## Lily Muscadet

This is one of my favourite lilies. It flowers for a few weeks in July and August, and grows to about 1 metre. I have a few pots of lilies that can be tucked away behind other plants after flowering, when the foliage gets a bit tatty; this 25cm pot contains 5 bulbs.

Lily bulbs can be planted in autumn or spring in either well-drained soil or pots of peat-free compost mixed with grit, since lilies can rot if they get waterlogged in the winter. Potted lilies can also be bought from garden centres. Give them some slow-release general fertiliser in the spring, and check occasionally for lily beetles, which are similar in size to a ladybird, brighter red and without spots; these need to be picked off. Cut flowers off as they fade, leave the foliage to go yellow, and the bulbs should continue to flower for several years.



# Coconut and loganberry muffins

By Sue Long

Some people are very organised in every aspect of their lives, but I'm not one of them! One of my daughters likes to make a list of meals for the week ahead, which is stuck to the fridge door on Sunday evening. She then follows the list religiously when shopping and cooking for the rest of the week. I'm impressed, because she didn't learn this from me! I'm more of a 'look in the fridge and see what's there' type of cook, which is how today's recipe came about.

Last summer I picked a small bowl of loganberries from the young and not very prolific bush in our garden. It seemed selfish not to share them, but even divided between only two dishes they would have looked stingy, so what to do with them? Earlier in the day I'd been defrosting the freezer and found various goodies from the bottom; I love a curry, but when a recipe calls for only some of a tin of coconut milk, the rest gets frozen (and forgotten).

Muffins seemed an ideal choice for these ingredients, and the result is a healthier choice than more traditional cake recipes. The loganberries could easily be swapped for fresh raspberries, blueberries or even blackberries in late August or September – ideal if you take the children blackberrying and they get bored before you've got enough for a pie or crumble!

The muffins in the picture were made with loganberries frozen last summer. If you're using frozen fruit, allow it to defrost until slightly softened. You may also need to add a couple of minutes to the cooking time.



## Ingredients

200g self-raising flour  
 ½ tsp. bicarbonate of soda  
 1 tsp. baking powder  
 35g desiccated coconut  
 100–115g caster sugar (depending on personal taste and choice of fruit)  
 75ml sunflower oil  
 150ml coconut milk  
 2 medium eggs  
 100g–150g loganberries (raspberries, blackberries or blueberries could also be used)  
 12 paper muffin cake cases (optional)

## Makes 12 medium-sized muffins

### Method

1. Heat the oven to 190C/180C fan/gas 5. If using paper cases place them in the muffin tray, or grease each 'hole' in the tray very well.
2. Sift the flour, bicarb and baking powder into a large mixing bowl.
3. Stir in the sugar and desiccated coconut.
4. In a separate bowl or jug, combine the oil, coconut milk and eggs, whisking lightly until well mixed.
5. Tip the wet ingredients into the dry and stir briefly until combined, but don't over-mix.
6. Lightly stir in the fruit; again, don't over-mix, but do make sure the fruit is well distributed in the mixture.
7. Use a tablespoon to divide the mixture evenly between the paper cases.
8. Bake for approximately 20 minutes until golden brown, well risen and springy to the touch.

Allow to stand in the tray for a few minutes and then cool on a rack. These are nice for dessert with a trickle of cream!

# Community Diary

## Crich Glebe Community Centre

### WEEKLY CALENDAR

#### MONDAY

Derbyshire Toy Libraries Stay & Play	9.30–11.30am
Crich Family Lunch Club	11.00am–1.00pm
Kurling (autumn/winter only)	12.00–2.00pm
Dru Yoga	3.00–4.30pm
Clare's Yoga	6.30–7.30pm

#### TUESDAY

Gentle Yoga (fortnightly)	10.00am–12.00pm
Tuesday Club (meal – book in advance)	12.15–1.30pm
Sarah's Aerobics/Dancefit	6.30–7.30pm
Table Tennis	7.00–9.00pm

#### WEDNESDAY

Luncheon Club	10.30am–1.00pm
Serenity Yoga	1.30–3.00pm
Starlight Social Club (monthly)	7.00–11.00pm
All About Women (monthly)	7.00–9.00pm

#### THURSDAY

Children's Dance Classes	4.45–6.15pm
Youth Club	7.00–9.00pm
Crich Heritage Group (monthly)	7.30–8.30pm
Crich Crafters (monthly)	6.00–8.00pm

#### FRIDAY

Yoga with Rachel	9.30–11.00am
Men's Group (monthly)	1.00–3.00pm
Indoor Bowls (September to April)	2.00–4.00pm

## Crich Glebe Community Centre

### WEEKLY SERVICES

Optometrist and Dispensary	
Tuesday	2.00–4.30pm
Thursday	9.00am–1.00pm
Hair Salon	
Tuesday, Thursday, Friday	all day
Foot Health Clinic	Thursday

Contact information: [www.crichglebe.org](http://www.crichglebe.org)

Email: [office@crichglebe.org](mailto:office@crichglebe.org)

Tel: 01773 857894

Reception is open Monday to Thursday  
9.00am–5.00pm.

## Parish Council – Upcoming meetings

Parish Council Meetings  
Monday 3 June, 7pm  
Monday 1 July, 7pm

Venue: Crich Glebe Community Centre

## Fritchley Village Hall

### REGULAR CALENDAR

Fritchley OAP Group – first Tuesday  
afternoon of each month

### FRITCHLEY SHOW

Saturday 31 August

For more information see:

[www.fritchleyvilagehall.co.uk/village-show](http://www.fritchleyvilagehall.co.uk/village-show)

## Miscellaneous

### WOMEN'S INSTITUTE

First Tuesday of the month, 7.15pm  
Venue: South Wingfield Parish Rooms

## MOBILE LIBRARY (BUXTON MOBILE LIBRARY)

Every 4 weeks on Tuesday.  
Next visits: 28 May and 25 June  
Fritchley, The Green – 10.10–10.40am  
Crich, Market Place – 10.50–11.15am  
Crich, Culland View – 11.20–11.35am  
Crich, Cliff Inn car park – 11.40–11.55am  
Email: [ask.library@derbyshire.gov.uk](mailto:ask.library@derbyshire.gov.uk)  
or call 01629 533444

## Crich Wesley Chapel

### REGULAR CALENDAR

#### POPALONG

Fridays in termtime 9.30–11.30am  
Contact Lynda Gray: 01773 857921

#### MUDDLEALONG

Second and fourth Wednesdays of each  
month, 2.00–4.00pm  
Contact Margaret Scott: 01773 852618

## Whatstandwell Social Club

Contact: [whatstandwellsocialclub@googlemail.com](mailto:whatstandwellsocialclub@googlemail.com)

## Share & Repair Café

Saturdays, 18 May, 14 September,  
23 November, 10–1.00pm  
Venue: The Glebe

## Music & Live Performance

### CRICH LIVE

For upcoming events:  
[www.crichlive.org/events/](http://www.crichlive.org/events/)

### CRICH VILLAGE FÊTE:

Saturday 13 July  
Crich Recreation Ground, from 1.00pm

# Community Diary

## Community Groups and Clubs

### GARDENING CLUB

**Venue:** Comrades Club  
**Contact:** If you'd like to come along please contact Robert Brierton: 07979 714360

### CRICH RECORD CLUB

Third Tuesday of each month at 7.30pm  
**Venue:** The Old Black Swan  
**Contact:** Simon Philo:  
simonjphilo@icloud.com

### BEAVERS for 6-8 year olds

Mondays, 5.45-7.00pm (termtime)  
**Venue:** Scout Hut, Jeffries Lane  
**Contact:** Crichbeaverleader@gmail.com

### CUBS for 8-10.5 year olds

Tuesdays, 6.30-8.00pm (termtime)  
**Venue:** Scout Hut, Jeffries Lane  
**Contact:** williamcaine@btinternet.com

### SCOUTS for 10.5-14 year olds

Wednesdays, 7.00-8.30pm (termtime)  
**Venue:** Crich Scout Hut  
**Contact:** debbiecaine@btinternet.com

## Community Groups and Clubs

### TRANSITION CRICH

Meet on second Tuesday of the month at 7.30pm  
**Venue:** Comrades Club  
**Contact:** transitioncrich@gmail.com  
Transition Crich also has a **Green Spaces and Wellbeing sub-group**, meeting bi-monthly on Wednesdays at 7.30pm.  
Upcoming meeting: 17 July

**Venue:** Comrades Club  
**Contact:** transitioncrich@gmail.com  
**Litter Picks** – bi-monthly on Saturdays, 10.00am-12.00pm  
Upcoming dates: 1 June, 3 August  
**Venue:** Meet outside the Glebe  
**Contact:** Janet: transitioncrich@gmail.com

## Sports Diary

Cliff Inn Cricket Team  
Contact: rogerbode64@gmail.com

## Weekly Quizzes

The Old Black Swan – Sundays, 7.00pm  
Comrades Club – Monday night quiz  
9.00pm start: June 3rd / 17th, July 1st / 15th / 29th, August 12th / 26th  
Thursday night quiz 9.30pm start: June 13th / 27th. July 11th / 25th, August 8th / 22nd

## Church Services

### ST MARY'S CHURCH, CRICH

First Sunday of the Month – 10.00am  
– All Age Worship  
Second Sunday – 10.00am  
– Holy Communion  
Third Sunday – 10.00am – Morning Worship  
Fourth Sunday – 10.00am – Holy Communion  
**Find out more:**  
<https://www.achurchnearyou.com/church/13152/>

**Email:** cswsecretary2@gmail.com  
or call 01773 852158

### FRITCHLEY CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

June service – Sunday 2 June, 2.30pm  
July service – Sunday 7 July, 2.30pm  
**Find out more:** Facebook @FritchleyChurch  
**Email:** FritchleyChurch@mail.com

### CRICH BAPTIST CHURCH

Sunday worship – 10.45am and 6.00pm  
Prayer meeting – Tuesdays, 7.30pm  
Infant Seekers Club – Thursdays, 5.00pm  
Junior Seekers Club – Thursdays, 6.00pm  
(Groups meet during termtime)  
**Find out more:**  
<https://www.crichbaptist.org/>

### CRICH WESLEY CHAPEL

Book of Common Prayer Holy Communion – Sundays, 8.00am  
Sunday Afternoon Worship – 3.00pm  
Family Café Church – third Sunday of the month, 9.30-11.00am  
Healing Prayer – third Tuesday of the month, 2.00pm

If you would like your group's events or meetings to be featured here, please contact Crich Standard, [editor@crichstandard.org](mailto:editor@crichstandard.org)

Please check with groups directly if you would like to attend any of these events or meetings, to check dates and times. Crich Standard cannot guarantee the accuracy of these listings, which may be subject to alteration after publication.



## ArtStand

The ArtStand group was formed in 2019, primarily to showcase the amazing and diverse talents of many local artists living in Crich and the immediate area. Some of our members enjoy national and international recognition, and have been invited to exhibit their work in galleries across the country. Several members regularly run workshops and masterclasses, and twenty members of the group and invited friends recently held another inspiring and well-attended exhibition and sale of work at Strutts Centre in Belper.

More events are planned for 2024. For the second year members have again been invited to the prestigious Haddon Hall Gatehouse for a week from Monday 8 July to Sunday 14 July. Entry to the Gatehouse is free (although you will need to pay for parking).

Our next event in Crich will be on Saturday 26 October at the Glebe, with a preview evening on Friday 25 October when you will be welcome to join us for a glass of wine. An ideal occasion to choose that perfect Christmas present!

**If you are interested in finding out more about the group and our activities, contact the group's co-ordinator David Hunns on 07835 886595 or email [helloartstand@gmail.com](mailto:helloartstand@gmail.com). You can also find us on Facebook @ArtStand.**



Photo by Paul Yorke

### Did you know that Crich Parish is served by a mobile library?

Every 4 weeks

Next visits: 28 May and 25 June

Fritchley – The Green

10.10–10.40am

Crich – Market Place

10.50–11.15am

Crich – Culland View

11.20–11.35am

Crich – Cliff Inn car park

11.40–11.55am

## MUDDLEALONG

Over a decade ago a group of ladies, including Lynne Fields and Betty Benfield, were chatting about starting up a 'knit and natter' group in Crich – but what to call it? Someone said, 'Oh, we'll muddle along somehow,' and that's how Muddlealong came into being in 2009.

Sadly Betty and Lynne have since died, but their legacy lives on. Their aims were to bring together people interested in sharing skills and learning new crafts, make items to be used in the home or sent to deserving causes, and promote recreational activities, mutual support and friendship.

Originally the group ran many different events, including outings, teas and quizzes, but all the while they were knitting, crocheting, sewing – and nattering!

Muddlealong had connections with Crich Junior School, teaching the children skills and working with them to produce beautiful wall panels for the Wesleyan Chapel to celebrate its 250th anniversary.

Blankets, teddies and clothing have been made and donated to various organisations including local hospitals and care homes, and even sent to Ukraine. 'Twiddlemuffs', knitted sensory handwarmers for people suffering from dementia, have been well received, especially at Ripley Hospital.

Many items now go to Operation Orphan, an organisation helping orphans and vulnerable children in this country and overseas. The local Aquabox company's water purifiers for disaster areas are cushioned for travel with blankets and teddies, and blankets and clothing are produced for the independent Christian charity Armenian Ministries.

We continue to knit, natter and support each other. We take it in turns to bring cake or other goodies to have with our cuppa, and we raise funds for the group with a raffle. We enjoy a Christmas meal, and in January we have a fuddle.

Our past members are never forgotten, and we hope they would be happy to see how their vision for Muddlealong continues.

**If you'd like to join us, find out more in the Community Diary section on page 25.**



# New Centre Manager for Crich Glebe Community Centre

By Grace Tomlinson

**I'm delighted to be settling into my new role as Centre Manager at the Glebe!**

Although not a "Crich local", I am Derbyshire born and bred and very familiar with the village, having grown up in Matlock and lived in Belper in later years. Joining the Glebe community at such a pivotal time is really exciting, and I'm proud to be joining such a dedicated team in such a rewarding role.

My background is in tourism, sales and events of all sizes, as well as attraction, site and people management. My role will be wide-ranging and varied, building on the incredible work already done by the committed team of staff and volunteers and by loyal trustees, as well as leading and overseeing the operation and development of the Crich Glebe Community Centre.

A key part of my role will be fundraising and expanding the offering of the Centre to generate new income streams, ultimately offering more opportunities for the community and securing the Glebe's work for years and generations to come.

There will be a big push on increasing our marketing, letting more people know that we are here and what we do, and ensuring you never miss an activity or event – whether existing or new.

In my short time since joining the Glebe I've really seen how vitally important our volunteers are. I'd like to take the

opportunity to thank all the wonderful volunteers who already support the Centre, and appeal to anyone also who may be interested in volunteering, either now or in the future. Look out for the latest information on Volunteers' Week and the Big Help Out weekend – we have exciting plans! If you'd like to hear more about volunteering opportunities, please let us know.

Enjoy our calendar of activities and events, keep an eye out for updates on what's new and upcoming, and be sure to let us know what you'd like to see at the Glebe in the future.

Finally, a huge thank you from me for the warm welcome I've received. I'm looking forward to meeting more of the community as time goes on, and I hope to see you at the Glebe Community Centre soon – I'm usually around Monday to Friday, pop in and say hi!

**manager@crichglebe.org**

**01773 857894**



# Patient Participation Group Update

By Heather Butt

**Patient Participation Groups (PPG) are a national network of volunteers whose objectives are to represent patients' interests with their local Medical Practice, identify and communicate with the community on national and local health and well-being issues, and organise groups and activities that promote and improve local health and well-being.**

Crich PPG has existed for over fifteen years, and has provided a wide range of long- and short-term activities including gentle yoga for the elderly, particularly those with dementia, running the Facebook page on local medical-related issues, kids' holiday activities, a local helpline during Covid and a prescription delivery service at the beginning of Covid. More recently a member of the PPG arranged two very successful training sessions for the community on CPR and the use of a defibrillator. Crich PPG has been recognised as one of the best PPGs in England by the National Association for Patient Participation.

Working with Crich Medical Practice, we have agreed that the PPG will work in two areas during the immediate future: self-care, and promoting the local dispensaries in Holloway and South Wingfield. The dispensaries are a valuable asset for Holloway and South Wingfield, where there is no nearby pharmacy, but usage is dropping. This is bringing their future viability into question.

In terms of self-care, the NHS has recently introduced Primary Care Networks (PCNs). Since the NHS was created in 1948 the

population has grown and people are living longer. Many people are living with long-term conditions such as diabetes and heart disease, or they may suffer with mental health issues and need to access their local health services more often. To meet these needs, GP practices are working together with community, mental health, social care, pharmacy, hospital and voluntary services in their local areas, forming groups of practices known as primary care networks (PCNs). The practice would like the PPG to support the community to understand the different roles offered both within and outside the practice, and how these may be involved in a person's treatment and care.

The PPG also wants to improve its communication and involvement with the other local communities around Crich, such as Sawmills, Bullbridge, Lower Hartshay and Wessington, to name but a few. We already have some ideas for how we can achieve these goals, and we are looking for volunteers to develop detailed and workable plans.

If you have any opinions on the above, or you are prepared to get involved with a small group to develop and implement solutions, or if you just have an interest in health and welfare issues and the NHS, we would love to hear from you.

**You can contact the PPG by emailing [ppgcrich@gmail.com](mailto:ppgcrich@gmail.com) or by ringing 07527491348 / 07850141180**

# Crich Youth Club

By Debbie Kinghorn

In previous issues you've heard from Committee members and volunteers, so we thought it was about time you heard from the young people themselves. I talked to some of our members to get their thoughts on the Youth Club; here's what they think...



## The older group (ages 14–16)

Most of this group have been with us since we first opened. The members I chatted to were Ryan, Milo, Scarlett, Ted, Reef and Ethan.

### What's your reason for coming to Crich Youth Club?

'Mostly to meet friends, catch up and have a good time.' [This comment was common to all of them!]

'It's really expanded my social group as I've met new friends here, and also got to know people I've seen at school but didn't really know.'

'At the moment it's a great break from revision. It's great to come out, relax and have a laugh with friends for a few hours.'

'The people I see at Youth Club go to the same school as me, but I don't get to interact with them, so I get time with them that I wouldn't otherwise.'

### What do you enjoy the most about Crich Youth Club?

'Hanging with friends and relaxing. Summertime is great too; we get to do games and stuff on the field together.'

'Although there are some of the same

games each week, I love that there are also different activities every week.'

'It's nice, it's good, it's solid (please note the power of three - I'm going to do really well in my English exams, remembering things like that!).'

### Tell us about one thing that particularly stands out or is important to you...

'The talks that Blend provide on youth topics such as drugs and sex education have been really informative and useful.'

'We did a great activity in the summer to raise money for the Youth Club - a day with the fire crew washing cars. It was great to get out of the house, do a fun activity and raise money for one of our special events.'

'It's really important to me because I go to a different Secondary school to many of the friends I met at Primary. It's a great opportunity to catch up with them every week.'

'The workers are lovely, always nice, chatty, helpful and advisable - is that a word? I mean they're great at giving advice.'

'I started playing table tennis at the Youth Club and realised I really enjoy it. I now play for Crich St Mary's table tennis league.'

## A few of the younger members (ages 12 and 13)

It was slightly more difficult to interview the younger members as they were much more focused on the games and craft activities... The members I chatted to were Henry, Matilda and Jess, who all talked to me individually.

### Henry

'Coming to the Youth Club is the highlight of my week. I first started coming because my friends came. I realised how good it is and invited other friends. I love the activities we do each week. The staff are really friendly, nice, and helpful if you need advice or help with anything. I'm going to keep coming until I'm 17. There are always lots of fun games and activities - tonight I thrashed Debbie [a volunteer] at basketball, that was fun! I've met five new friends here too.'

### Matilda

'I like coming to Youth Club because I get to talk to people I don't usually get to see. There always lots of different things to do, and I never get bored. Staff here are very friendly, and they like to talk to you. I started coming because my friends were here, and they said it was really good - they were right!'

### Jess

'Every Thursday I get excited about coming, and I get to hang out with my friends that I wouldn't normally get to see. I really enjoy the Tuck Shop and talking to my friends. The staff are good, reasonable, strict but not mum/teacher strict. [Ed: I think this was a complement!] Also I can wear things that express who I am, which I can't do at school. In fact I feel that I can completely be myself at Youth Club.'

The week this article was written Anette Love joined us for a second time to carry out a sugar crafting activity. Thank you again for your time, Anette, and for sharing your skills. Here's a photo of the finished products.



### Crich Fête

Once again Crich Youth Club, along with CHIKS, will be running the Tea Tent at Crich Fête. Please come and meet us, grab yourself a cuppa and a delicious slice of cake. We look forward to seeing you there.



## Crich Quarry resort update

By ROAR

Derbyshire County Council has reported that they intend to take the current outline planning application to committee for determination. This will most likely be in June, and will hopefully lead to a greater level of understanding, if not certainty, about what could happen next.

The residents' group, ROAR, will be represented and will speak at the Planning Committee meeting, which will already have received a recommendation from the planning officers as to whether the meeting should accept or reject the application. A recommendation to reject would be a huge bonus for the ROAR campaign, and there are good reasons to believe that could be the outcome.

Whatever decision is made, though, there will be more options and obstacles which both the applicant and our community will have to address. Here in Crich Standard and on the ROAR Facebook page we will try to offer measured and accurate updates.



## What's happening at St Mary's

By Martyn Offord

The story of the appointment of a new priest-in-charge for the Benefice of Crich and South Wingfield has not been very gripping of late. In fact, it's stood still, gone backwards, and then jolted forwards again! In the latest episode the advertisement should be going out again, but this time it will be open to a part-time appointment.

During this time the legal responsibility and day-to-day business of the church devolves upon the Wardens and Parochial Church Council, and churches, like other organisations, suffer from volunteer fatigue – a sentiment that is certain to be echoed by the volunteers at South Wingfield following the devastating flooding of the church there. So we are very grateful for Lynn Penson, who has been stalwart as one of our Wardens and who is now stepping down into the position of Deputy. Thanks too to our Readers, who have been doing a lot more than just 'reading'!

We have had various accolades from the Bishop and Archdeacons for the way the church has kept going and maintained its presence in the community, and we are proud that it continues to do so. Many local families enjoyed the lively Good Friday Craft Morning, for instance. However, certain functions require the services of an ordained priest, particularly communion, weddings and baptisms. Here we've been fortunate to enjoy the engagement of the Venerable Andie Brown, who also seems to enjoy visiting us! We're delighted that he will be conducting a wedding for us on Saturday 13 July.

## Health and Well-being Coach

By Ian Toplis

My name is Ian Toplis, and I work as the Health and Well-being Coach at Crich Medical Practice. I'm there every Tuesday from 8.30am until 4.30pm, and I also cover Parkside Alfreton and Somercotes Medical Centre.

### WHAT is a Health and Wellbeing Coach?

Health Coaching is a holistic, whole-person approach to support you to manage your health condition(s) and improve your health and well-being.

### WHO is a Health and Well-being Coach for?

If you are struggling with or at risk of long-term conditions (LTCs) such as high blood pressure, low mood, high cholesterol, diabetes or weight management problems, this service is for you. Learning you have an LTC can affect every aspect of your life. You may feel anxious, or even overwhelmed. Our service will help you to take control of your condition and enable you to get more of what you want from life, for yourself and your family.

### HOW does it work?

First you will have a consultation with the Health and Well-being Coach, in which we will talk about you, your lifestyle, values, goals, and anything that might be standing in your way. You will then set some short-term goals that will enable you to work towards what you want to achieve. We will follow up with more appointments to discuss any barriers that

may have come up, and talk about any next steps you might want to take. The Health and Well-being Coach sessions usually last thirty to forty-five minutes, and patients usually have five or six sessions spread over four or five months.

### Here are some words from patients who have benefitted from the HWBC service:

*Just give it a go! I didn't know what to expect at first. I was speaking to the GPs about the changes I wanted to make, and they referred me to Ian. I was willing to try HWBC to see if it would work for me, and I found Ian to be excellent. Very supportive, thanks!*



Photo by Roger Bode

## Crich Scout Group update

**2024 is Crich Scout group's one hundredth anniversary, so we're planning more activities than usual. We also have a special badge, which you might see on our uniforms.**

We started the year with the Scouts Chilly Challenge, which involved camping in January at Darley Moor motor racing circuit outside Ashbourne. The camp lived up to its name, but the Scouts had a good time. We are also going to attend a district event at Carsington Water to celebrate St George's Day; at the time of writing we know that we need to come equipped with cardboard shields, so we might be facing dragons!

Eddie Mann came to visit the Beavers and talked about the work of the police, and the Beavers got to try on some equipment and turn the lights on in the police car. The Cubs and Scouts are also attending a summer camp with Holloway Scout group, camping in Kibblestone near Stoke-on-Trent. The site offers a wide range of activities including climbing, raft building and archery, so everyone will have fun joining in and making new friends.

Scouting isn't just about having fun camping, so you'll also see us round the village supporting other events such as managing car parking for the Archbishop of Canterbury's visit to Crich Stand, making well dressings, and BBQing at the fête. All these activities support the community and help to make Crich a great place to live.

We know there are lots of people in the community who have been a member of Scouting or who have helped us out. We are going to hold a church service on the weekend of Saturday 28th September at St Mary's, time TBC with teas and cakes

afterwards for a catch-up and reminisce about Scouting. As long as the weather is kind we'll then move to the Rec to play some games and activities. Other members of the community are also welcome to join in with the fun. If you would like more information about this, please contact Bill on [williamcaine@btinternet.com](mailto:williamcaine@btinternet.com).

We have spaces in Beavers, Cubs and Scouts for both leaders and children, so if you are interested in getting involved please contact the leaders at [Crichbeaverleader@gmail.com](mailto:Crichbeaverleader@gmail.com) (Beavers), [williamcaine@btinternet.com](mailto:williamcaine@btinternet.com) (Cubs) and [myscout@onlinescoutmanager.co.uk](mailto:myscout@onlinescoutmanager.co.uk) (Scouts).

Beavers is for children aged between 6 (youngest 5 ¾) and 8, meeting on Mondays between 5.45pm and 7.00pm. Cubs is for children between 8 and 10, meeting on Tuesdays between 6.30pm and 8.00pm. Scouts is for children between 10 and 14, meeting on Wednesdays between 7.00pm and 8.30pm. All meetings take place at the Scout Hut on Jeffries Lane in Crich, and are open to both boys and girls.

If you are unsure about whether to get involved, the best people to talk to about it are the children themselves. If your child knows someone else in school that already comes along, please have a chat with them about why they enjoy being a Beaver, a Cub or a Scout, and about all the activities



## Crich Carr CofE Primary School

The Spring school term saw a giant Easter Egg hunt, Young Voices and a host of sports activities!

### Giant Easter Egg Hunt

Just before the Easter holidays Class 3 set off on a huge Easter egg hunt, which was a test of their map-reading, endurance and persistence. The groups set off from Whatstandwell armed with an OS map, a compass and instructions detailing a series of checkpoints they had to find. The children demonstrated fantastic orienteering skills as well as great stamina, and reached the final checkpoint at Cromford Station in good time for their return to school and Easter egg rewards.

### Red Nose Day

Our amazing school councillors organised a brilliant day of activities to celebrate Comic Relief's Red Nose Day. Activities included 'pin the nose on the headteacher', 'sweets in the jar' and 'guess the teddy's name'. This was topped off with a fabulous best joke competition.



### Young Voices

In January the school choir headed to the Utilita Arena in Sheffield for the 2024 Young Voices concert. After months of practice the children performed together with thousands of other children, professional musicians, dancers and musical stars. As always this was a fabulous event, and an amazing experience for all the children who had worked so hard to prepare for it.

### We took part in a series of Sports festivals over the Spring term:

#### Athletics

The children made it through the qualifiers to the regional finals of the sports hall athletics. They put in a fantastic performance, just missing out on a medal by two points.

#### Rugby

Congratulations to the tag rugby team, who competed in the regional final at Matlock Rugby Club. The children played superbly and scored some excellent tries, as well as having a great time.

#### Winter Games

Class 2 had a great time at the Winter Games. The children were able to experience a wide range of exciting activities, with archery and tai Cci among the firm favourites.

## Green Fingers at Fritchley CofE (Aided) Primary and Nursery School

It is that magical time of year when colourful flowers start to bloom and the sun begins to shine! The excitement of the new season is upon us, and the children at Fritchley are looking forward to embracing the outdoors and using all the wonderful spaces that we have in our school grounds.

### Bulb Planting

The children in Key Stage 1 have been busy planting different bulbs all around school, which are now in full bloom and bringing lots of colour. They planted some in pots and sold these as a class fundraiser.

### Flower Beds

We were sad to hear of the passing of our long-standing Councillor, Valerie Thorpe. She will be remembered with great affection in the village, and is deeply missed. Valerie made a generous donation to our school, which the children and governors decided to use to brighten up the entrance. Our new caretaker, Mr Shaw, took on the challenge to build a new raised bed, a sensory garden and a barefoot walk. This is nearly complete, and we welcome donations of plants to help fill the beds and borders.



### Allotment

Our allotment is tidied, weeded and ready! This year we have the addition of a greenhouse so we can grow some flowers and vegetables from seeds. This area is going to be open at playtimes and lunchtimes so that all the children can get involved. The School Council are intending to sell some of the crops to fund next year's planting, and they are also hoping to enter some produce in the Fritchley Village Show in August. The children get great enjoyment from being outdoors, and from watching something grow from a tiny seed into a beautiful plant or even vegetables they can eat! We welcome any donations of plants or seeds to help fill the allotment.

## Crich Junior School – Metacognition Day: Reflecting on the Power of Thought

In March our school organised a metacognition day centred around the enchanting tale of *The Boy, The Mole, The Fox and The Horse* by Charlie Mackesy. This captivating book takes readers on a magical journey as four unlikely companions embark on an exploration of the world around them. During their adventures they pause to reflect on their thoughts, actions, and the true meaning of life.

To bring the story to life, our imaginative pupils put on a remarkable musical play. Every child got a chance to contribute their unique talents, whether through acting, singing, directing or creating props. They were encouraged to select roles that resonated with them, and devise creative ways to develop their own skills.

The key to their success was collaboration. Each child worked as part of a team, embracing the spirit of togetherness. They shared ideas, brainstormed solutions, and supported one another throughout the entire creative process. By engaging in this collective effort they cultivated their metacognitive abilities, gaining a deeper understanding of their own thinking patterns, learning styles and personal growth.

As the day progressed the children thrived in their roles, breathing life into their characters. Their performances were utterly fabulous, evoking a range of emotions. Their understanding of the play's key themes, such as friendship, self-discovery and resilience, reflected their growing metacognitive capacity.

The day exemplified several aspects of learning, including:

- 1. Integration of Literature and Creative Arts:** By exploring a richly woven narrative to producing a musical performance, the children immersed themselves in a multidisciplinary learning experience.
- 2. Child-Directed Learning:** The pupils took ownership of their learning, making independent decisions about their roles and contributing to the overall development of the play.
- 3. Collaborative Problem-Solving:** By collectively reflecting on their progress and identifying areas for refinement, they nurtured their metacognitive abilities and enhanced their interpersonal skills.
- 4. Creative Expression:** The dynamic approach enabled them to think critically, make informed decisions and transform their ideas into tangible outcomes.
- 5. Emotional Engagement:** By exploring themes such as friendship, self-reflection and the meaning of life, the children emotionally connected with the story. This emotional engagement enabled them to contemplate their own thoughts, values and personal growth.

The success of our first metacognition day has left us eager for our next adventure. Our next one will inspiration from a thought-provoking video titled *Austin's Butterfly*. We can't wait to see how our pupils will apply their growing metacognitive skills to engage with this powerful story and further develop their own independent thinking.



# Glass half-full, anyone?

I think it's worth drawing occasional attention to what's new and good about our village. In turn, these things represent reasons why people want to come and live here, leading to a sometimes apparently never-ending quest for further development.

A little over a year ago Crich Brew Co was launched. Yes, we now have a brewery situated here in the Parish, and one year on things seem to have gone very well for the business with reports of multiple pub outlets and website sales. However, the owner Lloyd has done so much more by engaging with the community to bring us along on his journey. A special brew was all set to be sold at the Fête last year, but as we all remember, Mother Nature forced a cancellation of the event. Undeterred, another brew was created to mark Christmas Carols round the tree, which featured our very own Martyn Offord. I wonder if anything even close to that has ever happened anywhere before?

This year Crich Brew Co will again supply the Fête, and will also be lead sponsor of the Crich Monument Race; we do hope the runners will have a drink with Crich Brew after the race. This is a fantastic new business and a new friend to the community.

Some years ago now, and as seen on TV, Wakebridge Manor Farm became a sheep farm with the goal of producing cheese. It looks like this is another journey that is close to success with their website promising two cheeses, one similar to Roquefort, launching as soon as the final regulations and accreditations have been

received. Having walked past the farm many times and watched all the various buildings have been erected, I for one have found this development to be non-intrusive, and the upcoming opportunities to buy the cheese will be a real bonus for the local and wider community.

Recently we have had new owners of the chip shop (a Crich essential!), a relaunch of the Crich Stand tea room, and of course a refresh of Crich Standard (for which we appreciate the positive response). It's also great to have the Old Black Swan back in full swing and the Briars camping pods receiving guests. No wonder we are so popular as a tourist destination!

As reported in these pages, we also welcome Grace Tomlinson, the new Manager at the Crich Glebe Community Centre. Best wishes and good luck as you work to make more use of the facility that we have there.

If your glass is still half-empty, that might be because the new housing developments, with all their traffic and disruption, do cause problems. But can we have one without the other?

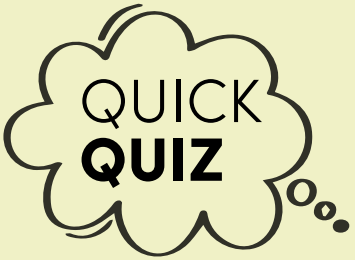
In the end, it's all about proportion – which is perhaps why so many oppose the Crich Quarry holiday resort, while also respecting the benefits of some growth and change.

We all have to make our own minds up.

**Tony**  
Tony Mills, Chair

## All Things Olympic

As the Summer Olympics are just round the corner, here are a few brain ticklers to see if you're going to win gold (7-8pts), silver (5-6pts), or bronze (3-4pts). If you're below this, don't worry – qualification for 2028 is not far off!



Compiled by Roger Bode

1. Which Frenchman is considered to be the founder of the modern Olympics?

2. For the first time in 2024, winners of gold medals in the athletics events will get what?

3. Which of these sports has featured in the Olympics?

a) American football

b) squash

c) cricket

d) snooker

4. In what year did the first modern Summer Olympics take place?

5. The oldest ever Olympic competitor is Sweden's Oscar Swahn, who competed in several shooting events in Antwerp in 1920. How old was he?

a) 72

b) 82

c) 89
6. Up until 2024, which is the only city to have hosted the summer games three times?

7. Who was the only female competitor in 1976 not to have to submit to a sex test?

8. In 1900 a poorly team member of the Sweden/Denmark Tug of War team was replaced by:

a) a spectator

b) a judge

c) a journalist

1. (Baron) Pierre de Coubertain
2. Prize money (\$50,000)
3. c) Cricket – it appeared in 1896
4. 1896, in Athens
5. a) 72
6. London – 1908, 1948 and 2012
7. Princess Anne
8. c) A Journalist (they won gold!)

Answers