



CRICH • FRITCHLEY • WHATSTANDWELL

Issue 99 • AUTUMN 2021

CRICH Standard

crichstandard.org

**Education and
learning in Crich**
Mapping the way ahead

Issue 99 • Autumn 2021

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Front cover photo by Claire Ganthony

Editorial

This edition of Crich Standard will have landed on your doorstep just as families right across the parish are coming to the end of the summer break and are starting to prepare for the start of a new term. A lot of that focus is on Schools of course, but in response to our theme of education, learning and training, we have articles that cover the topic well beyond just our parish schools.

As a farmer's lad myself, what a joy it was to read the article (pages 8 & 9) from young Tom Lynam about his life on the farm in the heart of our community and how he has been learning his family's trade since he was born. Early years experience is vital for all children and there are some tips for young parents on pages 12-14 as well as information about local Early Years providers.

Learning is a lifelong experience of course and there are several articles that reflect on this as well as an interview with local learning and training professional, Ian Travers on pages 10 and 11. Also, did you know that the Crich Medical Practice is a training practice? Shona Wragg, the new Practice Manager tells us more on page 17.

Learning can of course be a lot of fun as Geoff Brown found out when he talked to Jan Barratt at the Tramway Village and whoever said an old dog can't learn new tricks needs to talk to Katrina Bayliss and get involved in learning a whole new set of skills with their canine best friend! I know from personal experience what a lot of fun and challenge taking on an agility course with your dog is.

If learning is often about looking forward to the next challenge, so is working on Crich Standard! Our next challenge here is putting together the 100th edition of CACN/Crich Standard.

We would really like you to get involved. In this special edition, we would like to have some perspectives of what the past 25 years have brought to our parish, what you remember about 1996 when the magazine had its first edition and also what should be on our list of '100 things about Crich Parish' - facts, oddities, sights, sites, pics and stats...send them in to editor@crichstandard.org by 13 October.

Don't forget, you can keep us up to date with parish news and events by emailing news@crichstandard.org at any time and you can read about the latest community news on crichstandard.org.

Andrew Auld
Editor

News in Brief

Important consultation on local developments

by Andrew Auld

Amber Valley Borough Council (AVBC) has opened a consultation process on the 'Alternative Spatial Strategy Options' that will guide the creation of its Local Plan. If you thought there already was an AVBC Local Plan, this is because there was a draft that never got adopted. They are now working on a new one to be in place by late 2023.

The Options being consulted on include the choice of how much housing and economic growth you see as being appropriate for the borough. They are also looking for views about where housing growth should be focused: green belt vs non green belt, urban vs rural settlements (like Crich parish). Read about the options in detail on crichstandard.org/asso

If you have any views about how much or little development you would like to see in the parish in the coming two decades, make sure you take part in this consultation process:

crichstandard.org/assconsultation

In Crich parish, you will remember that we went through a very rigorous process and referendum to create our 'Neighbourhood Plan' which has been adopted since 2018. You can refer to our Neighbourhood Plan here: crichstandard.org/cpnp. The Local



Plan that AVBC is writing should take heed of the existing Neighbourhood Plans in the borough, but there is an opportunity to highlight it in this consultation process.

Fritchley OAPs

by Janet Swindell

Hi everyone, Janet here from Fritchley Pensioners. Hopefully by the time you're reading this, restrictions will be lifted and we can hope to get back to a little normality. At the moment we are thinking of a September start, with a meal out before then. A meeting has been arranged for Tuesday 10 August at 1:45pm in the Congregational Hall. There will be notices posted around Crich and Fritchley, but you will be contacted by phone before then to arrange the meal. Hoping as many people will be able to attend as possible, not just members, but anyone who would like to come along for a chat and enjoy cup of tea with friends.

I'll give you a run down on what we normally do in our monthly meetings: they're over about three hours and we have interesting speakers and entertainment and enjoy refreshments, along with friendly banter. Throughout the year we have trips out which are very popular. We also enjoy things like pie and pea suppers, a harvest meal and of course Christmas!

St Mary's

by Martyn Offord

St Mary's Church is once again open every day from 10am until 4pm. Anyone is welcome to come in to enjoy the peace, to reflect or simply 'be'.

Morning Worship is at 10am every Sunday, but many new things will be happening too.

Watch out for further news at www.crichstmarys.org.uk

Fritchley Hall is back!

by Steve Wood

The hall has been refurbished internally with new lighting, carpets, curtains and redecoration. We've also had new toilets with sinks and a wheelchair ramp, funded with grateful thanks to National Lottery and Derbyshire County Council for grants and a very generous local donation. Thanks also to all those local folk who have helped out to get things done during the lockdowns, including Paul Whittaker, Pat Simms, Claire and Dave, Dawn, Sarah and Joe from Prestige Carpets. As anyone can see from the outside, there is still plenty to do!

The hall has cautiously reopened for hire within current guidelines, most of the regulars have returned but there are still plenty of times available for hire.

Some people are still naturally cautious about coming back to indoor events, but after the fantastic success of the Scarecrow Trail and Teas on the Green in June, the FCA Events team are planning events for the Autumn to encourage people back, culminating in an exciting new look for the Christmas Tree event in early December, so look out for further details!

To tell us what you'd like to see happening in the hall, or if you are thinking about starting an activity of your own or would like to help out with events, please get in touch: fritchleyvillagehall@gmail.com.

Stand up for local community art

by David Hunns

I'm pleased to announce that despite nature's efforts to stop all events, ArtStand has continued to flourish and our artists have been busy in all sorts of ways.

Our aim was to get involved with the Community and we have worked hard to achieve this. Since restrictions were lifted earlier in the year, we have managed to hold a successful exhibition and art sale at the Old Black Swan during Crich Open Gardens. This led to networking with local artists from the Ripley area and the idea of including guest artists in future events.

Three of our artists teamed up with The Tramway Museum, Crich Active and Art Share and put on a number of workshops throughout July based on Crich Quarry. Visitors to the museum could also visit a small exhibition of the artists' work.

Jessica Lennox, from Fritchley, has opened her new gallery in Wirksworth which is definitely worth visiting. Cheryl has worked brilliantly with Crich School and the children have produced some fantastically colourful totem poles and wicker hangings to decorate their environment.

We have also supported the local economy by frequenting the local hostelry for more regular social meetings. Someone needs to do the hard stuff!!

In August we were once again involved with Whatstandwell Open Gardens. Despite the soggy weather it was well attended and was a chance to see, not only beautiful floral displays, but artwork too! A great opportunity to be nosy and explore people's gardens while chatting with the artists and seeing their studios.

The future looks good too. As well as exhibitions, we are currently exploring the possibility of organising days out for the artists to work in 'Craft Wood', near South Wingfield. This Social Enterprise is aimed at people with Educational and Special Needs and the idea is to work together outside, in the wood, to create art and sculpture trails that can be explored. If this sounds fun, then we are always looking for volunteers to help make it happen.

Feel free to contact David Hunns, 07835 886595, if you want to know more about our group or want to get involved with future activities.



Photo of exhibition at the Black Swan and supplied by ArtShare Crich



Local playwright raises curtain on book for charity

by Tim Elgood

A local playwright and local artist are hoping to raise funds for Ward 303 of the Royal Derby Hospital with an illustrated book written in memory of their friend who died earlier this year.

Writer Tim Elgood who has had plays performed at both the Derby Playhouse and the Guildhall Theatre and illustrator Thelma Knowlson say this is a tribute book with a difference for a "very different woman".

Tim said "Mary John (previously Richardson) lived all her life in Fritchley and was a particularly inspiring and extremely mischievous person – she had much to teach us all – not least about her positive

response to learning she had cancer. To do her philosophy and sense of humour justice we have written the book as if she herself has written it since she passed away. She would have liked that far more than an obituary ... she was a very fun-loving and entertaining person and hopefully 'her' book reflects that."

The eBook entitled 'Dead Merry Mary' will be donating all proceeds to Ward 303 of the Royal Derby Hospital and can be downloaded for a donation of £3 and can be accessed via the NHS Hospital website:

<https://dbhc.org.uk/local-playwright-raises-funds-for-303/>

A busy summer for Art Share Crich

by Clare Limb

It has been a really busy spring and summer for Art Share Crich with two projects taking place from May to July.

The first was a public sharing of Rhymes and Lines, a winter writing project born out of the need to beat the lockdown blues! Over 28 people of all ages submitted their pieces of writing, which included story openers and poetry from a diverse range of individuals and groups including, Crich Luncheon Club and Crich Juniors. Some of the poems were illustrated by local artist Keith Wilson.

The writings were displayed on the weekend of 14-16 May in the windows of The Old Black Swan, courtesy of Rachel Palin and Steve Campbell. There will also be a digital version of the writings available to read in the autumn on the Art Share Crich mini-site which is part of the Crich Standard website, as well as being displayed at the Autumn community art sharing.

The second project was the Get Creative and Have Fun summer workshop series in partnership with the Tramway Village and local artists collective, ArtStand. Using the vantage point of the Tramway, the workshops were designed to celebrate the beauty of the Cliff quarry. Workshops included pastel painting with Denise Clifffen, landscape drawing and



painting with David Hunns, willow weaving with Margaret Bazely, photography with Johnathon Amos and mixed media with Julian Bray (sponsored by Gallery Top). The workshops were complimented by a talk about the unique geology of the quarry by local geologist Andrew Smith.

The workshops were well supported by the community, with The Tramway Village kindly providing free entry to the village for Crich residents. There were also workshops with children from the village schools.

Everyone who took part were encouraged to submit their work to the Autumn Community Art Sharing being held at The Glebe on 16-17 October, more on this in the What's On section.

A leaning towards learning

by Roger Bode

So where does it all begin? We all start from scratch. There's not much to start with unless you believe that being played a bit of Pavarotti or Beyonce, or the audio version of Harry Potter, whilst still being in the womb, has some effect.

So how do we learn? There's no doubt that once we are pushed out into the big wide world it begins. It's through nurturing, watching and listening and touching, through example, education and experience. This can be good or bad of course, life enhancing or debilitating. There's no doubt that we learn whatever the circumstances.

Our learning involves community, or lack of it and our environment. How best we learn depends on this and who we are as individuals. Our capacity and desire to learn are as important as the tools we have at our disposal and what circumstances we find ourselves in at any given time.

Then there are preferred learning styles. Some prefer to 'see' a subject, others to 'listen' to it, whilst others are 'readers' on the matter and finally those who lean towards more of a 'hands on' or sensory way of learning. The acronym VARK breaks this down into the recognised scientific pattern of Visual, Auditory, Reading (and writing) and Kinaesthetic learning. Which one is your preferred style?

We can also teach others the skills that we ourselves have learned, sometimes

subliminally, and we pass these on sometimes without realising. Often we will say, 'I didn't know I knew that or how to do that'.

We also use techniques (which we learn) to help us remember and to learn about new things. We use mnemonics, for example, to aid information retrieval or retention. What on earth could 'My Very Educated Mother Just Served Us Nine Pizzas' or 'My Very Elegant Mother Just Sat Upon Nine Porcupines' or 'My Very Efficient Memory Just Stores Up Nine Planets', be a reference to? Hopefully the last one gives it away!

We all have our own map of the world and experience it in our own way. Learning and the processes around it is a unique experience even if often presented in a shared environment. We don't stop learning even if we think we do. We can choose to learn something new or often it's just by chance.

Possibly you have by just reading this article!



Photo by Brett Jordan on Unsplash

INTERVIEW

Tom Lynam chatting at the farm with Stephen Woolley

To be a farmer's boy

By Tom Lynam



I was four when I first remember helping my Dad on the farm. I had my own pedal tractor with a back wagon and front-end loader, just like Dad's

I'm Tom, I'm almost 10 and my brother is Sam. We live with our Mum, Dad and Grandad at Dial Farm. Grandad Lynam says we've farmed around here for 400 years. I want to be a farmer too.

I think I was four when I first remember helping my Dad on the farm. I had my own pedal tractor with a back wagon and front-end loader, just like Dad's. I copied everything Dad did and had to clean off the muck and straw myself. My favourite tractor is our CASE Maxxum. We use it for muck spreading on our fields with a special seat for me.

In June Dad and I mowed and baled 85 acres of grass. We saw lots of buzzards and foxes which were after all the mice we disturbed. Dad says some farmers shoot foxes, but we don't. They've probably been here longer than we have.

Sam and I were sad that our Granny Lynam died a few weeks ago. Granny used to suckle all the calves when they were about 10 days old. Granny was really pleased that I took this on from her. We use a feeder to suckle five calves at a time. I really like this as I love the animals. Grandad says that Granny used to rear Angora goats, but I don't remember this.

We have lots of milking cows, and calves. One of my favourite calves is Daffodil. I saw her being born last year and I bottle fed her because her mum's udders were too low. Daffodil is a Holstein cross. I learnt all about cows calving when I was about five.



My very own calves are Annie and Rosie. They are four months old. I was upset when my favourite cow had to be culled, so Dad says that we can keep Annie and Rosie always. I look after them, and Daffodil, every day. I even know what type of bull I want to put Daffodil with when she is older. I know we can't keep every cow and calf. It's sad for me and Dad but I know it's part of farm life.

Sam and I have three flocks of hens, mostly Warrens. We deliver eggs around the village and sell some at the gate. My Nana and Grandpa Frearson in Fritchley sell at their gate too. We're saving the egg money for when we are older.

I don't like bale shredding and slurry tanking. I don't mind the smell, but hate the noisy machines!

Grandad Lynam tells me about the old farming days. I like to listen. Grandad didn't have to go to college, but I want to go to Broomfield. I'll have to do two years there, but then I can work with Dad on the farm all the time.

Perhaps we'll be around here for another 400 years and have Angoras again. I really hope so.



Photos by Wendy Lynam

What do you enjoy most about your profession?

I love the process of seeing people, from all kinds of backgrounds and roles, discover knowledge that helps them. To see an individual who is struggling in a role, or a team that has been in difficulty, begin to smile is amazing. Every situation is different – the variety of contexts and the people you get to meet and work with is brilliant.

What would be your priority activity if you were the Invisible Man/Woman for the day?

I would leave notes and books or quotes for people that I could see struggling – triggering thoughts that would make a difference to their day.

Who is the person who has influenced you the most?

This is a tricky one – the list is very long. I would home in on a few though. My Dad – he always had time for me and those around him. He would always suggest but never instruct, he supported and encouraged you to discover stuff for yourself (what we would consider as coaching today). A good friend of mine, Michael Finnegan, who helped me discover my passion and enabled me to leave the corporate world behind and believe in myself. Thirdly I would say my two boys and my wife – they have always given honest (sometimes unknowingly) feedback and support. Your children have a canny way of cutting right to the truth of the matter with their unconstrained honesty!

What's the unending quest that drives you on?

Easy one: to make the world a better place to be by helping people smile more – one thought at a time.

What piece of wisdom would you pass on to a child?

Believe in yourself. Dare to have a go at anything. Imagine you were only going to visit a fairground for one day only – you would want to try every ride out as this was your one and only day ever at the fairground. Life is like that – try out every ride.

How would you spend your fantasy 24 hours with no travel restrictions?

Time with my family – in a gorgeous outdoor setting (Ideally New Zealand but that would be pushing the 24-hour window a little).

What single thing would improve the quality of your life?

There isn't a 'thing' for me. The best things in life aren't 'things' – they are moments, experiences, memories, emotions. More time to experience any of those.

What's been your greatest business challenge?

Covid without a doubt – we had to completely pivot the business in days. I am immensely grateful to have a super team around me and together we innovated and found a way though. I believe we are now stronger for it and helped folks along the way, but I wouldn't want to repeat that.

What keeps you awake at night?

Not much – I am happy with my thoughts. If I do wake early, it's usually to ruminate on a new idea or a particular customer problem we are helping with.

Where would you like to be right now?

Outdoors – I'd always opt for time outside. Walking, running, reading.

What's the most fun you've ever had at work?

Being in front of an audience – small or large – I love it. I get a real buzz from the unpredictability of interaction.

Is there one thing you avoid doing at all costs?

Worrying about stuff I can't control – it drains me of energy and has never helped anyone.



Most embarrassing moment at work?

Talking to an audience of senior executives in my corporate life period, explaining how we were going to launch a computer-based model for predicting inbound delivery date needs from the supply network. It fed on data from existing systems – I delivered a passionate response to a question describing the system as in essence a large data suppository! I meant to say repository. You can imagine the laughter that filled the room.

What has been your biggest disappointment?

I tend not to dwell on these. Disappointment comes when your expectation of a situation falls short of your perception of the outcome – both are in our control. I am of the 'dust the dirt off my knees and get back in the game' school of thought.

What's your biggest vice?

Buying (too much) outdoor clothing. You can never have too much right?

INTERVIEW WITH IAN TRAVERS

Thinking it better

Our Editor had a chat with Ian Travers, founder of Thinking it Better, Explorer Scout Unit Leader and Jog Crich Leader, to hear his thoughts on learning and development

Helping your child learn in the Early Years

Article by Claire Ganthony
Photo by Emma Collyer



For our youngest children, every and each activity is educational

Follow your child's lead

Children have a natural curiosity and a deep desire to understand the world around them. Allow their natural interests to take the lead in what you do together. I once counted 26 "why" questions from my then three-year-old between our front door and that of our next-door-but-one neighbour (a journey of just a few steps but many, many minutes!). If your child asks you questions you don't know the answer to, before turning to Google, spend some time pondering and wondering together. The ideas they have may surprise you!

Sensory play

While a 'heuristic basket' may sound elaborate, really it's just a container full of interesting objects and textures. A spatula with ribbons attached, a mug stand, a nail brush, a whisk, a loofah, something rough, something smooth, a thing that twists, something that boings. A collection of interesting items like this provides so many opportunities for exploration, discovery and language development. Play dough is a wonderful resource for imaginative and creative play, as well as helping develop fine motor skills by building hand and finger muscles. Involve your child in creating the dough and it also becomes a science experiment exploring what happens when you add more flour or water? How does oil change the mixture?

Less is more

I write this as I look at a large toy chest, filled with mostly abandoned toys, but less really is more when it comes to play resources. Bringing out a small selection at a time allows children time to focus and fully immerse themselves in their play, without being distracted by the next thing. Derbyshire Toy

Library provides a click and collect toy hire service via their Facebook page. They have a huge catalogue of resources, many open ended providing limitless play opportunities. Of course, as everyone knows, there's no better toy than the cardboard box it came in, especially if it's a really big one!

Social animals

While opportunities to mix with others their own age may have been limited recently for children under school age, there are now a number of baby and toddler groups and classes open again in the area. Popalong runs at the Wesleyan Chapel on Fridays, 9.30-11.30 for children up to three years old. There is also Popalong Babies for new parents and young babies on a Monday at 10.00. Munchkins Playgroup is based at the Holloway chapel on Wednesdays 10.00-11.30. Toy Library are hoping to resume their Stay and Play session at The Glebe in Crich when the new school year begins in September. This will be held on Mondays 9.30-11.30. Further afield, Belper's Boom magazine (freely available online) has a full list of groups and classes in and around Belper.



Photo by
Claire Ganthony



Photo by Amanda Stringer

Go outdoors

As Erin Kenny, author of Forest Kindergartens says "Children cannot bounce off the walls if we take the walls away!". There is no greater educational resource than the great outdoors for children (and adults) of all ages. When things are getting tense a change of setting can change the mood (once they've got their shoes on that is, there is no greater cause of stress and tension I know of than getting their shoes on). CHIKS have a great booklet of short and accessible walks around Crich which is available from Lynda Gray (jimlynda.gray@btopenworld.com) with all proceeds going to the CHIKS project.

Getting outside is not only great for exercise and the development of gross motor skills, it also helps children to learn to risk assess situations for themselves and problem solve with the resources they find in the natural environment. It allows them space to run and shout and let off steam, but also to really slow down and quietly contemplate the progress of a snail or the pattern of the veins on a leaf.

For our youngest children, every and all activities are educational and learning takes place in all they do. When we are lucky enough to be able to go along with them for the ride, we learn so much ourselves.

Early Years childcare providers in our local area

If you are looking for childcare, there are a number of commercial day nurseries in the surrounding towns, most of these can be found on childcare.co.uk. We also have some charitable and school based Early Years settings locally. All listed below are term-time only. Most offer childcare from 9am- 3pm each day and some offer wraparound care.

South Wingfield Playgroup

"Provides a warm caring and nurturing environment for children age 2 to 4 and we are focused on providing the best possible start for your children" Southwingfieldprimary.com/pre-school-playgroup 07715 094406

Fritchley Primary School

"Hardwick Class is our Early Years Foundation unit. Children in this class are either in Nursery or Reception and can join from age 2. The learning environment is made up of an indoor and outdoor area where children can explore, create and discover." <https://fritchley.derbyshire.sch.uk/> 01773 852216

Crich Carr Primary School

"We are a small rural school with a family ethos set in beautiful surroundings. Academic achievement is valued alongside creative and fun learning. We offer a rich and varied curriculum in a caring and friendly environment." crichcarrprimary.co.uk/nursery-provision 01773 852070

Holloway Playgroup

"We aim to provide quality play and learning experiences for children aged 2-5 years of age. We believe in creating a fun, attractive environment where children can explore and learn about the world around them within a safe, friendly and caring community" Frameworkfederation.co.uk/topic/Holloway-playgroup For bookings and enquiries contact Lea Primary School 01629 534286

Wildlings at Ambergate

"We believe that children thrive in an environment which values their own uniqueness, while providing support and opportunities to grow emotionally, socially and creatively". Hall based sessions available 5 days a week. Full day woods sessions available 3 days a week. Wildlingsderbyshire.org 07474762190



Photo by Tim Mossholder on Unsplash

The power of creativity

by Clare Limb

Clare Limb speaks about how she hopes a project around the power of everyday creativity will aid the health and wellbeing of our parish, in a post-Covid world.

In April last year I was furloughed from my job, leaving me with a feeling of being without direction for the first time in many years. Fast-track on 16 months, and I am about to begin a journey as one of 25 'UK Creative Community Fellows' and hopefully become a 'community change-maker' along the way.

What happened in the intervening 16 months you might ask? Well, firstly I undertook some serious naval-gazing and eventually I started to look up and around me and saw that despite the challenges that Covid-19 was throwing at the community, all around me was buzzing with positive activity, online, in the schools and through the Mutual Aid Group.

I started to have a germ of an idea about some kind of arts project which could bring people together from all parts of the community to share our experiences of being in lockdown. I sought out like minded folk that I knew,



Photo provided by Clare Limb



and put the idea to them of a possible art exhibition made up of work by the people of the area. Inspired by the wonderful stained-glass panels in the phone box (now a defibrillator) in the market place, and by the two village residents who had created these artworks, I quickly became alert and aware of professional and non-professional arts and crafts activity in the village. I met so many amazing people on my journey to making the first ever Community Art Sharing happen, including Artists David and Kennedy Hunns from ArtStand. I also worked with 5 amazing co-volunteers who were with me every step of the way.

Following the successful Community Art Sharing in October, the six of us met in my back garden to discuss the big question - what next? It was decided that we would embark on a Winter Writing project and enlisted a champion for this project - Martyn Offord who was amazing at posting inspiring poems on Facebook! I also worked with Cathy Bowness from the Crich Luncheon Club, who through their Whatsapp calls had facilitated a poetry reading by Martyn, encouraging people to write verse and submit them to the Rhymes and Lines project.

And then came the wonderful idea to celebrate the Cliff Quarry through a series of workshops held at the Tramway Village, now here we are getting ready for the second ever Community Art Sharing - phew what a year!

Along the way I have joined the management committee of The Glebe as I feel that it has a role to play in positive transformation of our community, and have been part of a small group who have carried out Creative Conversations with the Community in order to find out what people's best hopes are for its future.

I am hopeful that my fellowship of the UK Creative Community will give me the inspiration and tools to create positive transformation in our community through the medium of arts and culture, and I am looking forward to being taught by international experts from Derby Museums and National Arts Strategies, USA.

You can find out more about UK Creative Community Fellows on the Derby Museums website: derbymuseums.org

Learning at Crich Medical Practice

by Shona Wragg - Practice Manager

Did you know Crich Medical Practice is a training practice?

This means that we are accredited to accept fully qualified doctors, in the final years of their training who have decided to make General Practice their career. The qualified doctors who come to Crich have completed medical school, plus two years of hospital foundation training. They then spend a further three years in GP training which is split between in the community and a hospital.

We've been accepting GP Registrars since 2012 and we're pleased to welcome three new GP Registrars in August who will be mentored by Dr Diez and Dr Higginbotham. During their time with us the GP Registrars become an integral part of our practice spending time seeing patients and receiving clinical supervision.

As a training practice it's normal to see GP Registrars come and go. An attachment is generally for a set period of time, after which the trainees move onto other practices to continue to develop their skills.

We also offer ongoing training opportunities for all staff and mandatory training is funded by the NHS Derby and Derbyshire Clinical Commissioning Group. A recent course was delivered on CPR training and there are plenty more ongoing development opportunities for our team.

In addition to training GPs, we are also considering a trainee nurse associate course. Furthermore, a General Practice Assistant will join in September, they will complete their in-house training in October, which will support backfill for the nursing team and upskill the staff we have currently.

We are also registered to provide apprenticeships in business administration.

"I'm a GP trainee in my final year. I have worked in Crich for more than 18 months with great learning experiences and support. I passed my examinations and I'd like to thank my training team and patients who agreed to have their clinical consults recorded for training and examination purposes"

Dr Nasser

Just a thought

Exploring the tough questions

by Rev. Anette Love

What's the biggest most difficult question you have ever been asked? Did you manage an answer? Answers to science questions are in science books, historical facts in history books etc, but what about other tough questions? The questions that religion tries to answer are often about meaning e.g. Why is there suffering? What happens when we die?

I didn't get on with the R.E. teacher at school. Didn't much like Sunday school either. So how did I find out about God? Not from a book or a course but an experience. I met some people who believed and I decided I wanted to find out more.

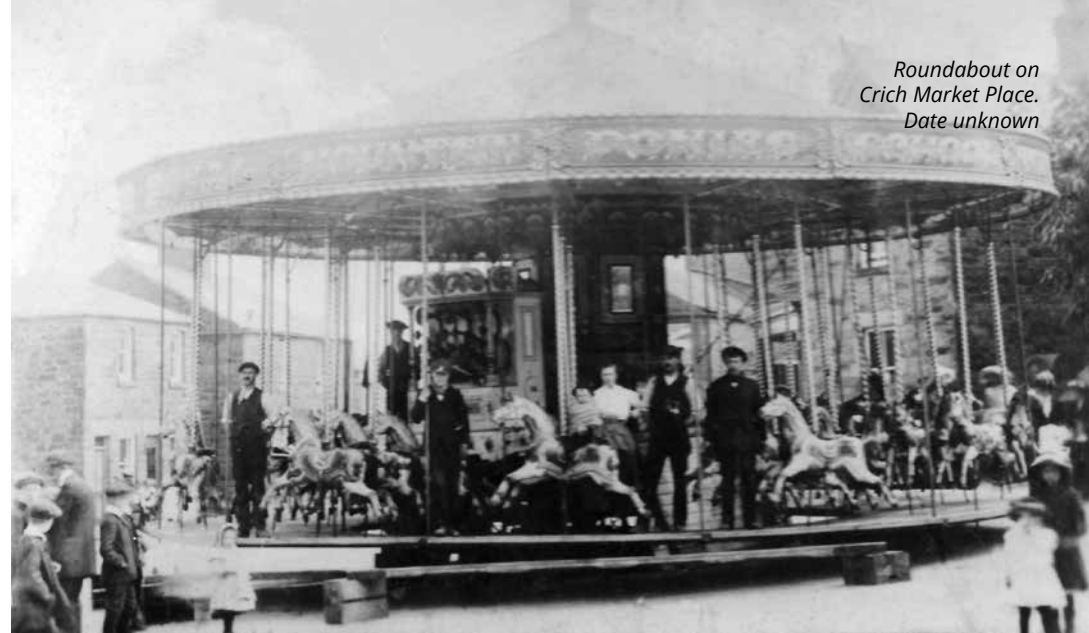
Head knowledge and heart knowledge are both needed for balance, so I knew that I'd need to use my brain. Dismissing the Bible, without having read very much of it, seemed imprudent. So, I went to church and had a good think about what was being said. I've been studying theology for years and am still being challenged to dig deeper. Does it matter what you believe? Aren't all religions the same? Do science and the Bible contradict each other? Doesn't religion just cause conflict? Can the Bible be trusted? Why bother with church? These are all questions to be chewed over.

There are loads of objections to Christianity, even St Peter wrote that some of the things that St Paul said were hard to understand, but I think that it does stand up to scrutiny

We need the beginner's mind of a curious child. Being palmed off with 'Because I (or 'the Bible') says so,' doesn't work. There's no spiritual SAT test, which is just as well, because for the Bible to matter, it has to cover the complexity of the messy and mysterious process of being human and therefore won't be an easy read.

Finding out more is a risk, like love and marriage or setting out on a journey. Easier to stay home with TV. But what if there is any truth in the rumour of God? It would be a shame to miss out.

I can't convince you that God might exist, but I'd love to give you the opportunity to have your say. If you'd like to have a chat, do get in touch: anette.love@btinternet.com or on 07713 955249.



*Roundabout on
Crich Market Place.
Date unknown*

Funfairs and circuses at Crich

by Peter Patilla

For over fifty years, until the 1950s, travelling funfairs visited Crich. Two local families Oadley and Ray, brought their attractions into the village for the entertainment of the local residents. The fairs were erected in the Market Place or on the field called the Dutchman's Croft, near the Cross.

The fairgrounds would usually comprise roundabouts, swingboats and side-stalls. Several local residents have spoken of their fondness for the swingboats.

The late Tony Lester recorded his pleasure of seeing the fair arrive in his article 'Crich Memories'.

"October was Crich fair time and I used to sit in our window bottom and watch for Timmy Ray's big showman's engine, pulling a caravan and trailer into the Dutchman croft. He later went and fetched the rest of the equipment. We used to go and watch them setting up the roundabout (carousel) with its horses, the swingboats, coconut shies, rifle range, ball in the bucket, roll a penny (I am sure the lines used to move when the pennies got near them) and the slot machines. After visiting the fair we always saved a copper or two for chips and peas from Mrs Brumwells, that was really living! The fair stayed open for two to three weeks, then everything was packed away into the big wagons and they wintered in the Croft."

Occasionally there would be conflict between the fairground staff and Crich residents:

Taken from the Derby Daily Telegraph - 21 October 1909:

"A quarrel over a game of 'hoop-la' at Crich fair on 11 October had its sequel at the Belper Petty Sessions this Thursday morning when William BELL, son of the stall holder, was summoned for assaulting George HODGKINS,

labourer, Crich. He pleaded not guilty. Complainant's story was that he purchased three pennyworth of hoops at the stall in defendant's charge and he aimed so well that he got a number of prizes. Defendant told him to stand erect, and not to bend over the rail so much, witness replying that he had paid for his rings and could throw them as he liked. Thereupon defendant who was the son of the proprietor of the stall struck him a nasty blow in the mouth with his fist."



Crich Fair had swingboats and roundabouts

Circuses also visited Crich, again setting up their tent on Dutchman's Croft. The earliest discovered record of this was in 1901:

Taken from the Derbyshire Times - 2 November 1901

"At Crich they have a diversion seen in that part of the county but seldom. One of the travelling circuses is paying the old-fashioned town a visit."

Unfortunately no photographic evidence has been discovered of these visits. Memories of the 1950s circuses recount that they were rather tame events with simple acrobatics and a few domestic rather than wild animals.

One of the most popular and remembered fairground names is that of Timmy Ray. He would over-winter here and is buried in Crich churchyard with other members of his family.

A fascinating book about the Ray fairground family entitled *Strangers in the Night* by Andrew McKinley has recently been published. For further details email: timmyray21@hotmail.com.

Education for all at the Tramway Village

Article by Geoff Brown, photos provided by Jan Barratt

Of course, the whole point of a museum is to educate the public. In the case of Crich Tramway Village about all things tram related! However, the educational work of this museum extends well beyond that.

Being situated in the old quarry and with extensive grounds and woodlands, it takes full advantage of its situation to provide a wide range of learning opportunities to children and families from the community, local schools and for visitors wherever they have travelled from.

Jan Barratt, the museum's Learning and Participation Manager oversees a wide range of learning activities throughout the opening season. Many museum-led or self-led activities, supporting the National Curriculum, are organised for children of all ages, from early years through to GCSE students.

During school holidays, young visitors can participate in a range of activities, often themed to events happening at the museum at the time, for example 'make do and mend' activities related to the 1940's weekend. Discovery topics related to science, history and nature are often featured. These activities are short and focused, lasting for maybe twenty minutes to fit in to a family visit. There is no need to pre-book and the sessions are free of charge, although small donations are encouraged to contribute towards costs.

In term time, school parties from across the East Midlands are frequent visitors to the

museum. The children can engage in a wide range of facilitated sessions led by members of the museum learning team, many of whom are paid freelancers. A marquee has recently been erected in the grounds to act as an outdoor classroom. Sessions, designed to support the National Curriculum, relate to the development of tramways (and the associated social history) or to the surrounding geology and nature. By making the sessions interactive they cover elements of history, geography, science, art and performing arts in a very 'hands on' and engaging way. Sessions may also be teacher-led and the museum provides many resource packs for use by visiting





The museum takes full advantage of its situation to provide a wide range of learning opportunities to children and families



schools or indeed any groups, and they are available online. Crich Infant school takes parties to the museum woodlands twice a week as part of the Forest Schools scheme. The junior school are also regular visitors.

Of course, the museum isn't all about children. The whole facility provides a learning experience for all visitors. A huge amount of research and thought goes into the museum displays themselves, trying to explore beyond the direct topic of trams. For example, who knew that you can learn about horse nutrition and how the manure was dealt with! Very important in the days of horse-drawn trams. A different example of the problems of waste disposal from days past.

The museum is internationally recognised as a source of information relating to trams and tramways ancient and modern. It has a library of about 12,000 books on the topic and a vast selection of photos and postcards which are currently in the process of being digitised.

These resources are overseen by a curator, a part-time librarian, a collection assistant and a small band of volunteers whose job it is to sort, catalogue and collate the information relating to the growing collection. The team handles many enquiries from researchers around the world, either remotely or from those that visit the museum. These enquiries are often challenging, but rewarding!

More down-to-earth are the driver experience sessions run by the transport team, which allow anybody to come and experience the life of a tram driver in days past. It is possible to have a go at driving different trams and many people come back more than once!

The museum is always looking for volunteers to help in many different areas, from driving and conducting, maintenance and restoration, education and resource management.

Details of the educational activities for children are available on the website:
<https://www.tramway.co.uk/learning/>





Benefits of agility training for pet dogs

Over lockdown the world seems to have gone puppy crazy. These puppies are now starting to get bigger and probably more boisterous! Now the world has opened up again we can start to do more with our favourite four-legged friends. Dog ownership can definitely have ups and downs, but if you are experiencing more downs than ups with your dog's behaviour you may need a little help.

Dogs need a certain amount of both mental and physical exercise each day, if you have a working breed dog then they need a job to do. Sometimes daily walks just aren't enough to fulfil their extra-busy personalities. Maybe you walk your dog twice a day and they are still bouncing off the ceilings come tea time? This is where agility comes in.

You may not know a lot about dog agility apart from what you might have seen on the TV at Crufts. Agility is a fantastic way to have fun at the same time as training your dog. It is a team sport built on the relationship you create

together and a fantastic way to bond with your dog while giving them an outlet to work their body and their brain.

Agility is the perfect blend of both physical and mental stimulation and the benefits of agility training with your dog are endless:

- An increased bond between you as you become that perfect team
- Focus in new environments
- Focus around distractions
- Increased recall skills
- Increased loose lead walking skills
- Confidence
- Mental stimulation
- Physical fitness
- Fun!

If you are new to the world of dog agility it can often be confusing knowing where to start and how to do things properly and safely. Getting your dogs to complete the obstacles like you see on Crufts straight away may seem fun, however if your dog gets injured or scared from doing things too soon and not learning correctly, the damage it will do to your dog will not only be painful to your wallet, it will harm the relationship you have with your dog too.

Agility training starts well away from the actual agility equipment, it starts with games that are really easy to practice at home and best of all you need no equipment to get started. These games can be as short as three minutes, perfect to play while you are waiting for the kettle to boil or during the ad break on Emmerdale!

You can start pre-agility games from six months upwards and the same games are used all the way through your dog's agility career. Creating happy and confident agility dogs who love the sport as much as their handlers should be the main priority. Agility training not only gives you the agility skills but also the most important bit: the team work skills which go hand in hand with the equipment training. These skills transfer to everyday life and as a result you get a calmer, better behaved dog at home.



Even if your dog is a little anxious or isn't keen on other dogs, agility training can be delivered via one-to-one sessions. So if you like having fun with your dog and you are looking for a new hobby, then maybe agility is for you!

Katrina Bayliss
www.kbdogagility.com



Autumn Community Art Sharing call-out

It's once again time to share your art and your stories as we welcome submissions from the whole community for the Autumn Community Art Sharing. There is an open theme again, however the focus continues to be around art which makes you feel better as we all try and recover from the impact of the pandemic on our individual lives and on our community. Entries can be in any art form (we will work with you to find the best way of sharing it).

Please send a photo or description of your artwork to clarelimb68@gmail.com with a sentence about how or why you made the work, or how you felt whilst you were making it. The closing date for submissions is 30 September.

We will arrange for drop-off and collection of work nearer the time. Please note any submissions need to be suitable for a family audience and we reserve the right to refrain from sharing work which may cause offence.



What's On

Below are the events scheduled at time of going to press. To keep up to date with What's On please check the website



ARTSTAND EXHIBITION AND SALE

October 16th / 17th

Saturday 11.00 - 5.00pm

Sunday 11.00 - 5.00 pm

The Crich Glebe Field Centre

CRICH LIVE

We are delighted to announce that we have four shows and dates for you so far.

Saturday 13th November 'The Rest of Our Lives'

Jo Wong and George Orange present a brilliant and moving night of dance, circus and games!

Saturday 4th December - 'Aufwiedersehen Me Duck!'

A mix of Stoke-on-Trent and Stuttgart! Paul Walker and Karen Pfeiffer bring you an outstanding and varied repertoire of folk music.

Saturday 12th February 'Dudley - The Jazz of Dudley Moore'

The Chris Ingham Trio present a delightful homage to the versatile actor and musician. A Valentines Day treat!

Saturday 19th March 'Ma Bessie's Prohibition Party'

Take a trip back to prohibition America at the time of Bessie Smith. Julia Titus and her band take us on a journey of blues and jazz.

All shows are at the Crich Glebe Field Centre, begin at 7.30pm, include an interval and a bar is available



Community Round-up

Crich Glebe Field Centre round-up

by Clare Limb

It's been a busy few months at the Crich Glebe with lots of activity in the building and with staff and volunteers.

Through a post-Covid start up grant from Amber Valley Borough Council we have been able to carry out a range of jobs that really needed doing on the building, such as a long overdue overhaul of the conservatory and works on the outside of the centre. Alongside this we have been running children's holiday activities in partnership with the Crich Patient Participation Group and local schools.

In advance of the opening for polling day we had a team of fantastic volunteers who came to a working party day to tidy up the front of the building, including painting, gardening and pressure washing. It made such a huge difference and we are very grateful for everyone who took the time to come along and help.

Our regular activities are back including the popular fitness class ran by Sarah Poplar, as well as new physical activity such as yoga with Qi to Health and Lyndsey's 'Clubbercise' completes the all-round fitness offer making the Crich Glebe the preferred gym for people in the area.

We have also developed a new partnership with Crich Live and look forward to holding performances and events in the near future. We'll also be hosting the ArtStand Exhibition and Art Sale later in the year.

Our resident hairdresser Ann and optician Martyn continue to provide services to the community and we are happy to announce that the building is available for bookings for a range of events including children's and adult's birthday parties, weddings and other family events. We have renamed our spaces to capture the essence of our community, so you can hire the Derwent room for dancing, the Amber Room for an art workshop or the Tors Room for some time out with friends.

And finally after several months of our Creative Conversation with the community, we have been compiling the findings and will be publishing the new strategy for the Glebe Field Trust in the autumn. Many thanks to everyone who contributed, including those of you that filled out a postcard or took part in a Creative Conversation.

Don't forget to join as a member and you will be able to attend our AGM!

Contact the office on: office@crichglebefieldcentre.org

Follow us on Facebook: [@crichglebe](https://www.facebook.com/crichglebe)

Or take a look at our website: www.crichglebefieldcentre.org

CRICH LIVE

By the time you read this we hope we are all feeling positive about going out and enjoying community events and shows once again. And the team at Crich Live have been busy working on promoting shows and selling tickets for the autumn and winter season at the Glebe Field Centre - see What's On on p27

You will hopefully have seen early promotional material either online, at the Crich Fete, or round and about the parish.

Despite the inability to have live events in recent months we did team up with the Live and Local organisation to involve the community in two initiatives. The first was a 'Living Room' project which paired up some local groups and individuals, particularly the Junior School and the Day Care Centre, with Bush Gothic, an Australian folk band! The stories that were told, via phone calls, and shared about life in the community were turned into a song and CD.

Latterly, as part of the children's Summer Activity programme at the Glebe, a touring story teller Sophia Hatfield presented the inspired and captivating 'Fables at the Kitchen Table' based on Aesop's Fables, to a group of 3-8 year olds.

Remember you can keep up to date with news on shows and events through the Crich Standard website, where we will be posting regular updates and ticketing information.

crichlive.org

And if you would like to be on our mailing list then please visit crichlive.org/mailling and register your details. We will be able to send you priority information on what's on so you can plan your diaries. I look forward to seeing you during the season!

Roger Bode, Promoter, Crich Live

Crich Parish Council

by Paul Yorke, Chair, Crich Parish Council

The Parish Council has been really busy over the last few months. Like everyone else its operation has been significantly impacted by Covid -19 rules and regulations. We have held a number of Full Council and Sub Group meetings by Zoom, which at times has challenged our technical abilities! However, it was a clear lesson in the need for 'life long learning' to enable us to embrace new ways of operating, along with acquiring the skills needed to do it.

Recently we have progressed work with the burial ground improvements, planning applications, recreation ground issues and we are pleased that Councillor Hazel Allister has joined the Trustees of the Glebe as they look to develop its future in our community.

You may have noticed that new trees and bushes have been planted on the recreation ground, a big thanks to The PLACE Project for funding these.

The Council has also been involved in dealing with concern over the condition of Clayes Barn at the back of St Mary's Church. This has a fascinating history as it was used as an overnight jail for 40 Quakers being marched to Derby jail. We are in discussions with the local owner about possible plans for its future.

The theme for this edition of Crich Standard is learning, education and training and the Parish Council recognises the importance of these for all of us. Things seem to change so quickly and without formal and informal education and training we may struggle to adapt and cope. As councillors we are lucky to have the support of Derbyshire Association of Local Councils who organise a range of courses to meet our needs, including:

- Health and safety • Finance • Codes of conducts
- Marketing and social media • Planning • Law

I guess the need for continued education and training, even when we have left school and college, has never been more important. I like this quote by Kofi Annan a former Secretary General of the United Nations:

"Knowledge is power. Information is liberating. Education is the premise of progress in every society, in every family."

Community Round-up

COMRADES CLUB

by Kev Oliver

At long last we can now hold committee meetings face to face, no more keyboard debates and What's App discussions. Since the lifting of restrictions, the arrangements for our 100-year celebrations are now continuing in earnest.

The date for the first event has been set for 11 September when we will be rolling back the years with an afternoon of entertainment taking the theme of 1920's Music Hall (the older ones amongst us will remember on TV 'The Good Old Days'). The evening will involve war time entertainment and music through the decades followed by a late-night disco, further details and timings will be advertised around the village soon.

We are 100 years old till the following September, so will be planning to hold a series of themed events throughout the coming 12 months. If any members have ideas for events and would like to get involved, then please make contact, you know where to find me. The British Legion is also 100 years old this year so on Remembrance Sunday 14 November we are hoping to arrange for some live war time entertainment commencing after the remembrance parade and service, further details and timings to be confirmed.

Since re-opening back in May I have received many favourable comments from members

and guests regarding the Club's makeover and refurbishment, which was all made possible by the hard work and dedication of the committee. Maintenance is still continuing albeit now on a smaller scale, we still have a few minor issues with the roof which will be resolved in the next few weeks and finances permitting will be improving the toilet facilities in the not-too-distant future. The maintenance carried out in the last two years will now hopefully, with a little bit of TLC, stand the building in good stead for another 100 years.

I have also had good feedback on our current selection and quality of real ales and by popular request we now serve gluten free bottled lager and bitter all of which are reasonably priced and well below the national average. As the Club is run by an elected committee for the benefit of its members this enables us to keep all our prices to a minimum.

The committee must be doing something right as the membership and number of visitors is increasing weekly. In a bid to strengthen our membership for the next 100 years new members are always welcome so why not call in for a pint and a chat, you may be pleasantly surprised and wish to join us, you never know, you could become an important part of Club's future. **Cheers and stay safe.**



Photo by Claire Ganthony

Saving Aqueduct Cottage

by Claire Ganthony

Regular visitors to Cromford canal may have noticed that Aqueduct Cottage, a once dilapidated building, has been undergoing a significant facelift. With the exterior restoration now complete, plans are underway for the redevelopment of the interior as a Visitor's Centre, education room and gateway to Lea Wood Nature Reserve.

Seeing the dream of saving the once idyllic cottage from complete collapse become a reality

The project to restore Aqueduct Cottage, situated along the tow path just past Lea Wood Pump House towards Ambergate, began in 2016. The building has been restored to its former glory through the work of Derbyshire Wildlife Trust and Friends of Aqueduct cottage, a team of dedicated volunteers. Fundraising through two Crowdfunding campaigns and 'buy a brick' schemes, as well as grants, have seen the dream of saving the once idyllic cottage from complete collapse become a reality.

The cottage will become an important gateway to the Lea Wood Nature Reserve directly behind it. Part of the restoration and refurbishment has involved improving access, building new paths and steps into the woods above for those with limited mobility. The building itself will have an open plan activity room on the first floor. The ground floor will feature displays and information about the history of the building and the surrounding area. It will also give Derbyshire Wildlife Trust an opportunity to share the importance of Lea Wood and their vision to create a more biodiverse Derwent Valley.

A third crowd funder in July 2021 raised £2400 to support an application to fund the interior and if successful, the building will be open later this year. Although work is not yet complete, it is hoped that the ground floor of the building will open later this year to provide visitors with a fascinating opportunity to examine the building's restoration before further work continues.

The project is still in need of donations and gifts of materials to finish the cottage. If you think you can help, please contact Derbyshire Wildlife Trust: enquiries@derbyshirewt.co.uk

Schools Round-up

Crich C of E Infant School - meet our new team

by Claire Ganthony



Catherine Elliott - Business Officer

I am lucky enough to have the privilege of being the new business officer for Crich Church of England Infant School. I have three grown up children and three young grandchildren, who keep me on my toes! I love to talk to them about their school day and enjoy listening to them read or reading stories to them. My hobbies are swimming (especially early in the morning before school), so you may notice I have slightly damp hair! I also like to go on holidays, particularly cruising. I look forward to meeting everyone in the Crich family.



Harriet Head - Year 2/PPA cover teacher

Hello, I'm Miss Head and I'm really looking forward to joining the school in September. I love sport! My favourite is tennis, but I also enjoy watching football. I am excited to do some new sports with the children at Crich. I live on my own with my black and white cat, Tig. He is very cuddly but does sometimes like to get his claws out so I have to be careful! I like to spend time with my family and friends (when we can).



Amanda Witham - EYFS Teacher

I am delighted to be joining Crich Infant School in September and can't wait to meet everyone! I have worked in education for the last seven years, starting at Holloway Playgroup when my girls were young. Since then I have worked at Lea Primary, Bonsall C of E Primary and Wessington Primary. My twins are now 11 and about to start at Highfields. We enjoy spending time in our campervan with our crazy Labrador, Lottie and visiting our family in Northumberland.



Crich Junior School's Festival of Fun



by Charlotte

Prior to the summer holidays, we introduced our new 'Festival of Fun'. All of the children spent the week doing a range of exciting, and sometimes challenging, activities. The weather on day one wasn't at all helpful, however the children rose to the challenge and rain did not stop play.

Willow weaving enabled the children to get creative outdoors by creating magnificent sculptures using all manner of materials including wool, ribbon and beads. If you get chance, take a look at some of them hanging from the trees in our playground. The children also designed and made totem poles, which look fantastic in our wildlife garden.

There were all sorts of outdoors activities, which included netball throwing and passing skills in PE along with a bush craft activity, whereby the children competed in teams to make dens and fires. They also (voluntarily) took part in a bug eating challenge and we are reliably informed that the grasshoppers were utterly revolting!

The children participated in a first aid session, which equipped them with some really valuable skills including CPR, the recovery position, what to do if someone is choking, calling the emergency services and bandage and sling application.

Stop motion animation and green screen was an extremely popular activity as the children were able to make (and star in) their own films. The week was concluded with African drumming, local walks and a picnic. Following its success, we hope to make this an annual event in the school calendar.

This is what some of the children thought about their week:

"I really enjoyed willow weaving, especially adding the beads and feathers and weaving the wool in and out of the willow poles."
Josh

"Willow weaving was fun as we got to decorate our sculptures. The most difficult thing was shaping the sticks. It was one of my favourites." Jessica

"I really liked painting the totem poles. We worked in pairs and one of us painted the body whilst one of us painted the wings."
Riley

"I think totem poles was my favourite part of the activity week as I loved the sketching and the painting." Becky

"Making the totem poles was the greatest. I love art and am really proud of my design."
Gideon

"I really enjoyed green screen where we had to move in slow motion." Elijah

"I really loved stop motion animation because I loved making up a little story and turning it into a film." Alfie

"My friend Thomas and I had a great time pretending to fight in slow motion." George

"I really enjoyed green screen because my friend and I were fighting on the moon."
Hudson

"It was so cool pretending to swim in the sea with Martha and Mia. It was very funny and we laughed a lot!" Rhona

Mrs Coppen taught me to do the Heimlich manoeuvre. I'm so proud that I can now save someone's life." Chelsea

"I liked learning how to be a doctor." Olly

"I really enjoyed first aid because I could save someone's life in the future." Rosa

"It was good fun listening to all the sounds that the African drums made." Freddie

"I liked drumming with Dan. It was good fun and we learnt lots of different beats and rhythms." Charlie

"I liked playing tennis because I hit the ball really high." Poppy

"I loved PE. I enjoyed playing heads, shoulders knees and cones!" Anya

"PE was fun, despite the cold. I was excited when we played the netball game. It definitely did not disappoint!" Ethan

"I really liked doing the fitness tests in PE." Miles

"We got to eat mealworms, buffalo worms, and grasshoppers during bush craft, as well as making a den and a fire and toasting marshmallows." Nyla

"Bush craft was my favourite. We got to build a den and eat insects that tasted like nuts!" Paige

"I really enjoyed bush craft. It was ASTOUNDING!" Tyler

"On the walk we got to run down the massive hill at Crich Stand." Evie

"I really enjoyed the walk even though it was boiling hot. We had to figure out clues as we walked around Crich. I learnt some new things about its history." Lily-Ann

Schools Round-up



Education and learning in Class 3

by Rosemary Fothergill

The school year 2020-21 has been a year with a difference! In January, while some children remained in school, most children had to stay at home and join daily live lessons delivered from the classroom. Despite the difficulty of this for all concerned, the children worked so hard and produced lots of fantastic work.

Our remote learning topic was a study of the polar regions. We based a lot of our work on the book 'Shackleton's Journey', written by William Grill. This ill-fated but epic voyage across Antarctica, enthralled the children and they produced some magnificent work. They wrote application letters to join the crew, became a crew member, described the journey, wrote diary entries, made drawings and much more.

The topic ended with a celebration of the heroic voyage. The children dressed up as their chosen character, made speeches and drank the health of anything and everything they could think of (soft drinks only, of course!)

March came and everyone was able to return to school. In Science we were studying 'Evolution and Inheritance'. We tracked Charles Darwin's voyage to the Galapagos Islands and looked at the flora and fauna to be found there. We looked closely at the adaptation of animals, particularly Darwin's finches, and we carried out our own 'beak' experiment in the classroom. We read a fantastic book called 'Darwin's Dragons' by Lindsay Galvin, which sparked yet more brilliant work. This included a letter to Queen Victoria, a description of a storm at sea and a balanced argument as to whether zoos should be banned or not. We also made some spectacular dragon's eyes.

When we return refreshed in September, we will be working with re-newed energy. As well as our daily Maths and English lessons, we will be finding out about volcanoes, Earth and Space and travelling back in time to consider what it would have been like to live during the time of the Viking invasions!



Memories of exam days

by Essie Prosser

A friend of mine spent the first few years of her retirement working as an invigilator in her local secondary school where it was her task to ensure exams were completed in a fair and timely manner.

My memory of such exams from my own school days is waiting outside the school gym shivering with fear that I had not revised enough and then being asked to take a seat, get out a pen, pencil, maybe a protractor, set square and ruler; the teacher who had taught us the subject for the past year would then start a stop watch, tell us to turn the exam paper over and then 50 or so hands would start scribbling and not stop until the order "pens down" was given two or three hours later. There was no room for exceptions, explanations or excuses.

My friend's experience is very different. She is required to show upwards of 100 students into the exam room, collect all mobile phones, issue calculators if necessary and ensure a set of suitable writing implements is supplied to each candidate. If a student fails to turn up to an exam someone is sent to phone said student and request their presence. Some have overslept, others just CBA (ask your grandson)! Other students turn up, enter their name or exam number on the paper and then go to sleep for the duration! On more than one occasion students enter their name or number and then get up and walk out with no intervention, interrogation or insistence.

Scribes are also employed for those who are unable to put their own contributions down on paper. The threat of the headmaster's office or, even worse, the senior mistress's obviously holds no fear for students of the 2020s.

This all makes me think whether things have got better or worse on the exam front. Whilst I would have loved to have avoided all the exam angst of my day and I longed for the continual assessment model of education, which was not yet approved by the powers that be, I wonder where the importance and value of doing well in exams has gone in today's education system?

Did we perform to the best of our ability in those completely false and intimidating settings for our own sakes or for fear of retribution from teachers or parents; or do the students of today get a better outcome because the pressure of the exam room is not as it was? Is it more beneficial to be supervised by the teacher who has been a year-long mentor or by a stranger who has no knowledge of our fears, abilities and short comings?

One school of thought (no pun intended) is that students of today have it easy. In a normal year, they would appear to have the freedom to choose whether they subject themselves to the horror of the exam process. However, maybe the personal touch is missing - not being able to use that favourite fountain pen, not seeing a familiar face overseeing your exam and maybe no-one caring whether you do well or not. Least of all yourself. Just a thought!

Waiting outside the school gym shivering with fear that I had not revised enough

The last word

Life is for learning

Governments like to talk about 'lifelong learning' but they really mean education and training to help individuals to have the necessary skills to contribute to changes in society and culture. Let's face it, learning is actually a lifelong experience that starts on the day we are born and continues every day until we die.

Learning through experience enables us to walk and talk and retain memories. Which is why any loss of these and other life skills that we take for granted is so difficult to deal with. Only recently on the radio a young man spoke of losing ALL of his memory in a car crash when he was 19 and how, some years later, he first started to get some of his past memories back after hearing the Waterboys' song, Whole of the Moon. From there a new process began for him to add more and more pieces to the jigsaw of his past.

We see the horror of terrible injuries suffered in crashes, in war zones or through terrorism and marvel at the courage of individuals who so want to learn to walk again or use prosthetic arms or hands - repeating a learning process they last experienced as a one-year-old child. Of course successful learning will most often be achieved by wanting to improve, reach a goal or develop whether practically, physically or intellectually. But striving and achieving can be separate things which is perhaps why so many sports teams talk about the learning experiences

from a game and things to work on, only to be disappointed again on the next match day.

That's so different to the 'lightbulb syndrome' that many will have seen (or experienced) from work related training courses about time management or team leadership. The ones where the delegate returns from the course armed with an app that will improve time keeping, task achievement and job satisfaction only to find after the first week that the app has become the master not the solution.

So is it ok to be comfortable with what we've got? To not feel the need to learn more and move forward? Certainly we can't all be on a pathway of continuous improvement; while at the same time it is impossible not to be gaining more knowledge, experience or even skills just from day to day life. How else can the fifth piece of IKEA furniture be that much easier to assemble than the first?

Finally, Crich Standard is a learning experience for the volunteers. People often remark about things found out in discussions at meetings about the themes and topics of the next edition. It's our hope and very much our intention that our readers have the same experience and, through the pages of the magazine and from the website, news and newsletters, find out more that is worthwhile to the lives of the community in the parish. Let us know if there is more that we can do.

Tony Mills
Chair, Crich Standard

Photo by Chris Baker

Are you feeling knowledgeable? Testing yourself is educating and good for the brain cells...or so they say. Try your hand at these teasers!

compiled by Roger Bode

QUICKQUIZ

1. Whose Education Act of 1902 set out the pattern of elementary education for the next four decades in the UK?
2. Arising in feudal Japan, which order of warriors used the sword fighting technique known as Kendo?
3. Which Scottish boarding school did Prince Charles attend?
4. According to the Guinness Book of World Records the largest chemistry lesson of 1,018 students, learning how to make slime and hair gel, took place in which country?
a) Belgium b) Iceland c) Iran
5. The film 'Educating Rita' starred which two main actors?
6. What links the MPs David Blunkett, Margaret Thatcher, the Duke of Devonshire and Shirley Williams?
7. How many squares are there in a standard Sudoku puzzle?
a) 64 b) 89 c) 81
8. 'We don't need no education' is a line from which Pink Floyd single?

1 Lord Arthur Balfour 2 Samurai 3 Gordonstoun 4 a) Belgium in 2015
5 Julie Walters and Michael Caine 6 They have all held the post of Secretary of Education
7 c) 81 8 Another Brick in the Wall (Part 2 if we're being picky!)

Answers

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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Next issue:

The next edition of *Crich Standard* will carry the number 100. In this special edition, we would like to have some perspectives of what the past 25 years have brought to our parish, what you remember about 1996 when CACN had its first edition and also what should be on our list of '100 things about Crich Parish' - facts, oddities, sights, sites, pics and stats...send them in to editor@crichstandard.org by 13 October.

Published by the Committee of *Crich Standard*