



CRICH • FRITCHLEY • WHATSTANDWELL

# CRICH Standard

Issue 92 • Winter 2019

The new name for Crich Area Community News

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

## **Volunteers: the rocks of our community**

All about helping others

Community news and views

# CRICH Standard

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Issue 92 • Winter 2019

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Front cover photo by Louisa Barrett





# Editorial

**It is a year since Crich Area Community News was at a crossroads. Either new volunteers would come forward to take up the work of the long-serving and retiring committee, or our community magazine would see its final edition and another good thing would come to an end.**

Crich Parish, like communities right across the country, is one which depends on the work of volunteers. In fact, 29% of people living in rural communities do some sort of voluntary work at least once a month. The cynical might say that this is a symptom of under-investment in our public and social services. However, there are actually very few (7%) who say they volunteer because they think there is no-one else to do the job.

Our reasons for volunteering are diverse: 'to improve things', 'to help others and my community', 'to meet other people', 'to gain new skills', 'part of my beliefs' and 'the cause was important to me'. And in our parish, we see people volunteering in all sorts of different ways.

Read about the many volunteers in our Schools on pages 32-35. What about those working with older people - daycare on page 16; the luncheon club on page 8 and a wonderful perspective on what it is to make calls as part of Crich Careline on pages 11-13.

We have volunteers helping to keep us active and well (pages 28-29 and page 31), volunteers involved in preserving the natural world around us (pages 36-37) and volunteers keeping us entertained through Live and Local (page 38) and through our clubs and societies (pages 28-29).

With any luck, all this wonderful work will inspire you to get involved if you aren't already and dotted throughout the magazine you will find plenty of appeals for more volunteers.

**'What is the essence of life? To serve others and to do good.'**

**Aristotle**

Fortunately for us, a great team of people did step up twelve months ago and we have them to thank for all the amazing work they do on this magazine. Writing, designing, selling advertising and delivering the magazine...it is all done by a team of people, busy with their day jobs, but happy to use their skills for the benefit of others.

They stepped up and tell me they are enjoying it...so I am sure you would too. Go on, give it a go!

**Andrew Auld**

# News in Brief



## Community film success

Saturday 19 October saw a big crowd at the Glebe for the first showing of a new community film, *Life in the 1940s and 50s*.

The result of an inspired collaboration between Crich Scouts and the Dementia Friends group, the film highlighted the vivid memories of some of the older residents of the parish as they discussed their childhood, schooling, first jobs and life in the Second World War.

The idea for the film originated from a 2015 challenge to the UK Scouting movement called A Million Hands, encouraging all Scouts to think about ways of improving the life of others.

As part of this challenge, Crich Scouts collaborated with the Dementia Friends group, who are very engaged in organising activities for older people in the community. Utilising the skills of Charlie Travers, an Explorer Scout with a particular interest in film-making, it was decided to make a documentary film where some of the older residents could share their memories with the Scout members.

The result was an incredibly engaging, poignant, moving but humorous film which perfectly connected the generations through conversation. It was particularly good to hear the young interviewers going 'off-script' to tease out details of the lives of people in the very different world of 60-80 years ago.

Supported by a number of community organisations co-ordinated by the Crich Patient Participation Group, the combination of the film viewings and themed refreshments provided a great opportunity for further socialising between the generations, friends and neighbours.

A great, well-supported, community event!

## Crich Parish Council

If you would like to take part in an Amber Valley BC polling place review, please visit [crichstandard.org/avp](http://crichstandard.org/avp) for more information.

An update from Margaret Lane, chair of Crich Parish Council, will be published on [crichstandard.org/cpc](http://crichstandard.org/cpc) and [crich-pc.gov.uk](http://crich-pc.gov.uk) from the end of November. Hard copies will be available at the Post Office and Glebe Field Centre.

## Thanks from Bowmer Rough Farm

Every year, the Dawes family at the farm just below Chadwick Nick puts on a display of Christmas lights that brightens up every journey down The Common. What you might not know is that they put in all this effort to help raise money for local children's charities.

Nicola Dawes-Hamp says, 'We would like to say a big thank you to everyone who gave to our Christmas Light Fund in 2018. We raised £50 from donations and were able to give a further £150 thanks to a generous donation from sofa company HSL. The money went to the BIG APPEAL at Nottingham Children's Hospitals.

'We put up the display every year for local children to enjoy and to enable us to raise money for children's charities.'

This year's collection (a box at the front of the house which is emptied nightly) will start on 12 December and will again go to the BIG APPEAL. Enjoy the display and please give generously if you can.



## Ron Spencer, 1943-2019

It was with great sadness that we learnt of Ron Spencer's death after his recent illness.

He had been the enthusiastic Advertising Manager for the *Crich Area Community News* magazine for a great many years. Whatever the event, you would always be sure of Ron's full participation and good humour. It was the greatest pleasure to have known him and worked alongside him.

Ron's funeral took place on 30 September with the mourners retiring to the Kings Arms afterwards for refreshment and talk of Ron's life. This was a venue of which Ron would have approved.

He was a no-fuss family man and we know how much they will miss his company and support.

We are grateful to have known him.

Members of the *Crich Area Community News Committee*  
1996-2018

## Donation thanks

Thank you for all the kind donations to our collection boxes located at the Post Office, The Loaf, Crich Tramway Village, Lloyd's pharmacy and the Glebe. Donations this quarter have totalled £52.83.



## Local art exhibition

ArtStand is a new group of artists based in Crich, Fritchley and Whatstandwell who want to raise the profile of arts in the local area and to provide support and encouragement to each other and local artists.

The group's 'Sense of Place' exhibition will fill the Drinking Trough at the Old Black Swan pub in Crich – a characterful backdrop for the artists' work. You'll find sculptural figures chatting around the tables, a range of paintings based on the Peak District landscape, delicate pastels, tactile felting and woven hangings and beautifully detailed hedgerow 3D work made from leather and mixed media.

**The exhibition will be on display on 7 and 8 December, 11am-5pm. Admission is free.**

**Find out more at [crichstandard.org/asg](http://crichstandard.org/asg)**

## Boldly coming...

A Crich-based theatre company, JKB Productions, will be performing *The Final Frontier* at the Glebe Field Centre on 14 March 2020. The show is a comical spoof with a script based on *Star Trek* and music often associated with the show *Return to the Forbidden Planet*. Sixties songs will include *Do You Love Me?* and *Good Vibrations*.

All proceeds from the performance will be split equally between JKB Productions and the Glebe.

For more on this story, visit [crichstandard.org/jkb](http://crichstandard.org/jkb)

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## ...STOP PRESS...

As we were going to print we heard that Crich Pre-school desperately needs parent volunteers and will have to close unless some people come forward to offer their time.

Please help keep this vital childcare service going by getting involved visit [facebook.com/crichpreschool](https://facebook.com/crichpreschool) for more information.

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## Crich Brass needs you

We are seeking to increase our membership and have vacancies in most sections for players of all grades, including improvers and new starters. Why not give it a try?

To learn to play any musical instrument is an achievement, but to be able to team up with a group of musicians is so much more rewarding. The process to play in brass is similar to football – first you learn to kick or blow, then learn to control, then join in with the team or band. Music can take some time to become proficient, but getting there is a lot of fun. At Crich Brass you can be guaranteed of a warm welcome and lots of support along the way.

We'd also like to extend an invite to former members whose circumstances may have changed: the band room door is always wide open to you.

All tuition and loan of instruments are free of charge.

**Derek, Band Chairman**

Band rehearsal, Tuesdays 7pm-9:30pm at the Kings Arms.  
Teaching, Thursday from 7pm at the Kings Arms. Call Derek on 01773 852620; Charlotte on 07796 801001, or email us at [crich.brass@outlook.com](mailto:crich.brass@outlook.com).

For more on this story, visit [crichstandard.org/brass](http://crichstandard.org/brass)



## Help the Scouts

We're fortunate to live in a community that's full of opportunities, many of which are provided by volunteers. Volunteering is a rewarding way to help others and make things better, which is basically what Scouting is all about! Through the hard work and commitment of a small voluntary team, the Scout group in Crich has grown to be one of the biggest in the area, providing exciting and engaging activities for boys and girls aged 6-18. Week by week, we teach our young people new skills and have a huge amount of fun along the way. The best part? It's open to everyone and we all get more out than we put in. That's where you come in: we urgently need more volunteers! You don't need to have been a Scout, or even know how to put up a tent! You don't have to sign up to be a Scout leader either. We need everyone, from committee members and leaders to volunteers who help fix things at the Scout hut, or simply help us tidy up after a long weekend out camping.

We're running a drop-in session where you can meet us and see what we get up to. We'll have tea, coffee and bacon butties at the ready, so why not join us to chat about making a difference in Crich?

The session will be on Saturday 11 January 2020, at the Scout hut on Jeffries Lane.

For more on this story, visit [crichstandard.org/scouts](http://crichstandard.org/scouts)

# Stocking-fillers

It's that time of year again – and if you need some gift inspiration, look no further! We've two crackers with a lovely local theme

## **Crich Standard Calendar 2020, £6.50**

A journey through the seasons with gorgeous photos of Crich Parish to enjoy. It's a pressie that'll be appreciated all-year round!



## **Nothing Rhymes with Crich by Martyn Offord, £6.50**

This collection of light-hearted poetry has a community feel (see our book review on page 17). Bound to raise a smile – and profits will raise money for Daycare at the Glebe.

Buy the calendar at The Loaf, Crich Post Office, Crich Stand tearoom and The Family Tree. Nothing Rhymes with Crich is on sale at the Glebe Field Centre.

# A chat with... Margaret Lane, Chair of Crich Parish Council

by Andrew Auld

In these times when we might be finding it hard to trust the role of our national elected representatives, it is important to understand what motivates the most local of the people we elect – our Parish Councillors. I spoke to Margaret Lane about why she works so hard voluntarily in our best interests...

## How long have you been a councillor?

I was elected in December 2002 as a councillor. This was in fact the only time I have actually had to stand for election by the parish residents, as since then we haven't had enough candidates come forward to have an election. I was then voted in as Chair in 2005 by the other councillors.

## What made you get involved with Parish Council work?

Well, it's a bit of a story. My husband David and I were both in the action group that fought against the Rolls-Royce use of Hilt's Quarry as a landfill site. During the process, members of the protest group attended Parish Council meetings to have a say. It was the Parish Council's seeming



Photo by David Lane

unwillingness to get involved in the fight that triggered me to stand for election. Once the landfill site was closed, I stayed on as I found it interesting and felt that I could continue to work for the community through the council.

## What does being a councillor involve?

There is a lot of paperwork to read: with monthly meetings, there are reports to be read for each meeting and in between. You also have to be aware of what the community is concerned about – answering calls and emails from parishioners. There are also sub-groups – burial ground group, finance committee, planning group. An important piece of work we have done in recent years is as part of our role as 'trustee' of the Crich recreation ground. We have worked hard to support the Place Project. We also administer the Whatstandwell allotments and contribute to various enhancements to the parish – annual things, such as the floral displays through the summer and Christmas trees, and then one-off projects like bus-shelter enhancement.

## Are you paid?

Councillors aren't paid but can claim expenses.



### Is it a political role?

Though councillors can belong to political parties, this isn't relevant in the work we do. I'm not political and I don't believe politics play a part in issues at the parish level. The councillors have in mind the best interests of the parish.

### What are some of the challenges of the role?

Planning is always a challenge, and it has been particularly challenging over the past few years. Even the production of a Neighbourhood Plan hasn't protected the parish from inappropriate development in the way it should have done. The Parish Council is simply a consultee in the planning process – it doesn't have any say in the decision other than as a consultee. Some people think the Parish Council should be able to 'block' or 'approve' a planning decision; however, all we can try to do is represent the views of the community in the consultation process.

Other examples where the Parish Council doesn't have a decisive role are roads, parking and police matters. However, we can and often do guide parishioners on which authority to approach for help.

### What achievements while on the council are you most proud of?

The Neighbourhood Plan is a very well put together piece of work which took a lot of people a lot of time. Experts were employed, volunteers were essential and it took three years. There has been a lot of positive feedback from the parish about it. I really hope that the change in administration and attitude at Amber Valley Borough Council means that the Neighbourhood Plan will start to carry the weight it should. Just over 46% of parishioners turned out to vote in the referendum to approve the Plan – higher than any other Neighbourhood Plan turnout across the borough. When I was told this on the night of the count, it really was a moment where being a councillor felt good.



Photo by Paul Yorke

### Why are parish councils important for communities like ours?

Because we are one of the ways that people can make their views known to a wider audience. We provide an important conduit to the borough and county councils. There are also some jobs that we can do better by handling them locally.

### I understand the Parish Council supports voluntary organisations. How?

Any organisation can apply for a grant once a year and we do award some grants every year to community organisations. But the best way the Parish Council can support the community is by supporting the Glebe Field Centre (we own a small percentage of the building and make a monthly contribution of over £800 to the Glebe running costs). Because it is a very important hub for the parish for all sorts of groups, this is a very tangible way the Parish Council can support the community.

### Why should people consider putting themselves forward to be on the council?

It is very rewarding to get involved in the community. To meet people who are doing things in the community and work with them to support what they're doing. I've always been involved in the community, even before becoming a councillor. However, being on the council has widened this and it is great to work as part of a team involved in the community to the extent that the Parish Council is. I feel very lucky to live in a community like Crich Parish. If you're at all interested in getting involved yourself, just do it!



# Time for lunch

by Frances James

**A significant number of volunteers give a considerable amount of their time to provide a range of exciting and engaging activities for older members of our community.**

The judges of the national Corkill Award (established by the National Association for Patient Participation) noted that one of the reasons why they awarded the prize to Crich Area Dementia Friends was the evident commitment of the broader community to its inclusive aims and the drive to reduce social isolation for some people living in our villages.

One of the most successful regular activities available for older people, run by a stalwart bunch of volunteers, is the weekly Luncheon Club held at the Glebe Field Centre in Crich on Wednesdays. The Luncheon Club not only provides its members with a delicious hot meal but also entertainment.

A welcome recent development has been the involvement of young volunteers from Crich Junior School and Fritchley Primary School, who have joined the Luncheon Club members for activities such as Lego Challenges. These challenges have involved mixed teams of the young and older people working together. There are many benefits from these joint activities – possibly the most important is that they're great fun for both young and old. And who can argue with that?



*Photos by Chris Baker*

If you are interested in volunteering for (or attending) the Luncheon Club, please call Cathy Bowness on 01773 852635.

# The people who make our community

**From small beginnings, the Fritchley Community Association (FCA) has grown into a force to be reckoned with, as Dom Andrews discovered...**

It all started about 15 years ago – with a Christmas tree. Three Fritchley couples were fed up with the lack of community festive cheer and decided to club together to get a tree put in place on the village green.

It was a gamble for the couples involved – John and Sally Midgley, Celia and Michael Peat, and Wayne and Judy Baker – because they were stumping up their own cash. However, the initiative flourished (as did membership of the FCA), and the tree tradition continued not only to the next year, but every year after that.

The Fritchley Village Hall was another success story. Linked to the church next door, it had been the hub of the village – ‘the centre of its universe’. But as the church congregation slowly dwindled to only six parishioners, there was little incentive for the church funding body to keep either the church or the by now rather dilapidated hall going. In March 2018, the church and hall closed.

Could anything be done? Well, the same band of villagers who had got the Christmas tree idea up and running now took on this much bigger project. At one point they even considered funding the acquisition and maintenance of the buildings themselves. It was, after all, a place that held many memories for all ages: several of the older generation had eaten their school meals in the hall as children and worshipped in the church as adults.

After casting around ideas, the FCA decided that the best route to save the church and hall would be to encourage a new congregation, giving the church back its original purpose. So that’s what they did. The word spread (literally!) and gradually the congregation began to grow.

The reopening of the church and hall in May 2019 was a grand occasion. Crich Brass, Fritchley Community Choir and a platoon of First World War re-enactment uniformed soldiers were brought in for the occasion, packing the church out – all in all, there were a total of 125 people present.



*Photos provided by FCA*







***Fritchley Village Hall now hosts regular sessions including boxercise, community choir, craft group, Morris dancing and martial arts. It is also hired out as a venue for meetings, one-off events, performances, fundraisers and community activities.***

Future events in the hall will see a string quartet and a 40-strong choir perform, and hosting further classes such as wreath-making. Hire of the hall can be free for the first few sessions while a new community group finds its feet. The search for new volunteers continues, as it's always great to get new ideas to keep the project going.

What struck me most when talking to the people involved about their motivation, was their energy and good humour. Volunteering

brings its own rewards. Motivation can be varied – personal faith, altruism, a sense of self-worth and pride in the projects you've volunteered for... However, my overriding impression from our chat in the hall was that volunteering is its own reward, because it can be good fun and it distracts from the humdrum and the mundane.

The fruits of the drive and energy of the original three couples, alongside newer volunteers including Ian Chinn and Steve Wood, is a restored village hall and church with enough events, group activities and private hire functions to keep it self-funding for a good while to come... and plenty of space for that Christmas tree.

**If you'd like to find out more about the Fritchley Community Association, call Steve Wood on 07789 373241.**





# It's good to talk

Andy Harding on  
volunteering with  
Crìch Careline

**I thought talking to old ladies would be boring: all blue rinse and daytime TV. It turns out they're into all sorts of weird stuff. Pro wrestling, for instance.**

I still can't recall how we got on to the topic, but one day I found myself embroiled in a debate with a 90-year-old granny about who's the greatest wrestler of all time. Naturally, I was fighting The Rock's corner – the People's Champion, the Brahma Bull, the Most Electrifying Man in Sports Entertainment and now, of course, darling of Hollywood, having made an athletic leap into A-list action movies. How can you beat his ring presence and sassy put-downs, jabroni?

She was having none of it. She ushered in 6ft 11in, 48st man-mountain Giant Haystacks, towering behemoth of the 1970s and 80s wrestling scene. The phone bubbled with excitement. I listened as she described his legendary feud with baby-faced Big Daddy, former ally and team-mate before Haystacks went bad-ass and turned against him. 'I used to get a front row seat and scream myself hoarse,' she said, recalling the gargantuan brutes' tour of English venues. 'Flatten him!'

My wife Anna and I started volunteering for Crìch Careline soon after we moved to the village four years ago. We wanted to get to know people locally, and to do something worthwhile that we could fit around our busy work lives. We spotted the ad in a local shop window and got in touch. It was all pretty easy, and very rewarding – just an hour or so one



evening a fortnight, making calls to a handful of local elderly residents who'd signed up for the service. There was lots of support and guidance on hand to help us get started, but really it was very simple – these guys just wanted to chat. They had active minds and a need for friendship but had become isolated in older age, often due to physical immobility or their family having moved overseas.

So we chatted.

For one hour, I turned off the TV, signed out of Facebook, put away any distractions and gave four other human beings my undivided attention.

The conversations were quite varied, and often eye-opening. One gentleman was an avid chef and eager to pass on his (rather tasty) recipes. Another lady had a lifetime's experience of animal husbandry and veterinary practice. When she learned that we had a backyard flock of chickens, she showered us with practical help on how to look after them. Did you know, for instance, that a hen's favourite colour is red? It really is! (I have no idea why). We invested in some red feeders and water bowls, and the egg production skyrocketed.

Within the space of a few months, I'd learned about tap-dancing, tram-painting, how to milk a cow by hand (though I didn't trust

myself to try it) and the Spanish Riding School in Vienna. Sometimes we paddled in the rock pools of popular culture (one lady turned out to be a huge *Judge Rinder* fan) and sometimes it got pretty deep – the outlook for Artificial Intelligence, animal consciousness and what it means to be human. On one occasion I put down the phone following a languid conversation about baking, and when I dialled my next caller was immediately engaged in a heavy dissection of Brexit, political accountability and the Austrian corruption scandal. Good job I had a strong coffee to hand!

Every now and then I've been reminded how vulnerable our service users are. Part of the value of Careline is the comfort in receiving a regular daily call to check things are all right. One weekend, our Saturday caller rang up to find that an elderly lady had completely run out of food – her usual shopping delivery hadn't arrived, and she had no means of getting to the shops by herself as she struggled to walk. Thankfully, our volunteer was able to report this immediately and the woman's fridge was filled to the brim later that day. It only took a few minutes of her time, but the call had made a huge difference to that lady's wellbeing.

*For one hour, I turned off the TV, signed out of Facebook, put away any distractions and gave four other human beings my undivided attention.*

Many Careline volunteers become friends with their regular confidants. Anna and I popped round to see one of our long-standing service users on Christmas Day last year, for a bit of cake and a festive chat. Her eyes lit up when we entered the room, as she'd been expecting to spend the day alone. Another of the ladies using Careline was delighted when our youngest helper (a pupil volunteering as part of her school Duke of Edinburgh award) appeared at her 90th birthday party. As she later told me, beaming: 'I heard a shy little noise behind me, someone softly saying hello, and I thought "I recognise that voice". So I turned around and there she was.'

Of course, visiting service users or eating their birthday cake isn't expected of Careline volunteers – it's going above and beyond. But simply being a kind, friendly voice at the end of a phone can make a world of difference to an isolated person. It's easy to forget how special this can be if you spend all your time within the same four walls.

To be honest, it cuts both ways. After a hectic day in the office, I find there's something therapeutic about shutting out the busyness of the world, making a brew, putting my feet up and chatting to someone with a completely different perspective on life.

## Why not give it a go?

Careline is completely dependent on volunteers and always looking for new people to help out. We've had folk from all walks of life – students, workers, full-time mums and those who've recently retired. All you need is a bit of time to talk, and to listen. You can even make the calls from home if that suits you best.

If you're interested, drop us a line on 01773 853754 (Vanessa) or 01773 856228 (Peter), or email [crichcareline@gmail.com](mailto:crichcareline@gmail.com) to find out more!



Photos by Emma Collyer

# Lifelines for parents

## Two well-established local groups offer welcome support to those with young children

by Claire Ganthony

When I first moved to Crich five years ago, my eldest son was 18 months old and I had another on the way. The playgroups in the village were so important in helping me settle into our new home and meet people who have become firm friends. Both Toy Library and Popalong provide a lifeline for parents, with hot drinks, friendly faces and listening ears in abundance, thanks to the efforts of the volunteers who run them.

### Toys to borrow

Established on 22 May 2000, Crich Millennium Toy Library was set up by Ann-Marie McMillan and a group of enthusiastic volunteers, who all had children under the age of five at the time. The aim was to provide a rural toy library for families who were unable to travel easily to the towns. They were supported by local health visitors, who provided statistics to show the need for the provision.

The charity has grown, becoming Derbyshire Toy Libraries, and today sessions are held in Wirksworth, Matlock, Belper, South Normanton, Duffield and Holbrook, as well as Crich. Ann-Marie and Tina Farr deliver the Toy Library and Intergenerational Stay & Play sessions in term time, supported by Tracey Rogers and Jack Davies during school holidays. They are self-employed and only paid for the sessions. Everything else they, and others, do for Toy Library is on a voluntary basis. The work varies from that of Trustees overseeing the charity, to planning the sessions and providing party packages, as well as facilitating the Kids Zone at Belper Goes Green. In Crich, sessions are usually led by Tina, supported by Liz and Corinne.

### Popalong pops up

When Lynda Gray moved to Crich in 2003, she'd recently become a grandmother. She became aware of new parents in similar situations to her daughter and grew interested in the support available to them in the area. Popalong had existed for decades, run by local parents and held in their homes. It tended to fold as their children grew, before being reborn with another wave of babies and new parents.

There was support for a more permanent group and Popalong Baby & Toddler Group was established in its current form in October 2006 by Lynda, Di Fretwell and Heather and George Johnson. At first, the equipment was donated, but sessions quickly became very busy and by Christmas 2006 it was clear more was needed. Amber Valley Volunteer Bureau helped



Popalong obtain a grant to buy tables, chairs and some larger equipment such as the soft play cushions and climbing frame.

Since then, Popalong has gone from strength to strength, with the team expanding and changing over time. Jan and Stuart Needham came with their grandchildren and continued to support Popalong as the children outgrew it. Later on, Lynn Penson led craft sessions before becoming a grandmother herself. The current team consists of Lynda and Jim, Heather and George, Jan, Deirdre and Martyn Offord and Christine Hall. Jim, George and Martyn set up – and Martyn also leads the singing at the end of each session. Serena Hancox and Lynn help when extra support is needed.

Both groups are highly valued by those who attend them. One parent told me, 'Toy Library's a fun environment for me to bring my toddler to. It helps her learn to socialise with other children and it helped me to make friends when we first moved to the area.' 'I always borrow toys from Toy Library rather than buy,' said another. 'That way, when the kids get bored of them, they're not left cluttering up my house! I can return them for other children to enjoy.'

But it's the volunteers themselves who really make the groups so special. All the parents, carers and grandparents I spoke to emphasised how much they appreciate what volunteers do. 'People look forward to Friday mornings,' a Popalong parent told me. 'It's a lifeline to know that you'll get a smile, a hot drink and someone to talk to who understands and wants to listen.' 'You know they all really care and

want to know how you are,' another added. 'If any of the volunteers see you sitting on your own or think you're not your usual self, they'll come over and check on you. When you first come to the group, they introduce you to other parents. They do all they can to make you feel welcome.'

So, what's in it for those who volunteer? Liz has been with Toy Library for about 16 years. Her initial motivation was to meet people as she was new to the area, but it's the friends she's made that keep her coming back. For Corinne, it was the central value of the importance of play that drew her to volunteer. Her professional life had involved working with children and when she retired, she looked for volunteering opportunities that aligned with her core values. She also enjoys the social aspect of the role: 'This morning I've done nothing but talk to people,' she told me with a smile. Connecting with younger people and families is something she values too, as she feels it's important not to only socialise with your own age group, especially as you get older. 'It's also good for my memory to try to remember everyone's names!' she laughs.

That connection with young people is something that

Deirdre mentioned to me, too. She enjoys seeing the children grow and believes in the importance of supporting family life and services for families. Popalong is a collaboration between St Mary's and the Wesleyan Chapel. Their faith is a motivating factor for these volunteers, but religion is not pushed. When Martyn plays his guitar and sings 'jig-jog' with the bouncing, giggling children at the end of the session, it's clear to see what he gets out of volunteering here. He's been away for a few weeks, travelling in Peru. 'I've really missed you,' he tells everyone, mirroring the children's joy back at them. It's clear the appreciation is mutual.

### Baby and toddler groups in our area

Monday 9.30am-11.30am:  
Toy Library, the Glebe, Crich.

Wednesday 9.30am-11.30am:  
South Wingfield Playgroup,  
South Wingfield church hall.

Thursday 9.30am-12 noon:  
Munchkins Playgroup,  
Holloway Chapel, Church  
Street (near the village shop).

Friday 9.30am-11.30am:  
Popalong, Crich Wesleyan  
Chapel, Chapel Lane, during  
term time.



*Popalong volunteers*

# Daycare at the Glebe

by Anji Marshall

**Volunteers for the Daycare service at the Glebe Field Centre have been giving us their time for a while now. While one has been with us for 10 years and another for three, our latest joined us just four months ago. Each of them brings different skills and always plenty of enthusiasm.**

From making tea to serving lunch, assisting with games and past times, and engaging with those who for one reason or another are unable to join in, there's the opportunity to make a valuable contribution to the service Daycare offers.

Behind the scenes we have a volunteer who – whatever the weather – puts up event posters around the village and then takes them down again, and even helps us with the annual well dressing event.

We make use of two of our local entertainers, who provide us with a singalong every now and again. And, of course, our local vicar and pastor provide a different kind of 'soul' music.

We also have to mention the staff and brave volunteers who gave up a Friday evening and overcame nerves to strut their stuff on the catwalk as fashion models to raise funds for us.

Thanks to all our volunteers, front of house and behind the scenes, for your smiles, friendship, assistance and, most of all, for your time. Without you, our jobs would be much harder. You are all much appreciated.



Currently, we'd be grateful to accept voluntary help with the gardening and painting of the Glebe Field Centre itself.

To find out more about volunteering for Daycare, call 01773 857894.

**CRICH GLEBE FIELD CENTRE**

# CHRISTMAS LUNCH

**FRIDAY 13<sup>th</sup> DECEMBER 2019**

Your Entertainer, Bob Reed starts 11.00am  
Lunch served at 12.30pm

**Seasonal Soup & Roll**  
**Roast Turkey with trimmings**  
**Christmas Pudding or Trifle**  
**Tea or Coffee**      **£12.50**

**TICKETS ARE ON SALE FROM 11<sup>th</sup> NOVEMBER**  
**at CRICH GLEBE FIELD CENTRE RECEPTION**  
**and at CRICH POST OFFICE**

# Nothing Rhymes with Crich

## by Martyn Offord

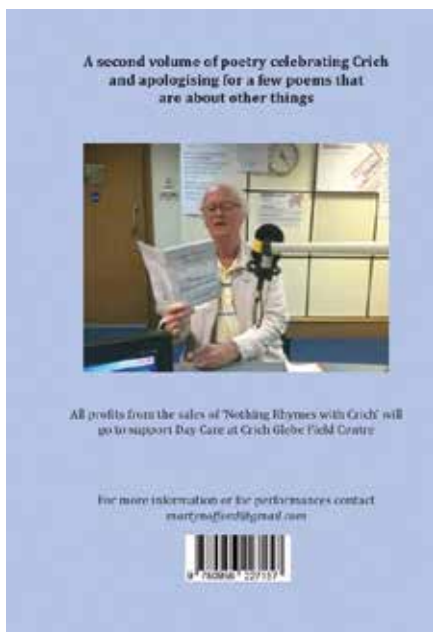
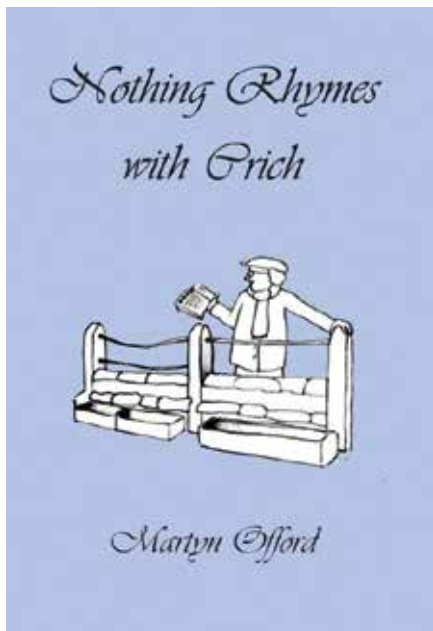
*Reviewed by Peter Patilla*

I had the pleasure of reading an advance copy of Martyn Offord's book. Although, in my youth, I was brought up on a diet of books by Dennis Wheatley and John Creasy before graduating to the dizzy heights of Ken Follett and Ian Rankin, I was not 'a-verse' to trying a book of poems!

This collection of Martyn Offord's poetry I found most enjoyable – as I did his previous book, *Little Rhymes with Crich*. Many of the poems are concerned with Crich Parish and what's happening in our community, and are written with a light hand and humour. Several had me laughing out loud. I found myself in total agreement with his concerns about some of the anti-social issues which affect us all.

The book contains 84 poems. All profits from its sale will go to support Daycare at the Glebe Field Centre. It will make an excellent stocking-filler, or present to be sent to Crich friends and relatives who've moved away, as a reminder of our community. That said, I'll be keeping my copy with my own collection and returning for a browse when I need something to cheer me up.

***Nothing Rhymes with Crich* is available at the Glebe Field Centre, price £6.50.**



Just a thought

# Wanted – very much

**Going the extra mile, giving the last penny, washing feet. It's an unusual job advert: 'Wanted – followers, no pay'! So what keeps you going when the motive isn't money?**

That's what my friends ask me now I've retired from being a vicar. Why keep doing church stuff without pay? Isn't it time to sit with your feet up? Not when I think of the cyclists on the Tour de France, who, on hearing the bell for the last lap and having already done 200km, don't slow down but go even faster.

Did you know that vicars all get paid the same, no matter what size their parish? It's not about money. Let me tell you about the rich man, who knowing he was near death, prayed to be able to take some of his money to heaven. Unusually, it's allowed and he fills his suitcase with gold bars. When the day comes to approach the Pearly Gates, St Peter greets him: 'You can bring one bag, but I need to check the contents.' He opens the suitcase to inspect the items that the man found too precious to leave behind and exclaims: 'You brought pavement?'

So, as money isn't the motive for volunteering, what is? Actually, I've just done a search on my laptop and can't find the word 'volunteer' anywhere in the Bible. Though lots of people in church do volunteer for jobs, it's not because they were the ones left standing when everyone else had taken two steps back.

There's no sign on the door that says, 'Come to church, we've plenty of jobs for you to do. Earn your ticket to Heaven.'

The volunteers Jesus chose weren't the most promising bunch. Some failed spectacularly. They had no financial clout. They had no formal theological training, they made mistakes, they weren't rock stars, rocket scientists or robots. And yet, even when it got tough, even when they didn't know where it would take them, they thought volunteering for Jesus was worth it.

We volunteer in church because Jesus volunteered to give Himself for us. No matter who we are or what we've done (or not done), we're wanted and loved by God – and the benefits of that are huge.

*Anette Love*

## **WANTED**

*Jesus is looking for ordinary people to be his disciples  
no qualifications, references  
or previous experience  
required.*

*Duties include:*

*washing feet*

*no pay*

*but many benefits.*

*If you're interested,  
God will be in touch.*





# All aboard!

**Passionate about trams? Enjoy meeting new people? Crich Tramway Village could be the volunteering destination for you!**

*by Amanda Blair*

Here at Crich Tramway Village, home of the National Tramway Museum, we're looking for enthusiastic individuals to join the volunteer Tram Crew for our vintage trams.

To apply, there's not a long list of criteria to fulfil – you just need to be 16 or over, of smart appearance and with good customer service skills. Training is given to successful applicants, starting as a Conductor/Guard, responsible for the safety of passengers boarding and alighting, ticketing and assisting the Tram Driver.

*Photos by Crich Tramway Village*



After two years as a qualified conductor, and as long as you've held a full DVLA car licence for at least a year, you could also apply to be a tram driver.

Volunteers don't have to be local, either. There are currently more than 150 volunteers who come from all over the UK and Europe – discounted accommodation is on offer for those travelling from afar.

Gaining valuable experience at Crich Tramway Village has even helped volunteers to secure permanent employment elsewhere. Joseph Burberry, a volunteer conductor at Crich and LRV Driver (tram driver) at Metrolink in Manchester, is one such volunteer. He says:

'I started volunteering in 2012 after I'd taken part in an Ultimate Driving Experience at Crich. I started as a conductor, which is a great role because you get to meet so many new people and make good friends at the same time. Even if you believe you are too shy to have a go at something like conducting, you'd be surprised at how doing a role like this can bring you

***'The skills and job experience I've gained while at Crich Tramway Village have helped me to get my dream job at Manchester's Metrolink.'***

out of your shell. The skills you learn here are great for any future career you go into within the railway industry.

'The skills and job experience I've gained while at Crich Tramway Village have helped me to get my dream job at Manchester's Metrolink. There aren't many people who can say they had a licence to drive first-generation trams before the second-generation trams. It's a great thing to add to your CV!'

If you're interested in joining our volunteer Tram Crew, please email [volunteering@tramway.co.uk](mailto:volunteering@tramway.co.uk) or complete the enquiry form on [tramway.co.uk](http://tramway.co.uk)



John

CRICH  
**TRAMWAY**  
VILLAGE

# Volunteering

- share in our success

we welcome volunteers of all  
ages and abilities

PROMENADE

SHEFFIELD'S LAST TRAM  
1875 1899



*Photo by David Lane*

# The Crich churchwarden

Martyn Offord takes a look  
at the local history of this  
prominent volunteer role



Anyone present at the Licensing of our new vicar last April would have been awed by the spectacle of two venerable churchwardens, clutching their ceremonial 'wands', escorting the Bishop into the church.



Of all the voluntary roles that have kept Crich functioning over the centuries, that of churchwarden is probably the most ancient, having legal recognition from at least the 13th century. The word 'legal' is significant because we often forget that when people take on voluntary roles they also take on responsibilities, some of which are legally accountable, as with school governors, or trustees, for instance.

In the days when the parish was an administrative area, the warden had an important function answerable to government. Now we have a separation of the Church Parochial Church Council and the Parish Council, but that was not originally the case. Being a villager himself, the warden would play a part in poor relief, identifying those in need, administering various charities, assessing the populace for poor relief taxation and overseeing the workhouse in Chapel Lane. This assessment for local taxes could also extend to bridge and highway maintenance. The warden

also monitored and helped enforce church attendance – and a number of absentees was reported in 1634, probably Roman Catholics. Wardens were elected at a parish meeting as guardians of parish morals and trustees of the church's moveable goods. In Crich it is recorded 300-400 people voting in proper booths. So contentious were the elections of 1883 during the incumbency of our notorious vicar William Acraman, that the police had to be called and various charges of assault were subsequently brought.

As well as being legally responsible for the church treasures, the wardens must ensure the good order of the churchyard. So they were in trouble in the 1850s when it was reported that bones were scattered about because of graves being re-used without proper disposal of the previous occupants.

A 'terrier' is a charmingly archaic word for the logbook recording all the church's possessions, details of insurance and all sorts of

other data for which the warden is responsible. At St Mary's, an invaluable team sorts out lots of these issues, including maintenance of the fabric, health and safety, safeguarding and so on. But ultimately the wardens must ensure all is in order and periodic 'visitations' by the Archdeacon check this.

The maintenance of 'good order' in the church and churchyard is important and a warden can prevent troublesome individuals from accessing the church. He or she also makes sure all is ready for services. During the recent interregnum (ie, no vicar), the wardens, as officers of the Bishop, were responsible for ensuring services happened as well as for the appointment and licensing of the new vicar. Thankfully they had a lot of help and support, but the good parishioners of Crich must be relieved that the wardens are too busy to be out disciplining those whose moral behaviour merits rebuke.

# What's On

## DECEMBER 2019

### FESTIVE SHOPPING

#### MEDLEY CHRISTMAS FAIR

Local artists and makers offer unique gifts for the festive season: from paintings and ceramics to handbags and jewellery.

Saturday 30 November - Sunday 8 December - Gothic Warehouse at Cromford Mill from 10am-4pm at weekends and 11am-3pm on weekdays

Entry is free.

### ST MARY'S CHURCH

#### DECEMBER SERVICES

Sunday 1 December - Advent Communion, 10.15am; Christingle and Toy and Tin Service, 4pm

Thursday 19 December - Carols Around the Tree, 7pm  
Sunday 22 December - Carols by Candlelight, 6.30pm

Tuesday 24 December - Crib Service, 4pm; Midnight Communion, 11.30pm

Wednesday 25 December - Christmas Service, 10.15am

### CRICH AREA DEMENTIA FRIENDS

#### GENTLE YOGA

Enjoyable and relaxing yoga sessions.

Tuesday 3 December - Glebe Field Centre, Crich at 10am-12 noon

### CHRISTMAS SONGS AND PARTY

With Brian and Scott.

Friday 13 December - Crich Wesleyan Chapel, Crich at 2pm-3.30pm

#### GENTLE YOGA

Enjoyable and relaxing yoga sessions.

Tuesday 17 December - Glebe Field Centre, Crich at 10am-12 noon

Attendance to all our events is free.

### FRITCHLEY VILLAGE HALL

#### CHRISTMAS WREATH MAKING

Friday 6 December - Fritchley Village Hall at 7pm

Tickets £30, including all materials. More info: [fritchleyvillagehall.co.uk](http://fritchleyvillagehall.co.uk)

#### SHEFFIELD FOLK CHORALE

Come and hear this stunning choir in concert.

Saturday 7 December - Fritchley Village Hall at 7.30pm

More info: [fritchleyvillagehall.co.uk](http://fritchleyvillagehall.co.uk)

### FRITCHLEY CHRISTMAS TREE SWITCH-ON

Gather on the green and afterwards in the hall to get into the festive mood.

Thursday 12 December - Fritchley Green, then Village Hall

More info: [fritchleyvillagehall.co.uk](http://fritchleyvillagehall.co.uk)

### ART EXHIBITION

#### SENSE OF PLACE

ArtStand exhibition of sculpture, paintings, hangings and 3D work.

Saturday/Sunday 7-8 December, Drinking Trough at the Old Black Swan, Crich at 11am-5pm.

Entry: free.

### ENTERTAINMENT

#### KARAOKE NIGHT

Come along and listen or sing!

Saturday 7 December - The Kings Arms, The Common, Crich at 9pm

*Belper Musical Theatre (see Feb)*



# What's On

## ENTERTAINMENT

### WHATSTANDWELL WINTER GATHERING

A three-part event giving residents the chance to socialise in the run up to Christmas.

**Saturday 7 December,**  
Whatstandwell Social Club  
Seniors festive afternoon  
tea – 3pm

**Children's Christmas party –**  
4.30pm

**Evening Christmas party –**  
7pm

**More info:** [whatstandwell.org](http://whatstandwell.org)

## SOCIAL

### CRICH LADIES' GROUP

Our traditional Christmas craft and fuddle evening.

**Monday 9 December –**  
Wesleyan Chapel, Crich  
at 7.30pm

**New members welcome.**

### CRICH BRASS

#### DECEMBER APPEARANCES

Listen to the band play festive favourites.

**Monday 9 December –**  
Swanwick Church, 7.15pm

**Wednesday 11 December**  
– South Wingfield Welfare,  
7pm

**Thursday 12 December –**  
Fritchley Christmas Tree  
Lights

**Thursday 19 December –**  
Crich Christmas Tree Lights

## COMRADES CLUB

### ROBERT PERRY

Singer/guitarist performing rock and pop covers.

**Friday 13 December –**  
Comrades Club, Crich at 7pm

### CHRISTMAS EVE DISCO

Come and boogie the night away with Santa!

**Tuesday 24 December –**  
Comrades Club, Crich at 8pm

### NEW YEAR'S EVE DISCO

Dance in the New Year.

**Tuesday 31 December –**  
Comrades Club, Crich at 8pm

## DERBYSHIRE SINGERS

### CHRISTMAS CRACKER

A festive evening with the Derbyshire singers, along with Tim Mirfin, Eleanor Kornas and Thoresby Colliery Band.

**Saturday 14 December –**  
Highfields School, Matlock  
at 7pm

**Tickets and more info:**  
[derbyshiresingers.org](http://derbyshiresingers.org)



*Kiriki Club (see Jan)*

## THE KINGS ARMS

### MAX MCTAVISH

Soft rock vocals and guitar.

**Saturday 14 December – The**  
Kings Arms, The Common,  
Crich at 9pm

### TRACIE THOMAS

Songs from 80s to present day.

**Saturday 21 December – The**  
Kings Arms, The Common,  
Crich at 9pm

### MERLE FORBES

The best of soul, pop, reggae and disco.

**Saturday 28 December – The**  
Kings Arms, The Common,  
Crich at 9pm

## CAROL CONCERT

### CRICH CARR SCHOOL

All welcome at this popular carol concert, with sherry and mince pies.

**Monday 16 December –**  
doors open at 6pm

**More info:** [whatstandwell.org](http://whatstandwell.org)

# What's On



*Sergei Podobedov*

## JANUARY 2020

### LIVE & LOCAL SHOW

#### KIRIKI CLUB IN CONCERT

Kiriki Club combines musical flair and an energetic performance style with the intimacy of a late-night lock-in. Expect songs in different languages, vocal acrobatics and luscious harmonies.

Suitable for ages 6+

**Saturday 25 January – Glebe Field Centre, Crich at 7.30pm**

**Tickets:** [ticketsource.co.uk/crichglebefieldtrustltd](https://ticketsource.co.uk/crichglebefieldtrustltd) or call David Lane on 01773 853260.

### CRICH HERITAGE TALK

#### SAMUEL RUSSELL'S 1840S VIEWS ON THE NORTH MIDLAND RAILWAY IN DERBYSHIRE AND BEYOND

Talk by Dieter Hopkin.

**Thursday 30 January – Glebe Field Centre, Crich at 7.30pm**

**Admission:** non-members, £2.50; members, free.

## FEBRUARY 2020

### LIVE & LOCAL SHOW

#### SERGEI PODOBEDOV – PIANO RECITAL

Sergei is a Russian concert pianist who has performed in major venues all over the world. The programme is likely to include music by Beethoven, Chopin, Liszt, Mozart, and Scarlatti.

Suitable for ages 14+

**Saturday 22 February – Glebe Field Centre, Crich at 7.30pm**

**Tickets:** [ticketsource.co.uk/crichglebefieldtrustltd](https://ticketsource.co.uk/crichglebefieldtrustltd) or call David Lane on 01773 853260.

### CRICH HERITAGE TALK

#### CATHERINE COMPTON'S DIARY

Talk by Stephen Flanders.

**Thursday 27 February – Glebe Field Centre, Crich at 7.30pm**

**Admission:** non-members, £2.50; members, free.

## MARCH 2020

### LIVE & LOCAL SHOW

#### REMI HARRIS BAND

Remi's new show traces the history of guitar music from the 40s to the present, using a variety of acoustic and electric guitars.

Suitable for ages 10+

**Saturday 7 March – Glebe Field Centre, Crich at 7.30pm**

**Tickets:** [ticketsource.co.uk/crichglebefieldtrustltd](https://ticketsource.co.uk/crichglebefieldtrustltd) or call David Lane on 01773 853260.

#### THE FINAL FRONTIER, JKB PRODUCTIONS

A new musical based on the characters in *Star Trek*, and with most of the 60s music from *Return to the Forbidden Planet*.

**Saturday 14 March – Glebe Field Centre, Crich at 7.30pm**

**Tickets:** [ticketsource.co.uk/crichglebefieldtrustltd](https://ticketsource.co.uk/crichglebefieldtrustltd) or call David Lane on 01773 853260.



# What's On



Remi Harris

## SONGS FROM THE SHOWS

Belper Musical Theatre brings you a lovely mix of well-known and less familiar tunes from West End and Broadway shows – performed by soloists, barbershop groups, and the full ensemble.

**Saturday 21 March – Glebe Field Centre, Crich at 7.30pm**

**Tickets:** [ticketsource.co.uk/crichglebiefieldtrustltd](http://ticketsource.co.uk/crichglebiefieldtrustltd) or call David Lane on 01773 853260.

## DERBYSHIRE SINGERS SPRING CONCERT

Choral evening –  
Brahms: *Requiem* with soprano Rebecca Lea and baritone Andrew Ashwin.  
Bruch: *Violin Concerto* with soloist Lizzie Ball.

**Saturday 21 March – Highfields School, Matlock at 7.30pm**

**Tickets:** [derbyshiresingers.org](http://derbyshiresingers.org)

## CRICH HERITAGE TALK BALLOONING IN DERBYSHIRE

Talk by Robin Macey.

**Thursday 26 March – Glebe Field Centre, Crich at 7.30pm**

**Admission:** non-members, £2.50; members, free.

## ENTERTAINMENT FISHPOND CHOIR AT THE GLEBE

Concert to raise funding for CHIKS.

**Saturday 28 March – Glebe Field Centre, Crich at 7.30pm**

**More info:** Deirdre Offord at [deirdreofford@gmail.com](mailto:deirdreofford@gmail.com).

**Would you  
like your  
event listed  
here?**

**Contact:**  
[editor@crichstandard.org](mailto:editor@crichstandard.org)

... and get your  
community event  
noticed.

# Community Round-up

## Fritchley Village Hall offers free use to volunteers starting community activities

Fritchley Village Hall re-opened in May after a sustained campaign from local people. It is now well used again for a variety of regular paid activities including craft sessions, Morris dancing practice and martial arts, and Boxercise. It is also hosting a good range of one-off fundraising events.

The recent Race Night was sold out and raised well over £800 for further improvements and equipment for the hall – thanks to everyone who came along and contributed. In the near future we have a concert by an amazing folk choir (7 December), and of course the village green Christmas tree lights switch-on (12 December).

All these events are organised and run by local people who give their time for free to provide opportunities for people to get together and enjoy themselves or learn something new. Now we are looking for some new community activities to use the hall, and volunteers interested in running them.

We know from experience that it can be daunting to take on organising an event – if there are costs involved and you don't know how many people will turn up, it can seem risky. We'd like to offer anyone from the local area who's thinking about starting up a community activity, or running a not-for-profit event, a period of free use of the hall to get their activity off the ground.

If you have a hobby or skill that you could share with others, or want to help people who might be isolated to socialise or try something new, and you'd like to set up a local group, free use of the hall could get it off the ground without financial risk.

It might be music, art, computing, dancing, flower arranging, board games, or photography... or you might want to run an event to raise money for a local charity or recruit new members. We can also help publicise the activity and support you in setting up the hall.

Please email us on [fritchleyvillagehall@gmail.com](mailto:fritchleyvillagehall@gmail.com) or call Steve on 07789 373241 to discuss your ideas.



## The helpful heroes

At the Fritchley OAP meetings, we have a group of very friendly helpers on our committee who are always willing to help.

We have Elizabeth, who keeps our minutes up to date and organises our entertainment. Rosemary deals with finances. Maureen is very willing to help wherever needed. Angela sees that everyone receives a birthday card. Sandra and Betty deal with raffles, and Judy is on refreshments. All these positions take a lot of time, given willingly.

I am the chair of the group, taking the meetings, organising our days out (we have had five trips this year), booking dinners out, Pie & Pea evenings and parties within the group.

Our members also help in many ways and without these volunteers the OAP group would not exist.

We meet at Fritchley C of E School on the first Tuesday of the month at 7pm.

Everyone is most welcome.

For more information, call Janet on 01773 856089.

# Join the Club

All the events organised by the Whatstandwell Social Club are entirely manned by volunteers. The core of committee members is helped out by friends, relatives and villagers from around the parish. The idea is to put on events which benefit villagers as well as the wider community, and importantly, to have fun doing it!

We are always happy to hear from anyone new who would like to join in! It is true to say that even a few hours offered here and there can be of considerable benefit to the organisers. From helping out at the Whatstandwell Festival to marshalling the Hindersitched Up running challenge, there are so many ways you can get involved. It must be stressed that our events are intended as social occasions so any assistance doesn't seem like so much of a chore, more like fun.

Interested? Email [whatstandwellsocialclub@gmail.com](mailto:whatstandwellsocialclub@gmail.com) to find out more, or visit [crichstandard.org/wsc](http://crichstandard.org/wsc)



## Volunteers are ACE!

As you are hopefully aware, Active Crich for Everyone (ACE) is a group of local volunteers who aim to promote wellbeing, health and fitness activities in the Crich community.

Since 2018, we've brought together local people, teachers, instructors, classes and groups to encourage more awareness of opportunities to be active and get involved in making the village an even better place to live. Venues have included the Glebe, Scout hut and Comrades Club.

So we'd like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who has volunteered their time and talents throughout 2019, including, for the second year Mark Clutton (mindfulness); ParkFit and Boxercise instructor, Sarah Poplar; and rounders queen, Andrea Kemp.

The Fun Run wouldn't have been possible without the amazing work of Ian Travers, friends from the Monument Race, the Jog Crich group and smiling stewards and the Cliff Inn for use of their field.

We would also like to thank the Fete Committee for their continued support and Crich Tramway Village for running activities with the schools as part of Fitness Fortnight this year. And a special thanks to everyone at the Place Project for transforming the rec into such a great, inviting space to spend time with others while being active and outdoors.

We're always looking to spread the word about what's on, new classes, events and national days on the Active Crich for Everyone Facebook and *Crich Standard* pages. Just ask and we'll tell!

Look out for the next 'Spring into Health' in March 2020 and we would love to hear from anyone who wishes to volunteer or include their activity in our events. Please contact us with any suggestions for future programmes – and we hope to run, walk or jog into you next year!

*Trish Howard, Debbie Kinghorn, Linda Philo and Rachel Jennings*

For more info, visit [crichstandard.org/ace](http://crichstandard.org/ace)

# Round robins

(no, not the red-breasted type)

by Essie Prosser

Dear (insert handwritten name)

Where has the year gone? It only seems like five minutes since I was writing last year's Christmas cards.

Well... 2019 was a good year for us. Robert managed to get promoted and is now Head of Finance – this means long hours in the City for him but wow, is the money good! We cherish our wonderful weekends together at the cottage, which we've now been able to get re-thatched at last. It was a great investment, as I'm sure we'll be able to sell it on at a considerable profit. We've also managed to put an extension on the Richmond house – it's so much better now that the au pair has her own space, and it will make a great granny flat for Mum when the time comes.

The children continue to make us very proud. Freddie has made the county team at rugby and still managed to get 10 GCSEs. He's set on going to Oxbridge after his gap year in Borneo saving orang-utans. Becca is auditioning for the Italia Conti stage school and has already appeared in the chorus of Les Mis in the West End. Lionel, unfortunately, is still suffering with his Osgood Schlatter's disease but remains such a patient, diligent little chap and if we can get him into boarding school I know he'll do very well. We've been lucky enough to have three holidays abroad this year: skiing in Courchevel, trekking in the Andes and sunning ourselves in Dubai. As well, of course, as spending lots of time in our beloved Devon.

As for me, I am blissfully happy running my own craft business from home. Have found a great little supplier of raw materials in India at a superbly low cost, so all is rosy at the moment.

Oh, just remembered Robert bought me an Audi TT for my birthday – naughty boy, but I do love it. He's still driving his Merc when he's not training for his next marathon (£3,000 raised for the children's school so far; justgiving.com if you feel like donating).

Well, (insert handwritten name), hope you and yours are well. We really must get together next year – why don't you join us in Devon one weekend? You'd be most welcome, but check dates with me first in case we're already booked up. Life is so hectic!

Love and hugs, Debs x





# A different way to help others

## The Crich Wellness Network offers an alternative take on volunteering

*by David Ashton, Linda Philo and Andrea Kemp*

We usually associate volunteering with giving a fixed amount of time to help an organisation, whether it's for a few hours, or even a day each week. The Crich Wellness Network provides a different, less time-consuming way of helping others. One of the ideas behind the project is to increase the flow of information between the various groups that currently provide help and support for older people, to make the provision more flexible and easier for the elderly to access. It means the groups involved talking more to each other – but it also means something more for the rest of us.

The project is ideal for those who can't 'volunteer' in the traditional form of offering time to a group, but want to help others in some way. It involves increasing awareness of the isolated people among our community and helping them form stronger relationships with others. For the volunteers, it may mean offering to do a neighbour's shopping, or perhaps looking after their dog to enable them to go on a trip; to help mend a fuse, or replace a lightbulb. These little acts of kindness help build relationships and, as those who are isolated build trust in neighbours and friends, they also build their own confidence, enabling them to enter new relationships with others. Once this happens, they experience

a stronger sense of self-worth and can take steps to enhance their own wellbeing.

During this process of helping and building relationships, volunteers develop ideas about how better we can introduce change and improve the experience of those we are involved with. Some of these ideas may work, some may not. But by helping each other, we unlock new resources in the community which enable us to care more effectively for others, especially the lonely and isolated people, to increase their own confidence and wellbeing. At a talk to the Cubs about dementia, one young girl explained how she always waved to an elderly man in a nursing home as she passed by, and the staff there said that this meant a lot to him and he was always near the window to look out for her wave. Even such small acts can mean a huge amount for those who are isolated.

The Wellness Network aims to increase such acts in the community. This is not an idealist aim; it's one that has been achieved effectively in a number of communities. How effectively we do it here depends on each of us being aware of the needs of others around us and taking these initial small steps to help and support our neighbours – a new form of 'volunteering'!

**To find out more about The Crich Wellness Network, contact Linda on [linda@shift-together.co.uk](mailto:linda@shift-together.co.uk) or 07752 303749.**

# Schools Round-up



School Lane, Crich DE4 5DF  
01773 852384  
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## The pupils say thanks!

In Crich, we are incredibly lucky to have a large number of volunteers, who come into school to share their wealth of knowledge and expertise and to spend time with our children, whether it is to listen to them read, help with the gardening, go swimming on Fridays, teach them songs for our shows or come in and knit.

Our children really appreciate these activities, which could not happen without volunteers, and we know that the staff are extremely grateful for the extra help.



### Here are some thoughts from the children about our volunteers:

*'I like Sue from Valley CIDS because she does assemblies and she makes me happy.'* Flora

*'Pastor Hand's assemblies help me learn about God.'* Etty

*'When Kate Baker comes into school, she makes me feel more confident about singing.'* Jess

*'Kate helped me with my acting and encouraged me when I thought I wasn't very good at it.'* Max

*'Steve and Denise have helped us to make our garden better.'* Tess

*'Denise helps me to pull the weeds up and I've learnt how to plant plants.'* Becky

*'Roger helped me to plant a pumpkin!'* Jude

*'I really like reading to the dogs (Oliver and Leila...and their owner Jackie) because it really helps.'* Abbie

*'I really liked it when Harris went on the obstacle course with us at camping.'* Lexi

*'It's good having the governors in school because they help with everything.'* Sayuri-Nala

*'When I read to Mr Woolley, he was really nice to me.'* Ramsay

*'The reading volunteers listen carefully and help with our mistakes.'* Rosa

*'The reading volunteers, Mrs Fluff, Mrs Scott and Mr Woolley, are all kind.'* Edward

*'Mr and Mrs Dimpleby do loads of cool stuff!'* Ivy-Rose

*'I was nervous about swimming but the parent volunteers really helped me.'* Ashton

These comments are just a small sample from the ones we received from the children. So to all our volunteers, who give up their free time so generously – **THANK YOU!**

# Our vital volunteers

Volunteers play an important part in the life of our school, enhancing what we can offer to the children. We are always grateful to those who give their time to listen to the children read. The volunteers enjoy hearing the children and seeing their skills grow and develop over time. The family members who come on school trips with us enable these visits to take place and allow us to undertake these opportunities for learning outside of the school.

Our Parents, Teachers & Friends Association (PTFA) raises vital funds for the school, which are used to improve the learning environment. The outdoor learning facilities have been a particular focus of recent developments. Funds are also used to purchase resources and subsidise trips and visits. The PTFA organises events such as the school disco and the leavers party, which are an important part of school life. We welcome 'friends' as members as well as parents and teachers – if you feel you have time to help and talent in fundraising and event planning, please do get in touch.

Our governors are essential in the organisation of our school. They are friendly and

collaborative, working well together and welcoming the contributions of all. Sarah Wallis (pictured right), one of our co-chairs, is our longest-serving governor. 'I first became involved as a school governor about 18 years ago, when my son was a pupil at Crich C of E Infant School, and as a family we had just moved into the village,' she says. 'I've seen and been part of many changes at the school. My work as a governor is varied and wide-ranging, from recruiting staff, monitoring budgets, and setting policies and targets, to evaluating the progress of the school and acting as a source of challenge and support to our headteacher.

I feel privileged to be part of a team at our school; we bring experiences from many different backgrounds, working together to set the strategic direction of the school. I am proud to be part of one of the largest volunteer groups in the country and have had the opportunity to meet and learn so much from so many people.'

One of our newer governors commented on how this is the best governing body (of three) he has been involved with! We currently have a vacancy for a Community Governor on our Governing Body. In



*Photo supplied by the school*

particular, we are looking for someone with experience in community engagement, an understanding of property/estate management and/or experience of charity law and governance. **If you think you might like to get involved or would like to find out more, please contact the school office on 01773 852165.**

# Schools Round-up



Church Street, Fritchley  
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fritchleyprimaryschool.co.uk

## Volunteering by us – and for us!

by Esther Davenport and Karin Baker



### We make sandwiches for charity

'Nourish' is a small charity providing hot meals and sandwiches to the homeless and vulnerable in Derby each Monday evening. Fritchley Primary School has been involved with the charity for over a year, and every month our volunteer children make sandwich packs containing a sandwich, a bag of crisps and a chocolate bar. We also choose to add a little note in our packs letting the people who receive them know they are not alone – that our families and friends are thinking of them and hoping and praying their situation improves. We are very grateful to the parents and friends who donate items to use and to volunteers of the charity who collect and distribute our sandwiches – especially Kelly and Mandy, who co-ordinate our efforts.



### We volunteer as play leaders

This idea originally started with the aim of combatting any bullying that might happen, whether physical, emotional, verbal or through isolation. Due to instances of bullying being rare, this has evolved into play leading where the Year 5/6 children volunteer to spend a lunchtime per week leading play activities or being on hand in the playground to peer-mentor.

There is no doubt that our play leaders enjoy their roles and younger children seek them out.







## We host pensioners for lunch

This was introduced at the school about four years ago, with around six pensioners visiting us each month for their lunch (on roast dinner day!) and each Year 6 cohort asked to volunteer to serve them. There is never any shortage of volunteers! The children love the responsibility and it is great for them to have this opportunity to serve their community. The pensioners love chatting to the children; they have even stayed behind after lunch in the past and helped with the knitting club!

One of the gentlemen who joins us is a grandad of one of our pupils and particularly enjoys coming for his dinner.

As a result of coming for lunch, the whole of the pensioners' group now use the school hall for their monthly get-togethers in the evening.



## Volunteers help our classes

Phil Shore and Sally Galloway are two of our faithful volunteers at Fritchley School.

Sally worked as a teaching assistant in our Early Years class for many years before she retired around five years ago. Since then she has been a regular part of school life helping out in the Early Years class, in school and at events.

Phil joined us as a volunteer six years ago. He has attended every Tuesday since. He works mainly with the juniors, especially Years 5 and 6. With a background in industry, Phil has especially enjoyed learning about modern education and the expectations of the children by the end of Year 6. His love of reading has inspired many of the children over the years. We are very grateful for both his and Sally's dedication.



*Photos by Chris Baker*

# Caring about conservation

## Whatstandwell resident Don Zmarzty gives a round-up of local organisations helping to conserve our beautiful surroundings

I suspect that little is generally known about the work of various dedicated organisations who strive to maintain and improve the landscape and natural environment along the Cromford Canal. With the emphasis on work local to Crich Parish, I'd like to mention the few that I know about and have been involved with on a voluntary basis since I moved into the area six years ago.


Derbyshire County Council is responsible for the canal and the High Peak Trail as well as the historical sites along them, such as High Peak Junction. A (sadly) ever-reducing number of volunteers work with the full-time Environmental Team based at Middleton Top. The main thrust at the moment is to try to combat the vigorous reed growth in the canal, which if allowed to persist, will bring the flow of water to a stop and result in the canal silting up. Trees and shrubs would quickly establish in the canal bed. The aquatic life would be gone – no more little grebe, ducks, coots, moorhens, fish and frogs, kingfishers, and no more swans!

The water voles, of which there were several small populations, have sadly already been wiped out by predation from mink and other small mustelids as well as being worried to death by dogs off their leads. (I'm sorry to mention that, but it is a request of those who maintain the canal that dogs are kept on a lead. Otherwise they are in and out of the canal, which degrades the canal edge, and are a threat to wildlife. I quite understand the desire to let a dog off its lead but the situation is comparable to that of a free-running canine in a field of sheep and lambs. Enough said.)

Friends of Cromford Canal is another organisation with quite a few volunteers whose intention is to see that the canal does not deteriorate further and if anything can be enhanced. As many will know, there is even a navigable section with a tourist barge running regularly through the summer from Cromford Wharf to High Peak Junction.

Derbyshire Wildlife Trust also has a band of dedicated volunteers who are very active in this area, as well as many other wonderful sites in and around the White Peak. Their projects are very varied and the volunteers are able to try their hand at all sorts of necessary skills: dry stone walling, woodland management, pond restoration, hedge laying and many others. Duke's Quarry, local stone walls, wildflower meadows, woodlands, and of course the canal, have all benefited from the volunteers' help.



A scenic photograph of a river flowing through a forest. The water is calm, reflecting the surrounding trees and foliage. The trees on the left bank are mostly bare, while those on the right have vibrant autumn leaves in shades of orange, yellow, and red. The sky is visible through the branches, showing a soft blue and white light.

Surveys are also ongoing in and around the Crich area, again substantially supported by volunteers. National butterfly and bee surveys have been running for some few years now, gathering data to produce scientific reports on species populations. I have been involved in the butterfly survey for a couple of years and I have to say have found it both very educational and interesting.

The benefits to me as a volunteer have been considerable in nurturing a strong link with my local landscape and how it all works, as well as meeting so many like-minded and interesting individuals. If you have any interest at all in the future of your local environment I would highly recommend having a chat with a representative of any of the above organisations. All are easily contactable and details can be found with a quick Google search. Hope to see you out there some time?

Read more and find local walks on [crichstandard.org](http://crichstandard.org)

*Photo by Roger Phipp*



# For the love of live

by David Lane



**Readers will probably be aware that Live & Local brings a wide range of top quality professional and leading amateur shows to the Glebe. What you might not know is that these are organised and run entirely by a team of volunteers (who pay for tickets, just like anyone else).**

So, why do we do it? Well, there are many reasons. For some, it's a love of live performance, and the belief that quality arts and culture should be available to all. It's about being able to enjoy a great show in Crich, rather than having to travel to Derby, Nottingham or elsewhere (not easy if you don't drive). For others, the Glebe is an important community resource – it matters to us, and we want to support it. Yet others want to get to know the wonderful Crich community better. We want to use our professional skills and knowledge to help make something unexpectedly good happen. And, selfishly, all of us enjoy working as part of a team where there's always plenty of craic.

The buzz we get as the hall fills up for the latest show affects us all. This is the culmination of weeks (if not months) of work. It gives us a warm glow as the audience meets old friends, and makes new ones. There's an excited anticipation of the treat to come. We're so pleased that our shows are seen as a safe place for people living on their own – now about 20% of our audience – to come.

But you don't have to be an expert to be a part of the team, you just need a willingness to

roll up your sleeves (metaphorically) and get involved. For any show, there are myriad tasks that contribute to the success of the evening: writing press releases and social media posts; putting up posters; distributing fliers; selling tickets; building the stage; setting out the chairs; stocking and manning the bar; cooking a meal for the performers; selling raffle tickets – the list is almost endless.

We have put on more than 40 shows in the past seven years – we've had theatre, dance, mime, music, a dementia-friendly show, and an outdoor adventure for children. All have been supported by the local community, with a total of more than 4,000 tickets sold, and over £21,000 raised for the Glebe.

Currently, we put on about one show a month. We could do more if new, especially younger, people were prepared to help. We'd particularly like to put on more children's shows, relaxed performances and shows that appeal to the wider community.

To that end, we are working with Crich Medical Practice on a scheme, 'And One', which will enable people they identify as being socially isolated through health or financial reasons, to benefit from the opportunity to enjoy a show, free of charge. This scheme is funded through the generosity of ticket purchasers making donations, but you can contribute too.

**Do contact me, or any of my colleagues, at [david@joylane.co.uk](mailto:david@joylane.co.uk) or on 01773 853260 if you'd like to get involved in any way. It's fun – promise!**

**For more information on future shows, visit [crichglebefieldcentre.org](http://crichglebefieldcentre.org)**

# ANATOMY OF A VOLUNTEER

After years of volunteering in various capacities, Essie Prosser reflects on the ideal volunteer's body...

**BRAIN** Keep it engaged. Keep it active. Keep it interested.

**MIND** Should be open and not easily offended, just in case your idea of raising funds by doing a naked calendar featuring the staff of the local health centre is not everyone's cup of tea. A good sense of humour doesn't go amiss, particularly when you have to turn up to the Rainbows' Easter egg hunt as the Easter bunny.

**FOREHEAD** It doesn't have to have 'MUG' stamped on it, but quite often it will feel like it.

**EYES** Good eyesight is not compulsory, but if you need glasses, remember to take them you, otherwise you end up with dozens of off-the-peg pairs, bought in haste as you're late and can't go home to get your proper ones.

**MOUTH** Best kept shut even if it means biting your tongue 'til it hurts. Open only for biscuits and endless cups of tea.

**EARS** Listen always, hear sometimes, be selectively deaf when it suits you.

**NECK** It can help to have a brass one, but be prepared to wind it in as well.

**SHOULDERS** Broad enough to bear other people's burdens, but soft enough to be leaned upon.

**ARMS** Outstretched and welcoming for all those charitable donations you'll get whether you want them or not.

**HEART** You've definitely got one and it will almost certainly be in the right place.

**STOMACH** Get it used to missing lunch as you probably won't get time to eat.

**BLADDER** Ten-pint capacity as you won't have time to go to the loo.

**BUTTOCKS** Well upholstered for sitting on hard chairs, especially during training sessions.

**KNEES** Useful for begging in times of need and praying in times of desperation.

**FEET** Dress them appropriately; no point turning up in stilettos if you're volunteering to clear out the canal, or wellies if you're doing a charity fashion show.

**PERSONALITY** No specific qualities – you should just have one; but then you will have, you wouldn't be volunteering if you didn't.

'The meaning of life is to find your skill... the purpose of life is to give it away' (William Shakespeare). And who knows, by becoming a volunteer you might make new friends and learn new skills – and you could even enjoy yourself.





Pour yourself a festive glass of Baileys, grab a Quality Street or two and enjoy our Christmassy brainteaser!

compiled by Roger Bode

# QUICKQUIZ

1. Unravel this cryptic clue to find a well-known carol: 'During the dark time, ovine caretakers supervised their charges.'
2. In which city is Wenceslas Square?
3. In which book of the New Testament do we learn of the birth of Jesus?
4. Which decorative Christmas items were invented in 1895 by Ralph E Morris?
5. What is the capital of Turkey?
6. From which South American country does the poinsettia plant originate?
7. According to Anglo-Saxon definition, what decorative Christmas feature translates as 'dung-on-a-twig'?
8. Which actor played the lead role in the Christmas film *It's a Wonderful Life*?
9. In Dickens' *A Christmas Carol*, how many ghosts visit Ebenezer Scrooge on the night before Christmas?
10. What is unusual about female reindeer that no other female deer share?

- 1 While Shepherds Watched Their Flocks by Night.  
 2 Prague. 3 Luke. 4 Electric Christmas lights. 5 Ankara.  
 6 Mexico. 7 Mistletoe. 8 James Stewart.  
 9 Four (Past; Present; Future and Jacob Marley).  
 10 They grow antlers.

Answers

## ENVIRONMENTAL TIP

### Recycle your phone

Did you know: hoarding our old mobile phones has been linked to the demise of gorillas? Some of the precious metals they contain can only be found in central African countries where mining reduces the gorillas' habitat. So find out about wiping your data from your old mobiles and take them for recycling.



## The last word

### '(Climate) change? Why change? Things are bad enough already'

Lord Salisbury, 19th century aristocrat, politician and briefly Prime Minister, said something similar to the words above apparently referring to taxation. Little would he have known that simply adding the word 'climate' enables a powerful point to be made about the world in the 21st century.

Whatever any of us may think about Greta Thunberg addressing the United Nations, Extinction Rebellion bringing London to a standstill and governments setting targets for zero emissions in 30 years' time, perhaps it is worth looking closer to home? Certainly many individuals are taking more and more personal steps to improve our environment in the end to slow and stop climate change. The science is confirmed and how we react as a nation, a community or as citizens of our country will literally shape the future.

For sure, we all have or know someone with solar panels on the roof, a hybrid car, a vegetarian diet, or who is just trying to use less fossil fuel. Sadly I don't pass many environmental awareness tests, but I do seriously plan to improve!

That's why I'm pleased that Amber Valley Borough Council has declared a Climate



Emergency, and in various conversations around the village I've been encouraged to learn of people's increasing interest in the whole climate change and environmental awareness issue. Potentially there are many things that could be done, including getting involved in the Woodland Trust's tree-planting days, the reduction or eradication of single-use plastic and maybe even car-charging points in the village!

**I am very sure that there are residents in the village with the skills, imagination and real enthusiasm to make a difference. If you are one of these people, young or old (or in between), and you might be willing to get involved, please send your contact details to [environment@crichstandard.org](mailto:environment@crichstandard.org) and register an interest in the overall project. Your reaction will shape the next steps in the Climate Emergency challenge for Crich Parish.**

We may not be able to change the world, but with some ambition and energy we can surely improve our Crich community environment!

*Tony Mills*  
*Chair, Crich Standard*





# CRICH Standard

CRICH • FRITCHLEY • WHATSTANDWELL

*Crich Standard* aims to enhance and further the community spirit within the Crich Area.

Thanks to:

All founder and previous members of the *CACN* committee and associated members of the wider team whose ideas, vision and hard work have created a successful and enduring magazine that we are proud to take into the future.

Contact us at *Crich Standard*

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*Photo by courtesy of Crich Tramway Village*

## Next issue: Youth and opportunity

Our spring 2020 edition will be all about what our parish has to offer for young people. We'd like to include articles about education and learning, first jobs and work experience, young people's involvement in the community and what it's like to live in Crich parish as a young person.

What about a young person's view of parish life through your camera/phone camera? Get snapping!

We'd particularly like to feature articles and photos by young people, so if you have something to say and are in your 10s, teens or 20s, get in touch! Or if you're an adult and know someone who might like to write something for us, get them to drop us an email.

We can give support to any budding young writers or photographers out there, so don't be shy – who knows, you might end up being our youngest *Crich Standard* team member!

[editor@crichstandard.org](mailto:editor@crichstandard.org)