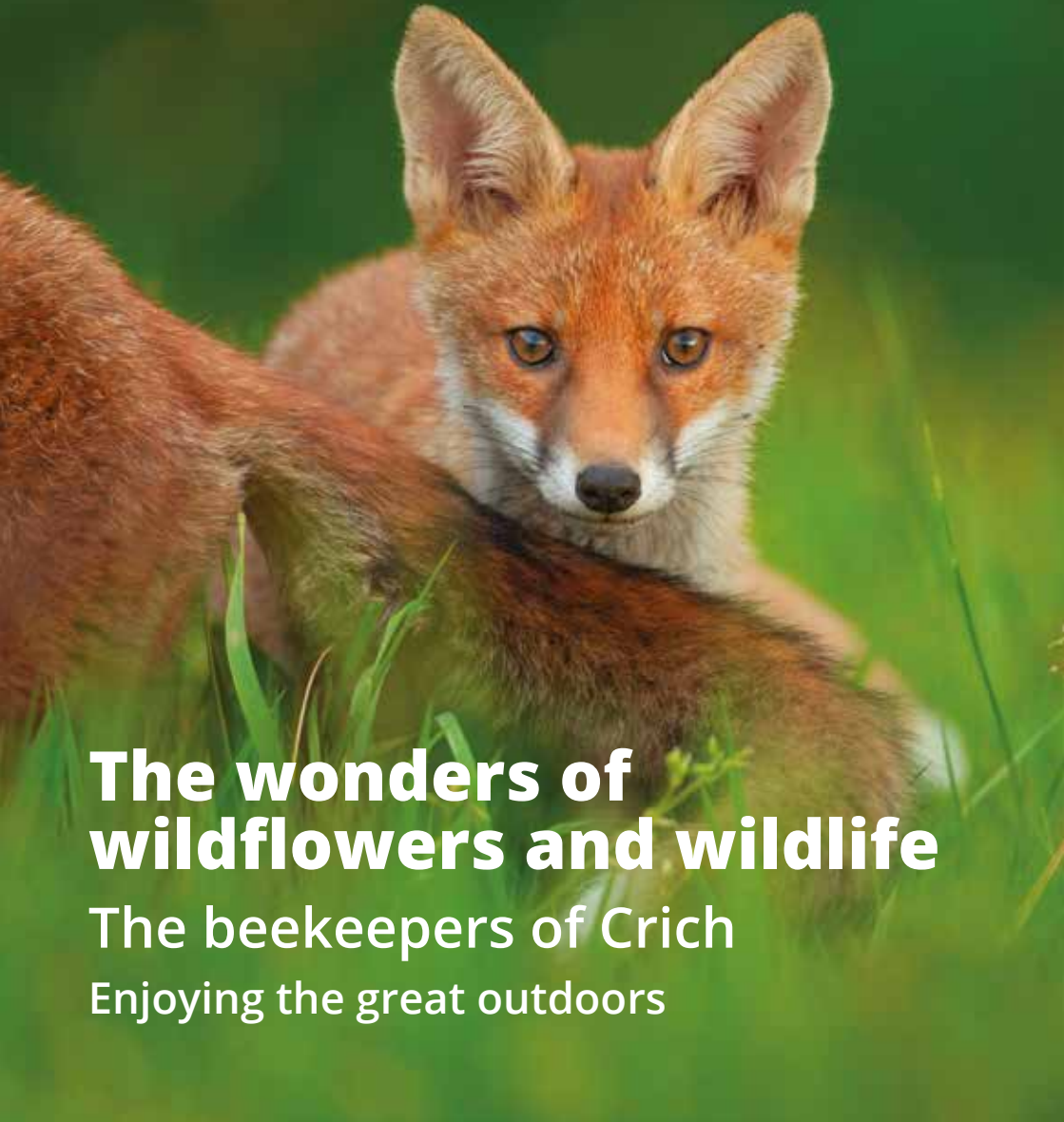


CRICH Standard

CRICH • FRITCHLEY • WHATSTANDWELL

Issue 97 • SPRING 2021

crichstandard.org



**The wonders of
wildflowers and wildlife**

The beekeepers of Crich
Enjoying the great outdoors

Issue 97 • Spring 2021

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Front cover photo by Andy Parkinson



Editorial

I know it's a bit of a cliché to do a nature-themed edition in the spring, but what-the-hey - we all deserve it I think. I have certainly enjoyed reading all the wonderful articles people have sent in and what about the pictures!

Blessed as we are to have a professional wildlife photographer in the parish, it would have been rude not to ask Andy Parkinson to write an article (p14) and send us some photos to use. I challenge even the hardest hearts in the village not to melt in the face of his lovely pictures - all captured locally. He has also shared some tips for taking great photos of wildlife so we will look forward to budding photographers in the parish following in his footsteps.

Nature in art features in two articles. One from the Artstand group on pages 36-37 with some lovely local landscapes and talks of the artists' inspirations and challenges to capture these scenes. Then I had the pleasure to talk to Irene Brierton about her art and also her interest in badgers (pp9-10).

We also have articles about the more ancient natural world in our local geology. Dr Andy Smith describes a local walk packed full of geological interest on pages 20 and 21. This walk will join a growing number of walks described on the CS website: crichstandard.org/walks. Ian Whitehead lends a more spiritual note to the subject of the stones of our parish church on page 7, while Sandra Maycock brings the dry stone wall to life on page 8.

Along with bees, birds, butterflies, fungi, wildflowers and swifts, barely a stone of our natural surroundings has been left unturned in this edition. So many of us have felt blessed by the closeness of nature in our rural location in these past months. We hope that reading about it through the eyes of our contributors further strengthens the desire we should all have to preserve and protect the natural world.

Andrew Auld

Editor

PS: Send your funnies for the next edition. Read about the theme on the inside back cover.



Photos by Roger Phipp

News in Brief

ART SHARE CRICH
SHARE YOUR ART

Art Share Crich

– we want to see your work!

By Clare Limb

Formerly Crich Community Art Sharing Project, Art Share Crich (ASC) exists to actively encourage everyday creativity in people who live and work in the Crich area.

Built on the principle that everyone is an artist, and that we are all innately creative, ASC aims to facilitate creativity, and provide opportunities to share art made by residents and workers in the parish, promoting individual and collective wellbeing.

The first art sharing took place at The Glebe Field Centre and Crich Tramway Village in October 2020 in response to Lockdown #1. Many of you took part in or supported this event for which we are very grateful.

Building on the impetus from this event, we have continued to encourage local residents and workers to be creative, through our winter writing project 'Rhymes and Lines', and we have now extended the deadline for submissions. If you would like to have your 'Rhymes and Lines' included in the Spring Community Art Sharing, please email clarelimb68@gmail.com or drop a copy of your work off at Crich Post Office. Submissions are welcome from children, young people and adults who live or work in the Crich Area (deadline 1st April). We have ideas about how your writings can be shared, either digitally, in print or on display

physically, so look out for the posters around the village and on social media for further information.

If you have been creative during lockdowns #2 and #3, or have found a particular artist, website or challenge that has inspired you, we would also like to hear from you. We have noted some really exciting challenges popping up on the internet over the past few months, which you may have taken part in, such as the return of Grayson's Art Club (a firm village favourite from the first lockdown).

Finally - remember to keep your work, as we will be continuing to explore Covid-Safe ways of sharing your creativity in the 2021 Autumn Community Art Sharing, which we are planning (restrictions permitting) to hold once again in October.

To get involved with Art Share Crich, email: clarelimb68@gmail.com.

Art Share Crich reserves the right to refrain from sharing any material which we think may cause offence to others

Limited to one entry per person. Submissions welcome from children, young people and adults who live in the Crich Parish.

Vaccinations, prescriptions, looking after yourself and helping others

By Steve Wood, Chair, Crich Patients' Participation Group

In the midst of another Covid lockdown, we can all take some hope from the prospect of the vaccines creating conditions to allow everyone more freedom in the foreseeable future, although we are still in a very serious situation. The advice from Crich Medical Practice is that they will contact you to make an appointment when your turn for the vaccine comes. As of 2 February 1,257 patients from the Crich Practice had been vaccinated, next in line are the extremely clinically vulnerable and over 74's.

Whilst things are still difficult and some people are shielding again, it's great that the Crich Mutual Aid Helpline (01773 447533) is open to take messages, with their volunteers there to help with collecting Prescriptions for those who can't get to the Pharmacies safely or don't have anyone who can go for them.

Looking after yourself and helping others can keep you feeling positive while we wait for the lighter mornings and evenings and lifting of lockdown. It's hard to do a lot within the present restrictions, but even if it's giving someone a phone call, dropping a note through a neighbour's door or leaving them a piece of cake - you will both feel better for it. Doing what you can to keep yourself and the community safe and healthy and following Covid guidance is itself an act of kindness and consideration to others, as well as to yourself. The Practice, NHS staff and other key workers are doing such a great job, but they need us all to do our part to get through this.

If you want to contact the PPG to comment, raise any issues, share an idea for a new activity or to find out about becoming a member, please get in touch via ppgcrich@gmail.com, or you can follow or message us on our Facebook page, just search for 'Crich PPG'.

News in Brief

Fritchley OAP update

By Janet Swindell

Hello everyone Janet here - best wishes to you all for a better New Year.

We are entering 2021 with hope that we may be able to resume our activities. Unfortunately, at the moment this isn't so, but with the inoculations against the terrible virus, there is a light at the end of the tunnel.

Did everyone receive their gift voucher in lieu of our Christmas dinner? If not please let me know. I will keep you up-to-date with proceedings as time goes by, hoping you will support our club once again.

Look forward to seeing you all later in the year, look after yourselves, follow the guide lines and keep safe. At the present time I cannot organise anything, but rest assured we will be raring to go just as soon as possible!

Crich Area Community Pantry update

By Andrea Kemp

Food and household goods continue to flow in and out of the pantries in Crich, Fritchley and South Wingfield.

If you would like to contribute, please consider items such as tinned meat, tinned pies, cereal, tinned fruit, tea bags, coffee and toiletries. The Bullbridge pantry has been decommissioned for now.

Thank you to all who gave so generously to the Christmas Community Pantry Campaign which raised £1430 in less than 2 weeks. Local families welcomed the supermarket vouchers which were distributed via schools.

An extraordinary blessing Crich Weavers

By Mogs Bazely

A transformative willow weaving journey has brought together folk both newcomers to the parish and established villagers. Beginning in spring 2020 with two neighbours meeting in a garden, we quite quickly made new friends keen to learn a new skill. We began by making willow wreaths and then spheres, progressing on to a variety of creatures, baskets and hurdles.

What emerged as we wove, was how many of us had been suffering with serious or chronic physical or mental illnesses. So the activities of creating, inventing, encouraging and inspiring have now become a vital part of our weekly diet...together of course with cake! As a group we have experienced support and healing in caring, sharing lives and being together, not to mention the excitement of "I wonder what she will have made this week!"

The opportunity to contribute something to village life came after Ruth Senogle and Jordan James improved the planter on Bulling Lane with a riot of colourful blooms. Having gained confidence in our weaving we decided to further enhance this focal point and added three willow poppy seed heads which took us through to the season of Remembrance. They seemed to be well received by passers by, as was the much improved floral display.

We enjoyed sharing the results of our labour at the Community Arts exhibition with a menagerie of willow species, including owl, cat, rabbit, dragonfly, and even pigs - an extraordinary range of creations and techniques developed by 'beginners' over only a few months!

The idea of creating an angel grew as we sought a focus for winter. Since none of us had ever made a whole willow figure before, it was a huge challenge. After plenty of research and planning we engaged a couple of husbands in the task of welding a mild steel armature to create a base for the body and two separate wings.



Photo by Anette Love

The highlight of my week when things were difficult

The second lockdown could not have come at a worse time. Just as we had completed the head and shoulders we could no longer meet to work on the piece together. While the body remained to be worked on in ever worsening weather conditions, the wings had to be farmed out to new locations and the robe similarly. None of us really had any idea quite how big, and frankly, awe-inspiring Gabriel would turn out to be when we finally assembled the separate parts. We did want him to be open-armed with a sense of offering hope and looking towards those who passed by. We illuminated his wings and made sure they lit up in time to be seen by children coming home from school. We've been thrilled at the positive response.

Looking to the future, we hope to be able to offer willow workshops in Crich for others to enjoy this lovely craft. To find out more you can contact Mogs Bazely: margaretbazely@aol.com



Photo by Alex Morley

Keep an eye to the ground – who knows what you might see!

By Alex Morley, Living Landscape Officer – Lower Derwent Valley, Derbyshire Wildlife Trust

The heights of **Derbyshire Wildlife Trust's Crich Chase Meadows Nature Reserve** commands remarkable views of the Derwent Valley and more. Even with the ubiquitous and sticky seasonal mud, it's not difficult to take a leap in one's mind and join the buzzards regularly soaring overhead for an imaginative aerial view of the surroundings.

It's a downward view towards your feet which is needed to appreciate the significance of why the Meadows are of nature conservation importance, so much so that in 2013 it was designated as part of Crich Chase Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI). With this designation, the site was afforded legal protection, and is subject to certain management restrictions and expectations overseen by Natural England.

For over a decade, Derbyshire Wildlife Trust (DWT) have worked with the site owner National Grid, undertaking regular

monitoring of wildlife: notably bees, butterflies, wildflowers, and fungi; and carrying out necessary interventions to maintain biodiversity at the site. During 2020, DWT acquired the meadows and other nearby associated sites with the intention of managing them for the benefit of wildlife and public access, with continued support from National Grid.

What is at your feet, and why?

Unlike the majority of grassland in the county, Crich Chase Meadows has never had artificial fertiliser applied or been intensively managed. This results in wildflower and fungi rich grasslands that nestle amidst ancient woodland, scrub and bramble and support a host of invertebrates, birds and other animals. In spring the ancient woodland of Smith's Rough is a riot of bluebells, wood anemones and wild garlic, nuthatches and great spotted woodpeckers can be heard and male longhorn moths dance in the dappled sunlight. Returning migrant warblers breed amongst the scrub and the thin fragile acid soils on the nose of the hill flush red with leafy



Photo by Kieron Huston (DWT)

volunteer teams have regularly stepped in to further limit the loss of grassland when livestock choose to shy away from the more challenging terrain and pricklier plants. The action of cattle also create patches of bare soil where seeds can germinate and specialist invertebrates can dig burrows and nest. With a new nature reserve management plan being constructed, considering access issues as part of scrub management could go some way to alleviate the persistent path condition problems, and our objective is to maintain this rich mix of habitat stages: open space grasslands, bramble and hawthorn scrub, and woodland. The interaction between these three makes the reserve greater than the sum of its parts.

Derbyshire Wildlife Trust is a small charity with big ideas! We've been supporting, monitoring and developing campaigns and policy for wildlife for over 55 years. Working across six Living Landscapes with over 170 projects for wildlife, people and wild spaces, we're pretty busy. We've also got education centres, shops and our own summer festival - so, take some time to get to know us a little better. After all, we're your local charity.
www.derbyshirewildlifetrust.org.uk

patches of sheep sorrel and the yellow flowers of bird's-foot trefoil and hawk-bits. Later in summer, amongst patches of wood sage, the blue flowers of devil's bit scabious wave in the hillside breeze. By the autumn the pastures are magically dotted with parrot, snowy and ballerina waxcaps, pinkgills, meadow coral and earth-tongue fungi.

The rich invertebrate diversity includes an impressive 25 species of butterflies, including the white letter hairstreak, dingy skipper and wall. The abundance of meadow brown, gatekeeper, ringlet butterflies in summer is a rare sight these days and if you're lucky you might catch a glimpse of a purple hairstreak as it flits across the tops of oak trees in July. Annual surveys are conducted by a team of volunteers trained by DWT, and for several years the site has been a venue for bee identification courses – over 40 species of bee have been found. Also recorded are 150 beetles, 100s of moths, over 100 flies, 90 bugs and many others. In total over 500 species of invertebrate have been recorded from the site and many more await discovery.

Grazing the nature reserve helps to maintain these open areas, limiting the development of bramble and scrubby growth which reduces the opportunities for the fungal, floral and insect diversity. As part of DWT's involvement,



Photo by Alex Morley

The stones of our community

By Revd Ian Whitehead

The natural world is all around us. From the past, right up to the present it's there, in and around our community. In ages past the stone for the church lay in the earth before its quarrying and shaping, by hands unknown to us. This natural element was shaped and brought together into the form we recognise as the church today and it's not so different now from when it was first built in the 12th Century.

The church building has stood and borne witness to the human and natural life of the village changing around it like the seas swirling around a headland. The ebbs and flows of village life as well as those of so many individual lives.

So much has happened within the stone walls of our church: celebrations of new birth as children were brought to christenings. New beginnings seen, as courting couples wandered the churchyard, then committed to entering the church as two individuals and leaving as one couple in marriage. Prayers have been said and voices raised in song and of course the everyday discussion of parish life. Farewells too, for those who died. They will have been laid in the earth around those stone walls and memorials raised, using stone cut once more by human hand and inscribed with names and dates. In other momentous times a larger memorial, once more in earth's stone, was raised for those who never returned to the village. So many having only spent a short time of their lives here.

Around the church, other new buildings have been built and demolished. Ancient ways used by animals gave way to the rumble of railed

trucks carrying the stone of our quarries, eventually giving way to the traffic of buses and cars.

Throughout time, the stones of the church have witnessed this natural community life. The 'living stones' of our worshipping community have prayed for the life of the village. Other 'living stones', like pillars, have supported our community through their actions, neighbour and stranger alike.

The natural stones of the village around us tell a story; of ancient times like the church building or cottages made from old barns, to the more modern life in new homes. The living stones of life in the village make up far more, a story of shared experience, shared values, and shared responses.

We all have our part to play in this our natural life shared together.



Nature in our walls

By Sandra Maycock

Derbyshire, as we know, is famed for its dry-stone walls and Crich parish is no exception. Walking around the parish I've noticed an abundance of low stone walls dividing houses and fields.

I looked on the internet for information and found an interesting article by DEFRA & partners: Defining stone walls of historic and landscape importance. In it there is reference to such old and ancient walls being likened to the significance of old hedgerows; therefore, they should be retained. The article also suggests that stone walls are important features of our landscape and should be regularly checked, allowed to air from vegetation and that tree roots can weaken their foundations.

Crich parish has many stone walls, in varying states of repair. Boundary walls around homes and gardens tend to be in good repair, although some do have plant life growing over them. Those in the country lanes tend to support more low-growing plant life where wildlife can live, shelter or feed with less disturbance. These walls then provide rich habitats which are vital to smaller animals living in cold, windy and often wet environments.

When you next go out for a walk, see if you can find and identify creatures or plants living in our stone walls. At dusk, night time or early morning go outside, near to old stone barns or outbuildings to see if there are bats or owls flying. Also look out for the special features of stone walls: they are often continuous, sometimes with 'standing stones' or strong stone gate posts, which are indicators of being old or even ancient.

Most of all, as the majority of stone walls are only one metre high, enjoy the views - nature at its best!



This fossil is one of those found regularly in the parish - always worth keeping your eyes peeled!



Photo by Chris Baker



Crich Wildlife artist Irene Brierton talks to Andrew Auld about her interest in the natural world and badgers.

INTERVIEW WITH

Artworks by Irene Brierton

Irene Brierton, Crich Wildlife Artist

What was it that got you interested in the natural world?

I was already a country girl through and through having moved to Buckinghamshire from my birthplace in Belper when I was seven. From an early age I was fascinated with plants, insects, birds and animals. My sister and I ran wild in the surrounding woodlands with the glorious freedom experienced by many of our generation.

How did you start drawing and painting?

As well as being fascinated with nature I had a natural talent for drawing that was given great encouragement at primary school by my teacher, who herself happened to be a keen amateur naturalist. Then towards the end of my school years, strong family connections led me back to Derbyshire, where I spent a few years in the art room at Denby Pottery. There, under the supervision of designer Glyn College

I learned to wield a paintbrush with the same dexterity as a pencil and began to absorb a true feeling for colour.

When did you start to exhibit?

I met and married my husband Robert and then left to raise a family and it was at this time my career developed. I discovered that the strong application of watercolour was my perfect medium, with wildlife as the obvious subject. I started exhibiting alongside professional artists and then in 1983, when we moved to Crich I began to seek a wider audience for my work. This led to my first London exhibition in 1985 at the Mall Galleries with the Royal Institute of Painters in Watercolour and the Society of Wildlife Artists. I went on to become a member of the Society of Women Artists and later I was granted membership of the Royal Society of Miniature Painters. This was after being



"I have introduced many individuals to the delights of badger watching and been called upon for advice, assistance and given many talks over the years."

persuaded by a London gallery to try my hand at the miniature format to participate in their specialist exhibitions. I love to capture in detail the nuances of behaviour I see in wildlife.

So how did the interest in badgers evolve?

Well in 1987 I was given the opportunity to be part of a new BBC wildlife series accompanying wildlife presenter Simon King, badger watching on a private nature reserve in Somerset. I was hooked. As soon as I returned home a close friend and I were out badger watching. I became quite nocturnal! I joined the Derbyshire Badger Group (founded in 1985) and later helped to form the Mid Derbyshire Badger Group and took the helm as its chairperson. For a time I was also a council member of the Derbyshire Wildlife Trust and a trustee of the NFBG (Badger Trust).

Have you been involved in caring for badgers directly?

Yes, I've handled a great many live badgers over the past 30 years, have been called upon to rescue them, sometimes from very unusual predicaments and removed dead and injured ones from our roads. Our house has seen



quite a few temporary residents, rabbits, hedgehogs and badgers at various times. I have introduced many individuals to the delights of badger watching and been called upon for advice, assistance and given many talks over the years.

Has the art taken a back seat in favour of the badgers?

Not at all, my life has been a balancing act, see-sawing from badgers to art with exhibition dates to fulfil and family, always at the heart of everything. I no longer chair the badger group, so my art can now revert to centre stage. We've always loved our regular visits to Somerset and the Isle of Mull which provide great inspiration, as of course does the wonderful countryside around Crich. The 'Birdfair' held at Rutland Water each August has for a long time been an important date in my calendar, providing the opportunity to exhibit alongside the community of nationally recognised artists and conservationists. Not in 2020 of course, but we will have to see what happens in 2021.

Nature connectedness and wellbeing

By Claire Teeling and Kirsty Barker

Have you ever been struck by a sense of wonder that the molecules and chemical elements of life have come together in just such a way to create you, sitting there right now, reading these words?

How lucky we are to experience life in such a range of ways through sights, sounds, touch, taste, smell and the ability to follow our curiosity. Nature is awe-inspiring; to contemplate the infinite ways that it has developed solutions, constantly evolving in such an expansive way that humans have yet to discover it all, really helps put things into perspective. Now is a good time to pause for a second and, mindfully, sense the moment. You can do this by seeking a connection with nature.

When faced with the term 'nature connection' people often think of camping away from everything, but you don't need to leave your house to find a connection. It is wonderful to be able to immerse yourself in a wild landscape, however, there are equally miraculous worlds to be found right on your doorstep. I invite you to join me for an experiment right now. Look around you and see if you can spot something from nature. It may be a houseplant, moss growing in a crack on your doorstep, a spider's web, a tree, or a bird. If you are indoors and can't see outside, find a picture, or close your eyes and let your imagination draw something for you. Really look at what you have chosen for a moment. How many colours can you see? How many shades of each colour? What do you think it would feel like to touch? What do you know about this thing? What is connected to it? Does it support other species? What stories



Photo by Claire Teeling

have humans told about it in the past? How can humans look after it in the future? Hopefully this has awakened your curiosity; we are on the path of nature connection.

Try this with more objects; see how each observation leads you in a new direction. You can explore new worlds without even getting out of your chair.

Working with children is fantastic as they can find magical treasure in the smallest things, from a lichen covered stick to a smooth shiny stone. There is a lot we can learn from them. During our child-friendly sessions we encourage everyone to follow their curiosity, and it is fun to see adults join in. One of our attendees commented that they loved giving themselves permission to take time out to listen and focus, following their own thoughts and observations, rather than being distracted by the busy human world. Our sessions provide a safe environment where everyone, no matter their age or physical ability, can explore the natural world. We gently guide each individual on their own unique journey, helping them to find their own sense of wonder and magic through nature. This special gift is something that we are excited to share with everyone and we hope you can find a little magic wherever you are.

You can join us online in our Facebook 'growing and wellbeing' group, or through our online hub featuring videos and information on growing, crafts, wellbeing and nature connection activities. It's free and open to everyone: www.growoutside.thinkific.com/courses/grow-nature-wellbeing

As a support group we are still able to run face to face sessions, we open the community garden at Ripley every Thursday (socially-distanced, of course!). See Facebook (@growoutsidetic), phone (07960 249816) or email (hello@growoutside.co.uk) for info.



Besotted by Butterflies

by Don Zmarzty

Until fairly recently I'd never paid that much attention to butterflies. Of course, you see them flitting around the garden or when otherwise out and about. You get to recognise the more common varieties. Peacock, Red Admiral, Tortoiseshell, Orange Tip.

Their emergence in the spring heralds the onset of better weather to come (well, hopefully!) and a summer season to look forward to. They add splashes of flying colour to the landscape to catch your interest for a few moments at least. Then quite by chance I got involved, through the Derbyshire Wildlife Trust, in the local chapter of the national Butterfly Monitoring Scheme. It's been running for around 40 years and is intended to monitor trends in butterfly populations. Once a month, through the spring, summer and autumn, I walk a 'transect', an area of possible butterfly habitat, to record the type and numbers of different butterflies seen on that stretch on that day. Since getting involved it has opened up a whole new field of interest for me - butterflies are indeed fascinating!

Combined with an interest in photography, a few hours (or more) out looking for butterflies is a splendid way to spend time.

I know that for some they are just those flying white nuisances that lay their eggs on your brassicas and ruin the whole crop. And of course, given the chance, they will. Not out of malice you understand. If someone put a cornucopia of edible delights in front of you and then walked off, you would go for it wouldn't you? Deny it if you dare.

That aside, they and their lifecycles can be a source of much interest and entertainment. Occasionally sitting in the garden through the summer and autumn, my attention is drawn to them as they flit through, settling on one food plant or another for a quick boost of energy-providing nectar. What type is it? Male or female? If there are two they will often sense each other (somehow in mid-flight and from some distance) then spiral up and round each other before breaking off and going their separate ways. Mating dance? Territorial dispute? Just saying hello? Who knows, but it's certainly entertaining. (This must sound very sad to a lot of people I guess! Why aren't I inside watching some daytime TV or out shopping?).

Not just in the garden either. There's the transect, which for me is along the canal between Whatstandwell road bridge and the cut off at Ambergate. My main focus is on counting butterflies, but along the route there's always a chance of other wildlife. Visits to some of the other transect sites can also be rewarding. Not only to see a new area of Derbyshire and add it to the walks list, but to maybe spot some unusual varieties. The Wall Brown, or simply Wall as it is now commonly known, is particularly attractive and sadly in decline in the UK. Still, as temperatures in the south rise with climate change, it is moving north and if lucky, you can see it basking on some of the rock faces on a fine day at Hoe Grange Quarry. Its rarity adds to the experience. Whites, both large and small, Orange Tips, Peacocks - all quite easy to see, but a Wall is something else. Other favourites of mine so far seen are the Brimstone, a

beautiful yellow butterfly, various of the Fritillaries, Comma and some of the smaller ones, such as the different types of Blue. Many others are still on the wishlist though. Exotics, like the Hairstreaks, Purple Emperor and even the mythical Swallowtail. Combined with an interest in photography, a few hours (or more) out looking for butterflies is a splendid way to spend time.

Don't think you can get away with being happy to just watch them, or photograph them. Oh no. You then get drawn into, what are their food plants? Where do they lay their eggs and when? Where do they go in the winter? All sorts of questions spring up. One of the most fascinating for me is how on earth the caterpillar changes into the flying jewel of an adult? What goes on, chemically and biologically, in that little hard casing you sometimes see hanging up in the greenhouse or the tool shed? It is truly incredible. Imagine one of us, climbing into a sleeping bag, zipping it shut, and then a few days or weeks later emerging as - what - say a pterodactyl? No plastic surgery, no transplants, just dissolving into a kind of soup then putting yourself back together as something completely different. Utterly amazing!

So come the spring, why not spend a bit of time looking out for these beautiful insects. Even if only in your own back garden. Time well spent I reckon.

Reference information is plentiful but check out the Derbyshire Wildlife and the UK Butterfly Monitoring Scheme websites for starters.



Photos by Don Zmarzty

Wildlife Photography

Article and photos by Andy Parkinson



Moving to Crich was one of the single best decisions that I ever made in my life and it will always be my home.



I can think of no better county in Britain than Derbyshire for a wildlife photographer such as myself to live.

Not only does it have a staggeringly abundant and diverse range of photographic subjects but being centrally placed in the UK it also makes it so much easier to travel to all other parts of the UK, for those rare occasions when I need to work with species that I'm unable to find here. When my travels take me even further afield, to all of the world's seven continents, then Derbyshire's fantastic transport links also makes travelling to major transport hubs so much easier as well.

My love affair with the county, and with Crich, began back in 1999 when I first met my wife Claire. We would travel up to Crich every weekend from our home in Cardiff where I was a frustrated press photographer with dreams of becoming a professional wildlife photographer. Whilst we travelled up here solely to see Claire's parents, Phil and Carol, our evening visits to the Cliff Inn introduced me to arguably one of the most significant and influential people in my entire photographic career, the then landlord of the Cliff Inn, the legendary Roy Calladine.

At the end of every evening spent at the Cliff Inn Roy and I would go outside to feed the waiting foxes and badgers that hid patiently in

the hedgerows and below the wall outside the pub. Roy had been quietly feeding them for years and so their numbers were staggering. For an aspiring wildlife photographer it was an incredible sight to behold and it soon became abundantly clear to me that Crich would be the perfect place for Claire and I to relocate to as neither of us was particularly enjoying life in the city.

Fast forward 20 years and we now live next door to Phil and Carol, little more than a five minute walk from the pub where for me at least, it all began. In those proceeding 20 years I have largely forged my career on working with subjects that I found within about a ten minute radius of Crich, or at least in Derbyshire as a whole. Common or garden species like foxes, badgers, brown hares, rabbits, water voles, mountain hares, swans, coots and mallards. It was these familiar species that allowed me to produce photo features for some of the worlds' most prestigious publications, the overwhelming majority of the images having been captured in this most beautiful part of the UK.

In the early days this was my only realistic way of working. Claire and I had little money and so I would set out on foot most days to explore every hedgerow, field margin, forest, lake, river or canal close to home. Again it was Roy Calladine that would play a pivotal role



in my first significant publication success, a photo feature on water voles that would end up being published in the May 2001 issue of BBC Wildlife magazine, and with my first cover as well.

It all started when we met up one day as I was out, 'rummaging in bushes' as Claire so often referred to it, in the woodland close to the Cliff. Roy was on his way down to High Peak Junction and asked if I wanted to tag along. Having never been before I went with him and on arrival I was immediately confronted by a remarkable sight. All over the neatly cut grass areas water voles were happily feeding, the sheer number of them was astonishing. The reason that I was so surprised was because I knew already that they were Britain's fastest declining mammal species and so it seemed surreal to see them in such numbers.

That first feature was really the start of my career and some 11 years later, and after countless articles in other magazines, I had my first photo feature published in National Geographic magazine, arguably the world's most prestigious publication, at least for wildlife photographers. Nowadays however the declining revenues that photographers get from image sales means that we have all had to diversify. I now organise and lead my own photographic trips to various corners of the Earth, to destinations as diverse as India, Russia, Kenya and Zambia, passing on my hard-earned expertise and knowledge to those that travel with me.

There are far too many incredible moments of good fortune that I've experienced along the way, all of which have brought me to where I am now, but one thing is absolutely for certain: there is exactly zero chance of me having enjoyed the career that I have so far to date without the unwavering support, belief and encouragement of my wife Claire.

Moving to Crich was one of the single best decisions that I ever made in my life and it will always be my home. It's also important to note just how instrumental Roy Calladine was for me in making that initial decision and I'll be forever grateful to him, and to his wife Beryl, for the kindness and care that they showed, not only to me, but also to all those foxes and badgers that were so grateful for the titbits at the end of every night.

Dedicated to the memory of Roy Calladine



Top tips for taking great wildlife photos:

Work locally - getting to know your local area and your local species, slowly building your knowledge and noting what aspects of behaviour occur at different times of the year.

Photograph at eye level - Getting down low can make all the difference. It makes the backdrop more distant and increases the intimacy of the image.

Dusk and dawn - I'm very particular about the light in which I work and this is best when the sun is at its lowest in the sky, at or near the horizon.

Work with compassion - remember that to us it is simply an image but to the animal or bird it can mean the difference between life and death. If the image means disturbance then don't bother.

Wear neutral colours - I always try to be as inconspicuous as possible so I always wear neutral colours and quiet materials.

Using a hide - Whenever I work with shy animals like foxes I always work with a hide. This minimises disturbance and ensures that the animals never get too comfortable in the presence of people.



The return of swifts

By Essie Prosser

If there's one thing that can transport me straight back to those long summer days of childhood when the sun always shone and your mum used to throw you out of the back door with a sugar sandwich and tell you not to come back until tea time, it's the whistling screech of the swifts as they swoop and dive seemingly endlessly in the infinite blue sky. And Crich is still blessed with these increasingly rare summer visitors in large numbers.

The return of swifts to our eaves and roof tops must be treasured as their habitats are diminishing. This superb flier likes to nest in nooks and crannies in old buildings and unfortunately new builds and the obsession with home renovation means they have increasingly less choice of residence. The swift returns to Crich from sub Saharan Africa in April/May time and accompanies long summer evenings with swooping flight and excited squeals. Swifts sometimes get a bad press with owners of old houses as they think they make a mess with their nesting habits but this is more likely to be the house martin, which is not even a near relative. In fact the swift's nearest relative in the bird world is the hummingbird. The swift is dark in colour with a white throat and a forked tail. They are almost never seen on the ground as they never land: eating, sleeping and even mating

*They've made it again
Which means the globe's
still working, the Creation's
Still waking refreshed,
our summer's
Still all to come.*

Ted Hughes: Swifts

on the wing. Swift numbers have halved in the last 20 years so we must be grateful for their yearly visits and protect their nesting sites, as they tend to return to the same place year after year. Studies have shown that the swift may return to the same nest for up to 20 years. Their fledglings are remarkable as they can reduce themselves to a semi comatose state if their parents are away for a couple of days looking for food (if only human fledglings could do the same!) and will remain airborne for two to three years on leaving the nest until they begin to hatch their own families.

Historically the swift was called the 'devil's bird' as they screaming call was said to be that of souls screaming in hell! Also it was thought to have no feet, hence its Latin name *Apus* which actually means 'footless'. The swift often occurred in heraldic symbolism on the crest of the fourth son, as the fourth son was never going to inherit, hence would never set foot on his own land, and therefore was represented by a footless bird! In truth the swift does have feet but does have very short legs, so maybe legless might be a better description! It has long been heralded as a weather forecaster flying high when the weather is fine and still and lower during windy cloudy conditions.

So let's look forward to lighter, warmer evenings and celebrate when we first hear their banshee calls as a sign that summer has arrived at last.



On a wing and a prayer

Article and photos by Roger Bode

Roger Bode takes us on a thoughtful journey of the parish's animal antics and natural wonders.

You might say that I'm used to the slightly exotic and unusual having grown up in sight of the Roaches, a rocky outcrop perched on the Staffordshire moorlands, where for many a year there lived a colony of wallabies! You may have heard the story: a one-time private zoo had several escapees, who lived and bred successfully for several decades before the harshness of the winters finally saw them meet their doom.

And I've always been happy to witness wildlife in its natural habitat far from these shores...well landlocked shores in the case of our parish. I've been privileged over the years to share the ocean with dolphins, glide quickly past alligators, chase bears barefoot (quite stupidly and only with my camera) and

marvel at gigantic fruit bats creating a whole new Hitchcock film of their own. In fact I'm a veritable Dr Doolittle and would happily sit and converse with a multitude of creatures if time and nature permitted.

There is however, something remarkable about where we live. In the first few weeks of living in Crich, having been cocooned in London for 20 years, a manic black ball and a flash of grey and white flew past my window and into a garden hedge. The commotion was that brief I had hardly noticed it before it was over. I later learnt it was a local sparrow hawk, hunting what I presume was a blackbird. That was my first sparrow hawk. And there have been quite a few other firsts since living in Crich!

There is something wonderful about being surprised by nature. It's the spontaneity of witnessing an animal, bird, or insect being there, or doing something, as part of us just going about our daily lives, that makes it special. Sometimes we just need to stop, and stare, look up, and listen.

Watching a buzzard riding the thermals of the local quarries against a pure blue sky, emitting its distinctive shrill call. There's a certain majesty in that. Or on a foggy autumn night, tawny owls call to each other just beyond the Market Place, and then suddenly one flies across your path, in a cameo performance, illuminated by the lamplight. I regularly walk the dog in the fields near St Mary's and a kestrel often joins us, hovering like a crucifix, looking down and saying its own particular prayer.

Yet my garden, right on my doorstep, is the setting for many a natural wonder too. The regular fragile flight of a group of long tailed tits, flitting from tree to tree in a sort of Disneyesque parody. There have been green woodpeckers, tree creepers, nuthatches, bull finches, gold finches, a scampering weasel, racing badgers, frogs and newts and all sorts of weird and wonderful insects.

The different seasons bring different natural theatre to the parish. Spring drags us out of hibernation as bumblebees search for early nectar and cuckoos echo in woodlands. The shimmering iridescent dragonflies dance in summer, as the butterflies feast on the buddleia bushes. Overhead the swifts circle then shriek as they dive past.

Autumn brings us skeins of geese honking overhead and winter, a natural rest and calmness. And if you're lucky some surprises too.

Back in 2010 during a particularly cold and hard winter in Scandinavia, I was privileged to witness a flock of waxwings descend on the Crich Junior School garden. They had come over in search of food and over the next hour or so proceeded to strip bare the trees of their rich red berries. They were so unmoved by my presence, and that of some of the schoolchildren and teachers who I'd told to come look, that we were within a couple of metres of them. I was mesmerised!

Derbyshire as a county has a plethora of wildlife just waiting to be witnessed. Water voles poking their noses out of the banks of the Cromford Canal and the flash of turquoise as a kingfisher darts along the Derwent. And the privilege of being the witness, whether it be of a curlew low in flight over a field silhouetted against a twilight sky or the rawness of red deer rutting at Chatsworth, shouldn't be taken for granted. It should be absorbed, appreciated and seen as a joining of the dots of our lives with nature.

Yet you don't need to go beyond this parish to see wildlife in action every day. You don't even need to seek it out. It will come to you. So keep your eyes peeled and your ears tuned in, as you never know what you might see or hear.

Oh my... I had better conclude here as I'm sure I just saw a wallaby hop past my window!



Crich rocks! A walk through time

By Dr Andy Smith

This circular walk is a step back into history, not just since the start of the Industrial Revolution, but also a much older geological history some 330-315 million years ago.

From the Market Place in Crich go through the recreation ground, turn right and onto Jeffries Lane, below the former Jovial Dutchman pub. Opposite you'll see your first 'outcrop' of carboniferous limestone. (1). This is the Eyam limestone, formed as part of a tropical reef made up of fragments of corals (lithostrotian) and shells, some intact, 'Spirifer' and 'Productus' (Brachiopods). Also note the dark grey glassy chert nodules, similar to flints found in the cretaceous chalk.

Continue up Cromford Road to Wheatsheaf Lane. Take the arched passageway through the Wheatsheaf Cottages. Passing over the bridge note the 'cave' to your right in the limestone rockface. This is the old mineral railway access into Church Quarry, a spur off George Stephenson's mineral railway that linked the lime kilns at Ambergate and Cliffe quarry, between 1841 and 1957.

Follow the path, on to Dowie Way. Dowie and Hodder were the names of the last 2 engines working on the mineral line. Follow the road down and around passing over the low bridge over the course of Stephenson's mineral railway. On reaching the old well base (2) indicates you have now left the limestone and are walking on shale and sandstones.

Turn right and head towards the Stand and Crich Tramway Museum. Turn right and past the Museum entrance onto Plaistow Green Road, then up the driveway to the Crich Stand. Just past the Warden's cottage, take a moment to look at the gate posts. These are Limestone (cream and grey) and are full of crinoids (sea lily stems) that look a little like an unwrapped packet of polo mints, or as the miners used to call it 'screw stone' or 'nuts and bolts stone'. Magnificent views to the east and south, as well as into Cliffe quarry and the Derwent Valley, can be seen from the tower and the trig point (3).

Take the footpath below the Memorial and follow around the perimeter of Cliffe quarry. The quarry was in operation until 2010. In

Stephenson's day the quarry occupied the site of the car park for the Tramway Museum, and supplied limestone via the mineral railway to the lime kilns at Ambergate. Latterly the extension of the quarry workings to the northwest was used mainly for roadstone, including the M1 and A38.

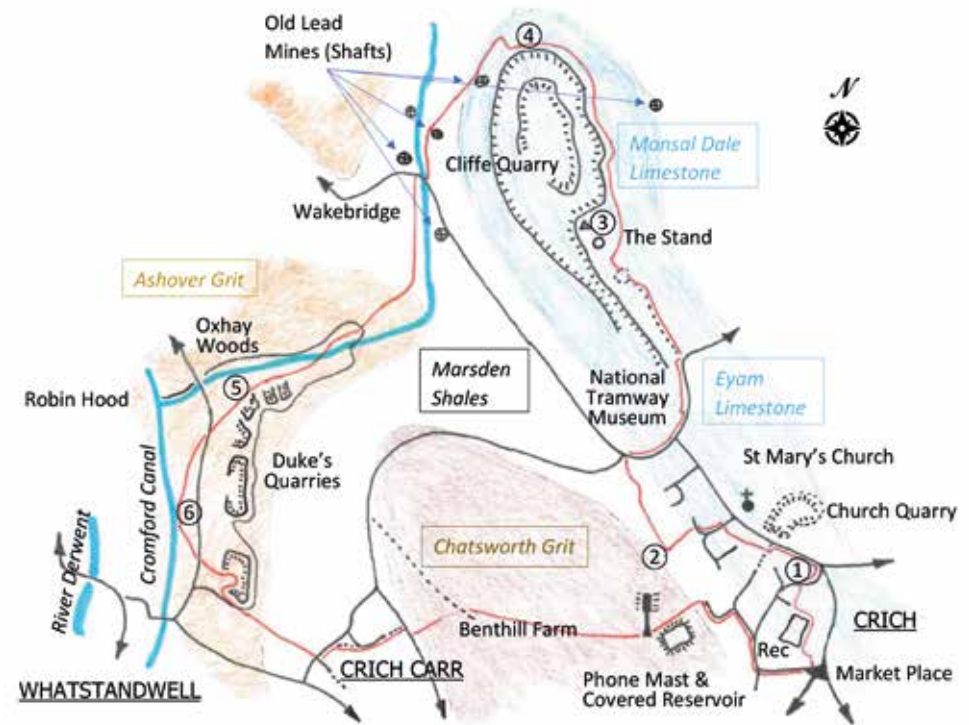
There are limited viewpoints back into the quarry, but the double gate close to the end of the tramway line is probably the best (4). Here you can see the Stand and the characteristic domed bedding of the Monsal Dale limestone in the quarry face.

By the tram tracks, on the left there is a short path to Glory Mine Picnic site. This is one of the many mines shafts that pepper the limestone in and around Crich. The 810ft (250m) deep shaft bottoms out at sea level! The miners were after the mineral veins formed by mineral rich hot waters that filled the cracks in the limestone, depositing minerals such as lead ore (galena), fluorspar and barytes, which have been worked for centuries.

Continue to Wakebridge, site of 4 further mine shafts. Ruins of the pump house at Wakebridge can still be seen, the shaft here dropping some 650ft (200m), some 250ft (75m) below the river Derwent. The old steam pump was used to lift ore out of the mine as well as dewatering the lower levels.

Cross the road (Leashaw) and follow the valley down into Oxhay woods and the Duke's quarries. In the first field, note the lush grass here and the tufts of cotton grass, a sign that the geology below your feet has changed from limestone to shale and clays.

By around 315 million years ago an encroaching mass of river systems forming a delta (similar to the Mississippi Delta today), approaching from the north, brought with it sediments that engulfed the shallow seas, turning them into the swamps that formed the UK's main coal deposits. Limestones are replaced by clays, silts, shales and sandstones.



Once in Oxhay woods follow the main quarry track down through this magnificent woodland and over the bridge. What you see all around you is essentially man-made, small sandstone quarries and the resultant 'spoil' that was liberally discarded in the valley. This thick sandstone, the Ashover grit (5), has been used as building stone throughout the UK, including Waterloo Bridge, Derby and Leicester gaols. The oldest of the quarries Old Quarry opened in the late 1700s and supplied stone for the Whatstandwell Bridge (1795) and the Lea Aquaduct (1792) on the Cromford Canal.

Originally there were 4 quarries, North or Winson Quarry, made up of four main cuts, Middle Hole (still intermittently active), Bridge Quarry and Old Quarry. Old Quarry was abandoned and subsequently backfilled with waste from Bridge Quarry.

Cross over Robin Hood Road and down to the Cromford Canal. Just before the bridge over the canal, a path down to the canal brings you to the remains of the wharf, with a post stone that was the base for the wooden crane structure where the stone was loaded onto the canal barges.

Stay on the quarry track as you start the long climb back up into Crich, crossing over Robin Hood Road again and up into Bridge Quarry. Here the quarry face exhibits a thin clay/shale band halfway up, where harts tongue ferns can be seen taking advantage of the wetter conditions. The path winds its way up and past the allotments. As you look up hill, the relatively gentle slope is made up of the marsden shales, but above Top Lane there's an outcrop of the Chatsworth grit.

At Hinderstitch Lane turn left, then take the right fork, onto The Green and Glen Rd, eventually climbing up and out onto Top Lane. Turn right and take the flight of steep steps up towards Benthill Farm. This sudden change in slope means you are now climbing up through the Chatsworth grit sandstone unit, capping the hilltop between Crich and Crich Carr. Continue into the fields above Benthill Farm, heading towards the telephone masts and covered reservoir. Here the lane takes you back down into Crich via Stones Lane and Coasthill to the Market Place. Opposite the Vicarage, on Coasthill, note the sandstone arched bridge, another of the remnants of Stephenson's mineral railway.

The beekeepers of Crich

Article and photo by Geoff Brown

When you see bees foraging for nectar in your garden, spare a thought for where they may have come from.

There are an estimated 250 species of wild bee in Britain, but the bees we are talking about in this article are the 'domesticated' honey bees. There are several beekeepers in Crich parish; including John Wilcock from Robin Hood, Whatstandwell who has kept bees for the last six years and shares his knowledge here.

Honeybees, although managed, are essentially wild insects working together in colonies. They are kept in hives which typically contain tiers of wooden frames where the bees construct perfectly hexagonal cells from waxes gathered from their surroundings. The cells in the lower frames (the nursery area) are used for egg-laying and the brooding of young bees and those in the upper frames for the storage of honey which provides a food source for the bees themselves when they cannot gather plant nectar. Extra layers of frames may be added during the summer months when honey production is at its highest.

The bees start to become active in the spring after the hives have over-wintered with reduced numbers of female worker bees (typically 2000-3000) surrounding the queen, whose role is to lay eggs to produce the next generations. The queen will have been laying since mid-winter to increase the colony numbers for the spring period. During this time, the hives will be regularly checked and the bees provided with supplementary food (sugar solution), particularly during cold spells. The bees can survive low winter temperatures, but dislike damp conditions.

The first significant flights in the spring are known as defaecating flights – ever wondered what those 'spots' were on your window-sills etc?

As the spring flowers bloom, nectar collection starts in earnest and the bees begin to build honey stocks for the following winter. Meanwhile the queen keeps laying in the nursery, to build up numbers of female worker bees and the male drones. In the summer, the hive may expand to 30,000+ bees!

Around June, egg laying may slow a little during the lull between the peak spring and later summer flowering seasons. At this time, some surplus honey may be harvested from the hive and the bees fed with sugar solution if needed. After the main summer and autumn flowering season, more honey will be removed and as winter approaches the bees may again be fed with sugar to see them through the winter.

Bees are essential pollinators of many food crops and it is estimated that at least a third of the human food supply chain is dependent on insect pollinators.

During their life female worker bees have very specific roles, including nurse bees (to look after the developing young), guard bees (to resist unwanted intruders), undertakers (to remove dead bees) and finally the flying, foraging bees you see in your garden.

They can communicate the location of food supplies extremely accurately to the rest of the colony by the famous 'waggle dance' which can direct other bees to a specific flower patch three or more miles away. Worker bees hatched in winter may live for four-six months; those hatched in the summer only about six weeks.

The male drones are present in lower numbers and have only one function – to mate with the queen (see below). The rest of the time they do very little. If that sounds an attractive lifestyle, the downside is that they die immediately after mating, or they get ejected from the hive to die in the autumn if 'unsuccessful'. So, either way it ends badly!

The colony decides what is best for its survival. In the spring workers may start to create larger queen cells into which some of the eggs are placed. When they hatch, they are fed on a richer 'royal jelly' to produce a new queen. At this point, queen cells or a new queen can be moved to a new hive to start a new colony, or they can be removed and destroyed. As a hive will only support one queen, the other option is that one queen leaves, taking many of the worker bees with her as a swarm, to start a new colony elsewhere.

The quality of the honey produced by the bees depends on many factors, not least the food plants on which they have foraged. The type and diversity of flowers can influence the colour, viscosity, flavour and aroma of the honey which may vary from year to year and hive to hive depending on where the bees have been feeding. A favourite nectar source for John's bees are the lime trees in Alderwasley. In this area there are no significant flowering agricultural crops, so the bees will be dependent on the flowers and trees in surrounding gardens, fields and wild areas. Bees are essential pollinators of many food crops and it is estimated that at least a third of the human food supply chain is dependent on insect pollinators.

Honey yields also depend on many factors. Bees fly less in cold and wet conditions and some years are better than others for flower crops. In 2020, reduced air pollution and less cutting of roadside verges contributed to a



good year for John. Locally produced honey is subject to strict quality standards and is 100% pure. In some parts of the world, mass produced honey is often adulterated with man-made sugar solutions.

There are a number of threats to the wellbeing of bees. These include the parasitic varroa mite (which weakens their immunity to other diseases), pesticides, and Asian hornets which can invade hives and destroy the native bee colonies.

Being a beekeeper is a full-on hobby. There is much to be done throughout the year to keep the bees healthy and productive and it is recommended that aspiring new keepers consider training courses run by their local beekeeper association. The reward is liquid gold!

To find out more about beekeeping, contact Derbyshire Beekeepers Association: dbka.sec@gmail.com or visit: www.dbka.org.uk

In the summer, the hive may expand to 30,000+ bees!



Community Round-up

CRICH LIVE

Introducing Crich Live!

By Roger Bode

Despite the lack of live performing across the nation recently there has been much activity in our Parish off-stage and behind the scenes. This is to make sure that once live shows are back on the agenda that we are in a strong position to promote them and bring them to a local audience.

A newly formed team 'Crich Live' comprised of new and existing volunteers has come together in the last few months.

Its aims are simple: to bring, and make accessible, live performance, be it music, dance, comedy or drama, to the Parish reaching as wide and diverse an audience as possible.

This will see the use of The Glebe Field Centre as a venue, and involvement with the nationally recognised 'Live and Local'

organisation, providing top quality artists and performers, as has previously been seen and enjoyed. 'Crich Live' also plans to work in partnership in the future with local performers, and other venues and organisations to bring live performance and events to the community.

We intend to have regular updates through this magazine and on the Crich Standard website, including information about future shows, our online presence, and how to buy tickets. And keep a look out for posters and flyers around our community too.

Your support of course will be vital in ensuring a vibrant live performing scene continues to flourish.

We look forward to bringing you a diverse and entertaining programme of live performance in the very near future!

Roger Bode, Promoter, Crich Live

Crich Heritage Events

We do so hope we will be able to start our programme of speakers again in the spring, but please check our website:

www.crich-heritage.org.uk

25 March

We hope to hear Richard Booth talk about Ashover Light Railway

29 April

Julia Hickey will be telling us about The Nightingale Murder, an unsolved case

27 May

Kieran Lee will be talking to us about the work on the Bennerly Viaduct

24 June

Last year was the bi-centenary of Florence Nightingale's birth and we were sorry not to be able to commemorate this world changing event. However, one year late we will welcome Pat Smedley to tell us about this most influential local woman

We look forward to welcoming you

Comrades Club happenings



Comrades Club and British Legion
10th anniversary medallion 1931

By Kev Oliver

2021 began the same as 2020 ended, shrouded in worry and uncertainty. Let's hope the roll out of the vaccine programme this year sees a welcome return to some sense of normality. One thing is certain: some of the Club committee have again been busy taking advantage of our forced closure and are carrying out further maintenance.

The snooker room came in for much needed decoration and refurbishment. Stew Harrison armed with big hammer vented his anger on old bench seating, to the point of fetching blood (B*****d nails he muttered) whilst Bob Stonehouse painted the gents' toilet floor, getting a bit high on paint fumes. The last remains of the blue and pink border are now gone, that should keep Treasurer Claire happy, for now! Our very own Picasso (Ade Smith) has done a brilliant job with paint brush and magnolia paint, (matt not vinyl, Bob take note). The room is now clean and bright with new wall and ceiling lighting, creating a pleasant atmosphere for snooker players.

Scott Bates arranged the repair of main room floor; you now walk to and from the bar without bouncing up and down and a new floor covering in front and behind the bar means the worn carpet tiles have been condemned to the skip. Bob and Stew have done an excellent job decorating behind the bar, again in our favourite Magnolia, (vinyl not matt, Ade take note).

Not only is 2021 the Club's centenary year, but the Royal British Legion also started life 100 years ago, formed from four main associations: The National Association

of Discharged Sailors and Soldiers; The British National Federation of Discharged and Demobilised Sailors and Soldiers; The Comrades of the Great War; and the Officers Association. In 1929 Crich Comrades joined the British Legion and in 1931 celebrated the 10-year anniversary of the British Legion with a concert party and a church parade. As part of the celebrations a free cinema show was organised for all children within Crich parish at the Crich Cinema House. A commemorative medallion and a bag of sweets were presented to each child before the performance. There were 500 medallions produced, if anyone has a medallion in their possession or more details of this event please get in touch!

Arrangements for our 100-year celebrations are continuing. Potential dates for your diary are:

15 May - event to celebrate 100 years of the British Legion

26 June - street party with children's entertainment, followed by evening entertainment

11 September - music hall-style entertainment followed by evening entertainment

More details to follow - everything is dependent on government restrictions. Keep looking out for adverts during the year and an eye down School Lane as a few things will be appearing throughout the year.

Find out more about membership and all our planned events on our website www.comradesclubcrich.co.uk or follow us on facebook.com/ComradesClubCrich

Community Round-up

Can you imagine Crich Community without the Scout Hut?

By Di Fretwell

1st Crich Scouts has been in existence since 1924! Captain Barker, the very first leader, held the meetings in his own sitting room, before moving to the joiners' shop in the quarry. The group had a few other 'homes' until, after a whole community fund-raising effort, the Scout Hut was opened in 1965.

The early leaders were all village residents and all volunteers, devoting hours of their time and energy to help and guide the local young people as Cubs, Scouts and Guides. Our 1st Crich leaders have done an amazing job providing activities on-line for our members over throughout 2020 and beyond, which leads me directly to the purpose of this article and its headline:

1st Crich Scouts is facing a leadership vacuum within the next few weeks. Closure of the



Scout hut opening in 1967

Photo courtesy of Crich Parish website

Group is a possibility if we cannot get your help and support.

More than a year ago our two leaders, Mark Berry and Richard Horton announced retirement, but due to the interruption to the 2020 planned programme, they both generously offered one extra term as leaders.

The end of 2020 saw both Mark and Richard retire from their service, along with the Group Scout Leader Nigel Shaw and our present assistant Cub leaders reluctantly feel unable to give their full commitment in future, due to family responsibilities.

This means that 1st Crich Scouts now has a significant vacuum in our leadership. We have written to all Scout member families and have had some positive responses of offers of time, but- there is always a 'but' isn't there? Without new and younger leaders we are facing the closure of the Cub section at Easter 2021.

Leadership can be the most rewarding and satisfying thing that any adult can offer to their community. So we're asking you to please think about whether you think this is something you might be willing to do? Full training, mentorship and support from colleagues and District is given to all leaders. If you were a Scout or Guide yourself in time past and you benefited from that - maybe now you have something to contribute back? It might also be a great Gap Year opportunity.

The roles we are seeking are:

Group Scout Leader - do you have Managerial expertise? This is the main function of this role!

Leader and assistant leader for the Cub section. Cubs are aged 8-10½ years, boys and girls

Please do contact us if you would like to find out more about any of these roles - without any obligation to commit. Thank you!

Di Fretwell (Chair: 1st Crich Scouts) - scoutchair.crich@gmail.com

Andy Pimm (Acting Group Scout Leader: 1st Crich Scouts) - 07717-746436; districtsec@derwentanddovescouts.org.uk

Nigel Shaw (Interim Scout Section leader) - scoutleader.crich@gmail.com

Devonshire Gardens Nature Reserve

Article and photo by Trevor McGahan

When I was a young child, I often went camping with my family. We frequently stopped at the Haytop Campsite in Whatstandwell, usually setting up camp by the river. My memories of those days were of an abundance of wildlife at every turn. It seemed a fantastic place to be, and I learnt a lot about the natural world. Although Crich and the surrounding villages is still a beautiful place to live, it is not the same place some 45 years on in terms of the wildlife environment.

The problem we are faced with is an ever-growing population resulting in a requirement for new houses and land needing to be utilised for agriculture. Animals, birds, insects and plants that were once a common sighting are disappearing at an alarming rate as their habits are being replaced and destroyed for human needs.

Examples include many butterflies (i.e. tortoiseshell) that have seen a 70% decrease in the last ten years; hedgehogs have declined from a population of 36 million to 1 million over the past 70 years. Bird populations have also been dramatically reduced across a number of common species including sparrows, thrushes and cuckoos.

According to the Royal Botanic Gardens' 'State of Nature' report, one in five of Britain's wildflower species is threatened with extinction.

I am not a nature activist, but sometimes realism of a situation hits you hard in the face, and we have to wake up and look at the facts. All around us, the world as we knew it, is changing at an alarming rate. It concerns me that our children and grandchildren may never experience what we have in terms of wildlife that once thrived in many parts of the UK, including Crich parish.

What can we do about it?

The wildlife trusts are calling upon developers of new builds to restore nature. The environmental impact on new housing cannot be underestimated.

As a Devonshire Gardens resident, I have contacted the builder Harron Homes to ask for their support to:

- Develop the green space to reintroduce habitats for wildlife (i.e., more hedgerows, trees, shrubs, wildflowers)
- Erect bird and bat boxes on existing trees
- Secure the current hedgerows which surround the development
- Create a space for children to create a wildlife environment for themselves

We can also take proactive action in our own gardens. For example: planting trees and plants which encourage insects, birds, bats, butterflies, and bees. We can put up feeders, nesting boxes and install wildlife ponds.

If we all did this, then the whole of the development, over time, would become a nature reserve that we have created collectively.

Imagine a place in which songbirds greet us every morning with a dawn chorus, an area where hedgehogs can find shelter and thrive, a place in which a variety of butterflies are a common sighting, and the scent of wildflowers fills the air. This could be achievable if we work together to make it happen.

Contact Details:

trevor.mcghan@gmail.com T: 07970 756085



Barn owl box

Community Round-up

Crich Glebe Centre Update

By Clare Limb

Creative conversations with our community invited from next wave of trustees and management around future vision for Crich Glebe Centre

Towards the close of 2020 at the Glebe Field Trust (GFT) AGM, the next wave of Management Committee and Trustees were voted in by the community and members.

Chaired by Andrew Auld, the Trustees are Paul Yorke, Phil Dolby, Rev Ian Whitehead and Glyn MacArthur. The trustees are responsible for the strategic vision and financial resilience of the charity and work alongside the dedicated group of volunteers who make up the Management Committee.

On the Management Committee are Tony Harper (Chair) Andrea Kemp, Gwen Roe, Cathy Bowness, Patricia Howard, Denis Wilson, Clare Limb, Martyn Newman and Michael Baugh. These committee members are responsible for the smooth running of the centre on an operational level, in conjunction with centre employees.

The two groups met jointly in January for a strategic session around ideas for the future direction of the centre. As well as taking into account regional and national factors which may influence direction for this important local asset we also examined the strengths and opportunities related to the centre itself. We also had a presentation on the charity's potential role as part of the local network of organisations supporting all of our wellbeing.

"We have a fantastic group of volunteers on both committees, who have put themselves forward to take the Glebe Field Trust into its next phase. Each with their own passions and expertise these volunteers, together with the employed staff, are determined to strengthen the centre as a buzzing hub for local people of all ages and stages in life."

Andrew Auld - Chair of the Trust

Building on this we have started a series of creative conversations with a wide range of people and organisations regarding the future vision for the centre. This includes local residents and groups as well as businesses and organisations in the Crich area, along with statutory providers and staff of the centre itself.

I have lived in Crich with my family for 15 years and have a long history of association with the Glebe having attended baby weigh-ins and Toy Library when my children were small, to more recently for the Community Art Sharing in Oct 2020. I can see the huge potential that the centre offers as a community hub for the local area promoting and presenting a wide range of activities which enhance overall wellbeing - that's what is motivating me to be involved.

To find out how to join in with The Glebe Creative Conservation or for further information see -

www.crichglebefieldcentre.org

@crichglebe on Facebook

@glebecrich on Twitter

Howzat!

Introducing The Cliff Inn Cricket Team

By Roger Bode



The sound of leather on willow, the smell of freshly mown grass and a plate of fresh chips and a pint of cold beer or soft drink of course. What could possibly be better on a warm sunny summer evening?

Unfortunately, it was in short supply last season. As a member, and current captain, of the Cliff Inn Cricket team we look forward to a brighter summer in 2021 and the hope that we can be back out on the pitch more regularly.

The Cliff Inn team play regular 20:20 friendly, yet competitive, fixtures against a mix of teams around Derbyshire. We are associated with the Cliff Inn and have been for many years now. Our home 'clubhouse' provides a welcoming base to retire to, once the home games are over, to enjoy those chips and that beer alongside the visiting team.

Our home pitch has changed over the years and we currently play at Cromford Meadows usually on Tuesday or Wednesday evenings throughout the summer. It is a wonderful setting, nestled in a bowl between the River Derwent and the Cromford Canal. And we are lucky enough to be able to visit some other very picturesque grounds around the county.

We have a small team of 'management' (in the loosest sense!) who prepare and organise for the season ahead and arrange any social events, a postseason get together and an AGM.

We're a community team with a mix of players from all walks of life, mixed abilities and ages. Our format means that everyone gets to bowl 2 overs and batting is rotated so that you will always feel involved.

We are always on the look-out for players (especially all-rounders in the calibre of Ben Stokes!) So if this is something you are interested in, even if you haven't played for a while and would enjoy some fun and social cricket, then please drop me a line registering your interest and for more information - rogerbode64@gmail.com

You can be sure of a warm welcome!

You can also find more information about the team and history of Crich Cricket on the Crich Standard website in the Directory section.

Getting on the internet – a guide from Crich Area Digital Friends

By Phil Dolby

First things first.

Are you on the internet? Are you lucky enough to have elderly family or friends? If so, now is a really good time to help them get connected. You have managed it, so maybe you can help them.

With a cheap phone and sim, you could download WhatsApp, and just encourage them to swipe up when it rings. Keep it very simple. Just receive a call to start with. We've found a simple WhatsApp video call has enormous benefits.

So you want to know more about the internet thing?

Here is my idiots' guide to the internet, or some would say, a guide to the internet by an idiot.

The first time I saw a computer was in 1980. My boss, a young 2nd Lieutenant straight out of Sandhurst, proudly brought his Sinclair ZX80 computer into work. We were a group of Sergeants in the Royal Signals working as electronic technicians in the radar station on top of Mt. Troodos in Cyprus. He tried to show us what the computer did. I remember a blinking cursor on a screen as he attempted to type in a command. It didn't work and we were not impressed. I hope this description of the internet and present-day computers makes more of an impression than his ZX80!

The use of Personal Computers (PCs) exploded in the 80s and 90s. Then in 1991 the World Wide Web was made available for public use. This allowed computers all over the world to connect to each other and exchange information. The internet as we know it today was born.

What do I need to connect to the internet?

In very simple terms you need:

1. A device with a display screen

The most common device is a smartphone. Go anywhere now and you will see people staring at theirs. Other devices with screens are tablets (e.g. iPads) laptops and Personal Computers (PCs)

2. A method of connecting to the internet

There are two ways of connecting:

by transmitting and receiving information (data) using a radio signal. All mobile phones do this

OR

by using a normal BT telephone line which has been adapted to carry a broadband signal. This allows data to be sent and received down the telephone line, as well as normal phone calls.

The cheapest method of connecting to the internet is using your BT telephone line. A basic internet connection costs almost the same, or in some cases, less than a BT line rental.

WWW



What is the difference between devices?

Basically, all devices fall into one of four categories: smartphones; tablets; laptops and Personal Computers.

Smartphones

When mobile phones first appeared, all they could do was the same as a normal BT telephone, but without being connected to a telephone line. They connect using a radio signal, so can be used anywhere hence 'mobile'. As an after-thought manufacturers also gave them the facility to send typed messages as well as normal telephone calls. They didn't expect it to be popular but the public liked typing short messages (text) and now hundreds of millions of text messages are sent every day.

A smartphone is a modern mobile phone but with a computer included in the phone. They are much more than a phone. They can connect to the internet. They have at least one camera installed for taking pictures and videos. You can watch films and play music on them. They can send and receive messages, pictures and videos. They cost anything from under £100 to well over £1000.

Tablets

The most famous tablet is the iPad made by a company called Apple. All tablets can connect to the internet and some, not all, also work as a mobile phone (more expensive). The screens tend to be bigger than smartphones and so are easier to look at.

Laptops

If you take a tablet and attach a keyboard to it you have a laptop. They tend to have larger screens and a more powerful computer inside than tablets. The keyboard is attached to the screen by a hinge and when not in use the screen and keyboard close together for protection. They are light enough to be carried. They are for the more serious computer user with more complex programs.

Personal Computers (PCs)

When computers were first used, a single computer would fill a room! They were used by large businesses and were very costly. As time passed and electronics developed, computers became more powerful and much smaller. In the 1980s computers were made small enough to fit on a table and cheap enough for ordinary people to buy. They were known as Personal Computers or PCs. They are the most powerful home computer and are still used by people needing a large screen and running very complex programs or games.

If you're interested in trying to get connected to the internet, Crich Area Digital Friends can help you! (Covid guidance depending)

To find out more you can call: 07838 190692. Or if you're already connected and want to help someone else, you can email: crichdigital@outlook.com



Photo by Geoff Brown

Now that spring is here and summer, hopefully, just around the corner we can once again marvel at the vast number of wildflowers growing in the diverse habitat we have access to in Crich parish, some of which are better known and observed than others.

Here's a short guide to some you may see so often that you might inadvertently ignore them:

Meadowsweet: Fans of cookery programmes will have noticed that the new era of chefs often incorporate meadowsweet into deserts, ice cream and cakes. I just hope its celebrity status doesn't cause it to disappear from our hedgerows. I always think meadowsweet looks like a hairy cow parsley, having heads of blowsy, cream flowers which are variously described as sweet scented as honey, whilst being reminiscent of TCP or Germolene! Whatever your olfactory perception, it takes its name from being used in the making of mead and in days of yore it would be used to scent linen and clothes presses. It is also known as bridewort and queen of the meadow amongst other things.

Hedgerow garlic: Staying on a foody theme and not to be confused with the fleshy-leaved wild garlic, this plant grows tall and has nettle-like leaves with small white flowers of four petals each. Affectionately also referred to as 'Jack by the hedge' it only flowers every other year much like the foxglove, but unlike its biennial pal can be used as a garlicky mustard flavouring in cooking.

Bird's-foot trefoil: OK, this is where the culinary references end despite the fact that this low growing yellow and red flower is a member of the pea family and is also referred to as 'bacon and eggs'. All very edible you might think, but hold hard, it's also known as 'Granny's toenails'! I think we'll leave its nutrients to the various caterpillars for whom it is an important food source.

Toadflax: I haven't seen much toadflax recently, but maybe I haven't been looking closely enough. It's similar in appearance to a small snapdragon and the ones we see here are usually yellow and orange. Its alternative names are 'butter and eggs' or 'dead man's bones'. I get the butter and eggs bit, but the dead man's bones escapes me. Maybe the bees who love squeezing into its cup shaped flowers to suck its nectar would have a better explanation of its grisly alternative title.

Cuckoo flower: This plant has a small four petalled flowers which range in colour from white through to purple with all shades of lilac in between. It grows eventually into a leggy plant and blooms in April/May time just as the first cuckoo is heard (or so it is said) but it is known as 'lady's smock', 'milkmaids' or 'fairy-flower'. Which name do you prefer?

And finally Cranesbill: This flower comes in many different colours and varieties with names to match. They all belong to the Geranium family and most common to our neck of the woods are the blue and pink varieties. 'Herb robert' is the deep pink variety with leggy, often reddish stems and red tinged leaves. It is said to have an unpleasant smell, described by those in the know as 'mousy' which could account for it also being referred to as 'stinking Bob' and 'Death come quickly'. The bluey, purple version common to our footpaths and hedgerows is 'dove's foot'; I was unaware of this name until I saw it mentioned by local author Alison Uttley in 'Our Village', an account of a Derbyshire childhood which documents local nature beautifully for those who may be interested in delving further into wildflowers past and present.

Lady's Smock



Photo by Chris Baker

What's in a name?

By Essie Prosser

Get your Monk's Head on and your Pheasant's Eye peeled. Follow the Star of Bethlehem until you find Morning Glory and you'll probably bump into several Lords and Ladies, the Scarlet Pimpernel and a Wandering Jew on the way. Climb Jacob's Ladder and give my regards to Sweet Cicely in her Lady's Mantel and Lady's Slippers. If you've not already twigged it, all the above are references to wildflowers and whilst there were very few advantages to lockdown, one was that most of us will have had more time to stroll the lanes and fields surrounding our neighbourhood.

Nature's children

By Claire Ganthony

Daily contact with nature, for children and adults alike, is linked to lower stress levels, better health and improved mood. Our local schools place importance on outdoor learning, understanding of wildlife and connection with nature. They provide a variety of learning experiences for the children, from the vegetable patch at Fritchley and the allotment and chickens at Crich Juniors, to the forest school sessions at Crich Infant School and Crich Carr.

The forest school approach has become increasingly popular in recent years. It is a long term, child-centred learning process that provides opportunities for children to follow their own interests in a natural environment. Children learn through play, exploration, discovery and supported risk taking.

Through hands-on experiences in the great outdoors, they develop confidence, self-esteem and resilience.

The children at Crich Carr enjoy learning in their outdoor classroom. Ian Whitehead, Vicar of St. Mary's Crich and All Saint's South Wingfield told me of how he relished identifying different types of trees, growth rings and sap with the children there. He took along his mobile wood lathe and the children helped to turn either a spinning top, mushroom, dibber or wand.

Crich Infant forest school sessions take place in the grounds of the Tramway Museum. My son was deeply inspired by Mike, who visited one of their sessions there. We've heard such a lot about natural tinder such as rosebay willow herb and King Alfred's cake fungus which can be used in fire lighting. We now have to keep our eyes peeled for both, whenever we're out on a woodland walk!

Spring is a great time to get outside and explore with children. Here are some ideas for fun activities to try as a family:

- **Make a bird feeder.** Use household recycling items such as the inside of a toilet roll, or natural materials such as pine cones as a basis and add peanut butter or lard, oats, seeds and nuts
- **Make a journey stick.** Take some colourful wool along with you on a walk. Choose a stick when out and about and select natural items that catch your eye to bind to it and create a reminder of your journey
- **Create a home for mini beasts in your garden.** Gather some pine cones and dried leaves to create a perfect home for ladybirds or logs, sticks and rotting wood in a damp shady area for centipedes, woodlice and beetles

Enjoying the great outdoors!

By Vicki Holmes, Head Teacher at Crich Carr School

Our children in Class 1 have loved spending time out and about, exploring the school grounds, playing games in the willow dome or spotting mini beasts in the giant's head! As the weather warms up and spring approaches we hope to be spending as much time as possible learning outside.

Our school provides complete wrap-around care for children aged 3 – 11 years from 7.45am until 5pm. Nursery children learn and play alongside our reception children which helps them to be 'school ready' when the time arrives to attend school full-time.

Photos by Vicki Holmes



Capturing our landscapes in art

Landscape and nature, for a number of artists, provide inspiration for great works of art. Everyone knows particular famous landscapes, for example, 'The Haywain' by John Constable. The artists are all inspired to get outdoors and explore their local environments and attempt to capture the emotions they stir up. Light and a sense of atmosphere are also sought after. Each artist seeks to find that elusive element that will bring the piece of work alive and hopefully make it stand out in the crowd.

By David Hunns

In our parish we are fortunate to have a number of landscape artists who are able to capture a moment in time or a particular atmospheric feature. They may work in one media; such as watercolour or oils, but some prefer to explore using mixed media, adding different found materials to their work. Some even work using wool!

It is interesting, while talking to artists, how many lack self-confidence in their own work, they often consider the process to be a challenge, which can be frustrating, yet emotionally rewarding, if you persevere! They all share a love of the countryside and our local area provides such wonderful vistas and subject matter for their work. They all feel that art and the landscape have a positive effect on their mental well-being, as part of the process gets them outside for inspiration and then there is the time spent actually doing art.

Currently, there are four landscape artists in the Art Stand Group. All have very different styles and use a range of media.



'Winter Arising' by Denise Clifton



Denise Clifton

(Whatstandwell) loves to capture detail and paints extremely realistic pieces, although she has begun to explore adding more texture to her work.

David Hunns

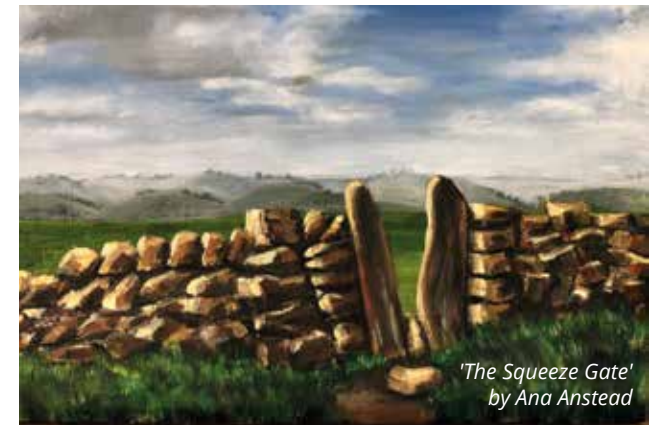
(Whatstandwell) prefers to work in watercolour, although he has ventured into oils more recently. His work focuses on capturing the beautiful skies and he produces wonderfully atmospheric landscapes.

Ana Anstead (Crich) loves strong colour and texture which she brings into her bold interpretations of the local landscape around Derbyshire.

Steph Jansen (Ambergate)

uses wool to create large felted pieces. Her work often displays an ethereal light and atmosphere.

These local artists all love nature and the outdoors and although this article's focus is Art Stand's Landscape artists, within the group we also have those who concentrate on capturing the local wildlife.



Hopefully, when restrictions are lifted, the group will once again get out together to continue to explore our beautiful parish and beyond. You're always welcome to join us.

Planting a bee friendly garden

By Corinne Clemson on behalf of
Crich Open Gardens

We all love to see a garden full of buzzing insect life and the importance of attracting bees into our gardens can't be underestimated.

Here are some suggestions of plants we can add to our borders to provide the food that bees and other insects need.

- Generally it's important to have a range of plants with different flowering periods and flower shapes. Bees prefer open flower shapes without multiple whorls of petals
- If you can bear it, it's useful to leave weeds even if it's just a small patch - bees love clover, dandelions and poppies
- In springtime bees will love visiting the flowering cherry, hawthorn and crab apple trees. We also love the same things as bees; those lovely daffodils and hyacinths that chase winter away will attract bees out on a warm day and later on, our native bluebells are a very important source of nectar, try to avoid the Spanish variety
- In summer our native lavenders, scabious, foxgloves, salvias and cornflowers will contribute to the scent in our gardens, and flowering herbs are useful for the bees' diet as well as our own, a patch of marjoram or oregano will soon be covered in bees
- In autumn the sedums, single dahlias, Japanese anemones and asters will keep your garden buzzing as well as providing some late colour
- In the winter it's still possible for bees to find food on a warm day and those early harbingers of spring, the snowdrop will be welcomed by the bees, as well as by us. Bees also love ivy flowers which can be found in abundance adorning the dry stone walls around Crich
- Lastly, pesticides are the enemy of bees, try to avoid them by companion planting for example planting marigolds and nasturtiums alongside crops can help deter greenfly and black fly

Photos by Geoff Brown



The last word

Be patient to watch the birds

Sitting shivering by a water hole in the half light of a Namibian dawn in Etosha National Park it would have been easy to return to camp. But moments later, emerging from the greyness came a giant eagle owl, a splendid and imposing bird that I had only seen once before. Immediately the cold of the previous hour and the lack of activity by other animals became irrelevant as the huge bird took an early morning drink less than 15 metres away.

Watching and understanding garden birds and their activities can be a whole lot easier. In early January I stood at the kitchen window and watched as a thrush, no longer a routine sighting in our gardens, together with two blackbirds calmly and methodically stripped the red berries from a cotoneaster hedge. Through binoculars this was an amazing and compelling sight!

Garden bird watching is a rewarding and simple pastime. If you don't already, then just provide a drinking source and some food for the birds who will quickly be only too happy to visit you. A variety of seeds and fat balls is best to cater for the discerning tastes of different species but, once installed, just step back, wait and watch from wherever provides a suitable vantage point.

You will soon see sparrows, or maybe that's a dunno? Perhaps blue, great, coal and long tailed tits (who usually come in larger groups). Blackbirds of course, starlings, such rapid and voracious diners, robin, chaffinch, bullfinch and the obligatory pigeon.



Photo by
Andy Parkinson

Keep your eyes peeled though and wait to see less regular visitors such as goldfinch, the very stylish nuthatch, wren and maybe even goldcrest.

By now you have reached almost 20 species. Then add plenty of others, collared dove, crow, magpie, jay, even seagull and then most likely in the sky one or more of Crich's many buzzards and maybe even sparrow hawk, hobby and more. Many of you will become hooked and start to regularly reach for binoculars and the bird book.

That's when you build to the next level. Different plumage for male and female, winter and summer, adult and juvenile. Who feeds from the seeds, the fat balls or hoovers up from the ground and what is the ultimate 'pecking order'. And here's a great question: which bird starts the dawn chorus and why?

It's such an easy thing to do and a great pleasure that you can take as far as you want. If you are very quiet you should be able to sit outside within a few metres of the feeders and when they get used to you, the birds will carry on. Then you might want to take some photographs. There is no end.

But show some patience and reap the reward. Happy bird watching!

Tony Mills
Chair, Crich Standard

Photo by Chris Baker



Wildlife and nature have never been so important to us than right now. Here is a mixed bag of thought-provoking questions on the wildlife, geology and nature of our county.

If you are inspired by the subjects in the questions then follow up the topics yourself or set as a project for children!

compiled by Roger Bode

NATUREQUIZ

- Which bird of prey was spotted at Howden Moor in the Upper Derwent Valley in the summer of 2020?
- What is the name of the famous stone only mined in and around Castleton?
- The Mercian Regiments' mascot is Private Derby. What type of animal is he?
- Which area in the Peak District has attractions such as Ilam Rock, Viator's Bridge and Lovers Leap?
- How long is the River Derwent?
a) 66 miles b) 86 miles c) 106 miles
- Over the years there have been many alleged sightings of a particular large wild 'cat' in Derbyshire. What type is it commonly said to be?
- Which Derbyshire Dam was used as the practice target for the RAF 617 Squadron in preparation for their Dambusters raids in World War II?
- What type of rock forms the basis of Derbyshire's White Peak?

1 A Bearded Vulture 2 Blue John 3 A Ram 4 Dove Dale 5 a) 66 miles 6 A Black Panther 7 Derwent Dam 8 Limestone

Answers

Useful numbers ☎

Amber Valley Borough Council	01773 570222
Amber Valley Pest Control	01773 841335
Amber Valley Refuse	01773 841326
Briars Residential Training Centre (NDCYS)	01773 852044
Call Derbyshire (faulty street lights etc)	01629 533190
Cliff Inn Horticultural Society	01773 852444
Community Transport for Town & Country	01773 746652
Crich Branch British Legion	0808 802 8080
Royal British Legion Secretary	secretary@RBL.community
Crich Brass	01773 852620 / 07796
Crich Careline	01773 853754 / 6228
Crich Carr CoFE Primary School	01773 852070
Crich CoFE Infant School	01773 852165
Crich Day Care	01773 857894
Crich Fire Station (not for emergencies)	01773 305305
Crich Junior School	01773 852384
Crich Luncheon Club	01773 852635
Crich Medical Practice	01773 852966
Crich Parish Council	01773 853928
Crich Post Office	01773 852054
Crich Stand	01773 852350
Domestic Abuse Helpline (freephone)	0808 2000 247
Emergency dial (Ambulance, Fire, Police)	999
Fly tipping report number	01773 841335
FRANK drugs helpline:	0300 123 6600
Fritchley Junior School	01773 852216
Fritchley Nursery	01773 852216
Fritchley OAP	01773 856089
Glebe Field Centre	01773 857894
Holloway surgery	01629 534763
LGBT Derbyshire: support and advice	01332 207704
National Tramway Museum	01773 854321
NHSDIRECT	111
Religious Society of Friends (Quakers) Fritchley	01773 856072
Ripley Hospital	01773 743456
Ripley Morris Men	07763 909262
Samaritans	116123
Severn Trent Emergency	0800 7834444
South Wingfield surgery	01773 833086
St Mary's Church	01773 425077

We'll print this list in the first issue of *Crich Standard* each year only, so cut it out to keep it handy



CRICH Standard

CRICH • FRITCHLEY • WHATSTANDWELL

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

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 at *Crich Standard*

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Emma Nicol, Layout Editor

Karen Davies, Copy Editor and Proofreader

Linda Philo, Claire Ganthony and Geoff Brown Web Editors

Jan Rowland, Dom Andrews and Geoff Brown Reporters

Next issue:

Our summer edition is going to be as light and fluffy as a single white cloud in the summer sky. Let's have your funny stories, your best jokes (editor's discretion on suitability!), things that make you smile and light hearted news and events. Time to put the gloom of lockdowns behind us.

Articles to be submitted to the editor by 13 April 2021. The edition publishes in late June.
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Published by the Committee of *Crich Standard*

Photo by Paul Yorke