

Crich Standard

CRICH | FRITCHLEY | WHATSTANDWELL | BULLBRIDGE

Issue 113 Spring 2025



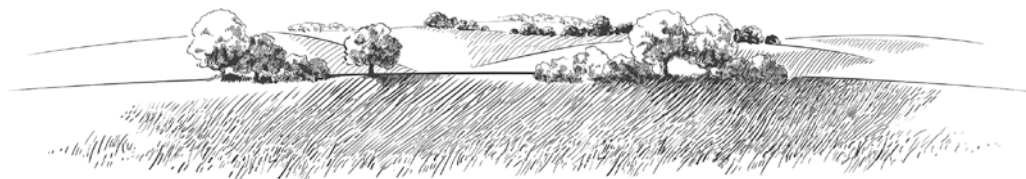
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A Community Magazine for the Parish

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





Crich Standard

About us

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

Contact us

Mail: Crich Standard, Crich Glebe Community Centre, Glebe Field Close, Crich DE4 5EU (thank you to the Glebe).

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Distribution:
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Publication dates

The magazine is published four times a year. Deadlines for submission are 6 January, April, July and October.

The editorial committee cannot be responsible for the accuracy of information contained in the magazine. The views and opinions expressed are not necessarily shared by the committee.

Crich Standard team

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

Advertising Rates (for 2025)

Circulation: 2,000 copies

Support your community and advertise to your local customers.

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1/4 page (H92mm x W60mm)

Single issue £24 2 issues £40

3 issues £55 Full year (4 issues) £68

1/3 page (H60mm x W122mm)

Single issue £30 2 issues £50

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1/2 page £50 Full page £90

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

Please send enquiries to:

advertising@crichstandard.org

Twenty-first century access

Crich Tramway's fleet of historic tramcars were built at a time of very different expectations. While the museum has previously experimented with an 'on-demand' tram ride for wheelchair users, it was becoming difficult for us to accommodate larger wheelchairs.

Step forward – access tram!

Built in the 1980s as one of Blackpool's last 'old generation' trams, Centenary type tram 645 was generously donated by Blackpool Transport Services and tramway member Peter Whiteley.

645 is a large single decker, so we can retain a significant number of seats while also allowing it to be used as an access tram. However, it has seen better days, and needs some TLC and conversion work. If you would like to help with this, we would be very grateful to receive donations straight to www.tramway.co.uk/contact/make-a-donation/ (click Access Tram 2).



Photo: James Blythe

Open Gardens

It may be early in the year, but the Crich and Fritchley Open Gardens gang began planning 2025's events as soon as we closed our gardens in 2024.

This year's days will be Saturday 28 June and Saturday 26 July. Gardens will be open from midday until 5.00pm, and we will make sure that the gardens that offer refreshments are well publicised so that visitors can plan their routes. We will also highlight the gardens that are wheelchair accessible, and those that are dog-friendly.

We are always keen to grow our group, so if you would like to open your garden this year please contact us through our Facebook page (facebook.com/lovecrich) or on 07483 166869. We are a gregarious bunch and our get-togethers are always a blast.

Watch out for the date of the Meet and Greet event that we always hold in the spring, as it offers a chance for you to come along to meet us and decide whether joining is for you.

We look forward to seeing you in the summer!

Fritchley Community Association news

By Elaine Tomlinson

I don't want this article to become one that always looks backwards, but this time I admit that I struggled for a minute or so to think what I might write about. You might say, "Well, look forward, then, and tell us what Fritchley is going to astound us with in 2025!" News of that will have to wait, though; watch out for updates in the Community Diary pages.

I would like to say a big thank you to everyone in Fritchley and beyond who has been so supportive of our Fritchley Café Connect project. We were fortunate enough to receive a grant from the UK Shared Prosperity Community Fund, via Amber Valley Borough Council and Amber Valley CVS, which allows these events to happen, bringing people together and helping us to adapt Fritchley Village Hall for the twenty-first century.

The Café events have been chosen to appeal to as wide a range of tastes and age groups as possible, and at the end of the project it will be up to you where we go next. Events to come include a French café session, an art gallery day, a World Book Day event for children, and a family pub games day. Any or all of the twelve planned events can become regular happenings with your support.

We need to know your thoughts, ideas and comments. If you haven't come along to any of the events so far, we would also like to hear from you. You can let

us know what you would like to see and how you can help make things happen via our Facebook page (@FritchleyCA), via email to fritchleyvillagehall@gmail.com, or simply by posting a note (with your contact details) into the Village Hall letterbox.

"Regular" doesn't have to mean weekly or even monthly, but it would be nice to see more groups of local people getting together to create events that become a part of village life. We all look forward to the bigger events such as the village show and the Christmas party, but smaller happenings could be just as eagerly anticipated, too.

So, I've tried to look forward rather than backward, but the two are entwined – you can't look to the future without looking at what has already been tried out, and using the outcomes to plan for the future. The Village Hall is there for all of us to use, and a variety of groups do already hire it, but more local people getting involved could help to bring more groups together and keep us connected. Who knows, someone out there might like to start up an amateur dramatic group, and we could have a village panto next year!

 @FritchleyCA

Whatstandwell's year in view

By Stuart Hastings

Whatstandwell Social Club (WSC) is delighted to share some of the events and activities we have been involved with over the last year, and provide a little more information about who we are and what we do!

Essentially, we are an eclectic mix of likeminded villagers who organise activities and events for the benefit of our village and community, with the help of many kind volunteers. We meet at least six times a year to discuss and organise events.

So, what have we been up to?

Litter pick

Not the sexiest event on our calendar, but we're sure you will agree this is a great way to keep the village looking tidy. We plan to do this event annually and any assistance is always welcomed.

Whatstandwell Festival

Our annual Whatstandwell Beer and Music Festival takes place each summer, with music from various bands playing folk to rock, and a disco at the end. We have lots of beers on tap, ciders and wines, predominantly from local breweries. We also provide an excellent selection of family activities throughout the day, including pottery, wood carving, face painting and bracelet making. If you haven't been before, why not give it a go in 2025?

The Triangle

The triangle is an area off Hindersitch Lane in Whatstandwell that has been cleared and tidied by WSC volunteers, including rebuilding the old drystone wall. It now looks fantastic! and is the ideal place to catch those wonderful views over the Derwent Valley and surrounding landscape. The triangle is also home to the village's long established Christmas Tree, which was lit up to celebrate the festivities. In June 2024, WSC held their first summer picnic on the triangle, so watch out for this year's date.

Working groups

WSC also organises working groups to carry out repairs and maintenance in and around the village. If you have noticed anything in Whatstandwell that is in need of repair, why not reach out and see if we can help?

For further information or to volunteer, please contact us on the details below:
whatstandwellsocialclub@googlemail.com.

www.whatstandwell.org



Whatstandwell Social Club



@whatstandwellsocialclub

Well dressing 2025

By Sylvia Nutt

Our parish well dressing will be taking place again this year on Saturday 5 July. We already have several contributors lined up, but if any other parish organisations would like to take part, please do get in touch. You will need to have volunteers who will be committed to helping regularly.

There will be a general meeting for all interested groups in early March, when the theme will be voted for. Following that, there will be a fundraising effort in May. **Please look out for notices and publicity on Facebook and around the village!**



Crich Parish Council – Your money, your community

The Parish Council works to improve life in Crich Parish, and like everyone else, we have to plan our budget for the year ahead. Our funding comes from a share of local council tax, called the Parish Precept, collected by Amber Valley Borough Council.

In 2024/25 our income was £100,502, and we've kept the precept almost unchanged for the last two years. This year, with rising costs and because of taking on additional work we have decided to increase this. For a Band D household the increase amounts to an extra £8 a year—less than 70p a month.

Where does the money go?

In broad terms, we can divide our expenditure into three almost equal parts:

Staffing

- We have to employ a Parish Clerk/Responsible Financial Officer; they are essential to ensure legal compliance, manage finances, and oversee tasks like meetings and project work
- Because of the increasing workload, we're also adding an Assistant Clerk (8 hours per week) to keep things running smoothly and help to oversee key projects, like the public toilet refurbishments

Parish Councillors do not get paid; our roles are voluntary.

Maintenance and repairs

- We look after assets like the recreation ground and the burial ground. Regular safety checks on things like playground equipment, specialist tree inspections and general upkeep are essential and often legal requirements
- Routine costs like toilet cleaning, refilling the parish grit bins and stress testing lampposts before we put up decorations added up to over £13,000 in 2024/25, and are expected to rise to nearly £16,000 in 2025/26

Community enhancements and running costs

- We give grants to local groups; the largest is £12,000 to the Glebe as a key community facility, but we also dispense smaller grants, usually around £200 to £300, to local groups from a total budget of £3,000
- Seasonal activities like Christmas lights and summer flowers, and new projects like the community orchard and planters
- Regular running costs, including insurance and utilities
- We keep some money in a reserve to cover future costs that we know are pending, such as the public toilet refurbishments

Why it matters

The Parish Council's goal is to make our parish a great place to live. From improving public spaces to supporting local groups, we invest in what matters most to our community. We believe in:

- **Transparency:** our finances are audited yearly, and the full accounts are available on the Parish Council website
- **Listening:** so that the work we undertake is what the parish wants
- **Collaboration:** we apply for external grants where possible (e.g. funding for youth work from Derbyshire's Police and Crime Commissioner)

We are committed to managing your money responsibly while meeting the needs of our growing community. If you'd like more details, visit our website or attend one of our Parish Council meetings. They're open to the public, and are held at the Glebe at 7.30pm on the first Monday of every month apart from August. If the first Monday is a bank holiday, the meeting will be held the following week.

Your support helps us to build a better Crich Parish. Thank you!



Mobility scooter adventures

By Di Fretwell (LLM[Reader] at St Mary's Church, Crich)

Now in its seventies, my body tells me it's feeling its age. In recent months I've joined the army of Blue Badge owners who've stopped driving, receive Attendance Allowance, and walk with a stick.

My brain demands: *How did this happen? You're only 21, aren't you?*

My logic responds: *Don't be daft! Face the truth!*

The loss of some independence has been difficult to negotiate – similar to bereavement, I've found. The emotional journey from shock to mindful acceptance has been like the grief I felt when my parents died, several years ago now.

To stop my poor hubby becoming a permanent chauffeur, I recently treated myself to a mobility scooter. I'm still a learner driver, but I've quickly discovered how tricky Crich life can be for anyone with poor mobility. Pram-pushers with toddlers alongside must experience similar difficulties to those I'm discovering.

However, the lovely thing is the many positives I experience during my scooter adventures, despite the negatives. Despite our growing population, we're still so friendly. We "aye up" those we pass, whether familiar or strangers. May we never lose that aspect of our community character! It's also great that I can now remain sitting down if I encounter walking friends en route.

Whenever I've needed help, I've discovered amazing kindness and

humour. A few days ago a driving wheel on my scooter toppled off the pavement in the Market Place. It stalled the machine, and everything stopped. As I struggled, a workman shouted, "Need help?" He came over and pushed me and my scooter onto a flat surface, so I could restart.

As I thanked him, I called him "a true gentleman". His workmates laughed. "A gentleman? You wouldn't say that if you knew him, Mrs!" That comic moment made my day.

Crossing our Market Place feels like a chicken run. I feel anxious every time I pass through. I remind myself that Jesus told me not to worry, that he's always with me, but my humanity hasn't overcome Market Place Anxiety Syndrome. Checking that all five roads are clear of approaching cars is difficult with my arthritic neck, so if anybody is nearby I ask them if the road is clear. I've never yet been refused – not even by embarrassed teenagers tumbling off school buses. Some even stand in the road, manually holding up traffic – risky for them, but amazingly kind. If nobody is nearby to check the traffic, I say an earnest prayer on one side of the road and a truly thankful one on t'other!

Many local pavements are narrow, and several have a steep camber. It took me a while to feel comfortable negotiating them on my scooter, without feeling as if we were keeling over. Lampposts built on narrow pavements took a lot of practice to negotiate safely, and there remain a few



that I haven't yet managed. Why did town planners think lampposts built into narrow pavements was a good idea?

Dustbin days can be a nightmare – blind people must hate the obstacles even more than me – and pavements with overgrown garden hedges can be a perfect storm for wheelchairs and prams. I suspect it's simply oversight by homeowners, but I've experienced a scratched face more than once. If it's rained recently, I also get the bonus of a free hairwash from the waterfalls off overhanging tree branches!

We have a large number of dropped kerbs around Crich – this is great! The knobbly concrete slabs alert blind people that they've reached a road junction. Now, that is thoughtful planning! However, I've often encountered parked cars right across dropped kerbs outside private properties. That must cause access issues for homeowners, as well as for me on my scooter. When there's no alternative my scooter can negotiate kerbs, but it's a jolty and rather painful experience. I've already cracked my scooter wing mirror trying it! I'm definitely still a learner.

Where there is no pavement, I must drive on the road. Mostly car drivers are patient, following slowly until it's safe to overtake, but I've been muttered at occasionally. Recently some motorbikes were coming towards me on my side. There was plenty of room, although there were parked cars on their side, but one of them loudly requested that I should "Get on the blankety-blank pavement, you *!* woman!" Even as a Christian I was tempted to give a two-finger response, but the rider was already disappearing over the horizon. That happened on Cromford Road, one of the worst roads in Crich for any vehicle to negotiate – not only for me and my scooter. I've now trained myself to stay on the pavement along Cromford Road, but I still avoid Bowns Hill. This remains on my bucket list of roads to drive along without anxiety.

When I visit the school in Fritchley, the ride along The Common is a real joy – unless it's raining. The view from The Common near The Briars, looking eastwards, has become a truly meditative moment. I sometimes stop near Dial Farm just to enjoy the view. We have so many glorious views; it's no wonder so many folks make Crich Parish their retirement location. My favourite route to Fritchley used to be the back road down Surgery Lane, but this is still too difficult for me on my scooter. The camber and the potholes make it a road centre drive – not good if you meet an oncoming vehicle.

I do wish I could drive my scooter along the Tors; it was a favourite walk not long ago. Happy memories! Whatever your mode of transport, enjoy our location and stay safe.

Manor Houses

By Claire Ganthony



The Domesday Book of 1086 records the Lord of Crich as Ralph FitzHubert. It is believed that his manor house would have been situated next to St Mary's Church, although there is no certainty as to when it was built, or if Ralph himself resided there, as he also held 43 other estates across Derbyshire and Nottinghamshire. The most likely location for the original manor house is a field to the north-west of the church, called Hall Croft.

In 1218 the ownership of Crich Manor passed from Ralph FitzHubert's descendants to the Frecheville family through marriage. Around a hundred years later the 'Manor of Crich' appears to have been surplus to requirements for the Frechevilles, since it was sold to Roger, 1st Baron Beler of Crich in 1324. He was murdered in 1326, and the estate was inherited by his son, also called Roger. It is believed that Roger Beler built a manor house on the site of what is now

the Baptist Chapel in the Market Place, abandoning the original site near the church. The manor house has long gone and the details of its demise are unknown, but the remains of what is thought to be its watch tower, shown in a 1708 painting of the estate, are still visible behind Victoria House (the Loaf Bakery). Stone pieces that are believed to have come from the demolition of the manor house can be found around the 'Old Vicarage' in front of the Glebe.



Manor house bench



Watch tower remains

There was also another Crich manor house, just on the outskirts of Crich near Plaistow. Legend has it that this house was constructed with the proceeds from the sale of a treasure trove found below Shuckstone Cross. This house, which stood until 1950, was also known as 'Pot House' because earthenware pottery was made here during the mid-eighteenth century by the then owner, Thomas Dodd.

Another local legend has it that Anthony Babington and his men constructed a tunnel that led from this Crich manor house towards Wingfield Manor as part of their plot to rescue Mary, Queen of Scots from her imprisonment there by her cousin, Elizabeth I. During demolition it was thought that evidence of this tunnel had been uncovered, but it turned out to be merely a large drain passing under the house. However, workmen did find some steps leading down to a passage running towards Edge Moor, and it is speculated that this could have provided an escape route for Mary, had she been rescued from Wingfield Manor and hidden here.

To find out more about the fascinating history of many of the historic buildings in Crich Parish, visit www.crichparish.co.uk

Images of watch tower remains and manor house bench: Geoff Brown



Pot House



Another view of Pot House

Both images of Pot House courtesy of Sue Worboys, as published on www.crichparish.co.uk



We hope you enjoyed the wonderful Christmas films we showed in December, and you're looking forward to coming to see some more classics at your local community cinema. Welcome back to the Crich Cinema Club for 2025!

With the Oscars just around the corner, our theme for the first half of the year is Oscar-winning films. Hopefully you will have been able to come along to our first two winners, The Shape of Water in January, and our Valentine's Day offering La La Land.

We have three more to tempt you going into the summer; check the Community Diary for what's coming up.

Films are shown at the Crich Glebe Community Centre (50 seats at various prices) and start at 7.00pm, with our doors open from 6.00pm so you can come to the cinema café, catch up with friends and enjoy some refreshments and snacks before the film.



All tickets are sold online via Ticketsource. Tickets are released two weeks prior to each screening, and there is no membership scheme so everyone has an equal opportunity to see the films they want.

If this has excited you, please sign up for regular information or follow us using one or more of the methods below:

The Crich Glebe Community Centre newsletter: crichglebe.org/news/newsletter-signup

Click the option for Crich Cinema Club and you'll be signed up!

The Glebe's 'What's On' web page: crichglebe.org/whats-on/crich-cinema-club



Facebook.com/crichcinemaclub



@crich.cinemaclub

Look out for local posters

We do hope you will come along and support your new local cinema!

New Year, New You!

By Roger Bode

Did you set yourself some New Year resolutions for 2025?

If you did, maybe they included trying something new. And if you didn't – well, it's never too late!

Why not try coming to a local live show? The Crich Live programme will be reaching the conclusion of its spring season, with two shows to choose from. Come along for a great night out and set yourself up for our next season starting later in the year!

Or why not give tickets as a gift? Show tickets might just be the perfect present for those who have everything, or who are difficult to buy for.

Our programme covers a mix of genres and artists from wide and varied backgrounds. We source the shows independently or from our partners at Live and Local, including the two shows we currently have available.

As always there are many benefits to supporting your local venue and local shows. With a warm welcome from our team and a friendly local audience providing a great atmosphere, not to mention the bar, raffle and refreshments, what's not to like?

Check out the Community Diary pages to see what's coming up. For full details about all shows, and to sign up to our mailing list, please visit our website:

www.crichlive.org

Tickets are available via Ticketsource:
www.ticketsource.co.uk/crichlive

We look forward to seeing you at one of our shows soon!

CRICH LIVE

See the Community Diary on pages 18-22 for local events and groups

Transition Crich Repair Café update

A Repairer's View, by Paul Smith

One of our expert repairers reflects on their experience supporting the Café and repairing items for our local community.

Since we launched the Share and Repair Cafés in Crich, I've been fascinated by the range of household items people bring for us to look at. We've had kitchen appliances including toasters, sandwich makers, kettles and coffee machines, along with carpet sweepers and vacuum cleaners. Then there have been the power tools, including leaf blowers, drills and heat guns, and general household items including clothes warmers, hairdryers, fans, and lamps of all kinds. For me, though, the prize has to go to a solar-powered chicken door; the morning sun opens it, letting the chickens out for the day, and then at dusk it closes again – with the chicks hopefully safe inside, away from Mr (or Mrs) Fox.

Of course, all these items had something in common: they either didn't work, or they didn't work as they should. Our job as repairers is to find out why, fix the problem if we can, or point the owner in the right direction for a replacement or (better and greener) a repair. There's a strong team feeling among us, and we try help each other if anyone gets stuck, hasn't got the tool they need, or would just like a second opinion.

Often the hardest job is to get inside items to find out what's wrong. It's not always easy or indeed possible; some things are deliberately made so they can't be taken apart, and if you try, you'll just end up breaking them. We've got wise to this, though, and between us we now have a brilliant range of tools for removing fastenings of all types and sizes. Generally, if we can see any sort of screw or bolt – even it's tiny or has a non-standard head – we can both remove it and put it back later.



Once inside, we can often see why an item is not working. Perhaps something's come loose, or it's blocked by dirt or fluff – or, as with one cleaner head, heat from friction has melted a plastic part. No matter how complicated, all electrical equipment relies on a circuit, so we're always on the lookout for loose or broken wires that could mean the circuit is broken. There's a real lift when the fault is fixed and the light comes on or the motor bursts into life.

I was initially downhearted at not being able to fix everything, but sometimes people just want to know their item can't be easily repaired before they go online and order a replacement. At least they,

and we, tried to get a few more years out of it!

The TV show Repair Shop makes a big deal out of milking every drop of emotion out of people's attachments to their things, but there's no doubt that many people have amazingly strong bonds with their stuff. Perhaps something was a present from a much-loved friend, has been handed down from a relative, or carries a special memory. At our last Repair Café one lady said to me, "I just like it, and you can't buy anything like it now." The problem with her lamp was a stiff switch that hurt her finger when she pressed it. A quick spray with WD40, a slight adjustment to a clamp, and a few strokes of the file to remove a sharp edge on the switch, and all was fine again. It made her day – and ours, too.

Transition Crich have been running Share and Repair Cafés at the Glebe for over two years. Since we started recording our repairs in March 2023, our expert repairers have repaired 295 local items – a success rate of 83%, almost 20% more than the national average! Items have included sharpening 216 garden tools and knives, 44 general repairs, sewing 33 textile items, and fixing 3 bikes. We have also collected 15 bags of hard-to-recycle items, and will continue to collect old or unwanted tools to donate to those in need in Africa.

To keep up to date with all of our activities, visit our website and sign up to our newsletter.

Thank you for your continued support.

www.transitioncrich.co.uk



Flying through Whatstandwell

By Cliff Shining

Most people around our area will remember Ellen MacArthur and her astonishing sailing achievements, and will know that she was born and raised in Whatstandwell. However, fewer may have heard of other Whatstandwellians who achieved a degree of notoriety in the past, but have now faded into obscurity.

One such was Alf Pooril, who also lived in the village. Born into a modestly well off and nurturing family early in the last century, he was encouraged by them in his education and developed many interests. Among these was the burgeoning development of flying machines. Neither his work at Arkwright's Masson Mill nor the financial situation of his parents allowed him to indulge his interest in powered flight, but he did have a desire to emulate the Wright brothers' early achievements with gliders.

To this end, and with the support of his mechanically-minded father, he spent a lot of time developing and honing the skills necessary to build a flyer large enough

to carry a man. Fortunately in this regard, he was slightly built, which meant he could construct a relatively small aircraft.

Alf attempted to copy the design and construction techniques of the Wrights as closely as he could. His work and position at the Mill gave him access to essentially the same fabrics to use for wing coverings. Ash and spruce for wing spars, ribs and so on could be sourced relatively cheaply from a well-known and long-established local wood yard, which also helped with machining the timbers. The venture started to attract interest from other locals, some of whom had the craft skills necessary to help Alf with construction, but still a couple of years went by before the machine was ready for testing.

Sites for the maiden flight were somewhat limited without the ability or wherewithal to transport the machine. In those days, though, the village of Whatstandwell was far less developed, and in places there were open fields all the way down from the ridge to the Cromford Canal.



Prevailing westerlies meant that there were numerous days when a suitable stiff breeze blew up from the valley bottom to provide good uplift, a fact that is fully employed today by the healthy numbers of buzzards often to be seen wheeling effortlessly in the skies above the village.

Alf therefore decided on his place of birth as his test site. A series of tethered trials and short towed launches from a level field (recently planted up with potatoes) proved amazingly successful. Buoyed up with his success and spurred on by his supporting entourage, he decided to risk a longer flight launched from the top of the ridge, hoping to get as far as he could down the slopes towards the canal. At the beginning of April a suitable breezy day arrived, the machine was uncovered and untethered, Alf climbed aboard and gave the signal to start the tow.

Suffice to say that all didn't go according to plan. Yes, his glider rose into the air and cleared the front edge of the ridge, but then it headed out into the open air, the ground rapidly disappearing beneath him. The breeze was clearly a bit too stiff!

Struggling to maintain control, Alf and his flyer pitched and yawed wildly, but somehow remained aloft. Fortunately, at just the right moment the breeze dropped and control, if you can call it that, was regained.

By now, though, Alf was heading for the canal! He never knew how he managed it, but somehow he averted complete disaster by dropping his flyer into the field behind the top cottage of the row at the bottom of Main Road – much to the surprise of the lady of the house, who was putting her washing out to dry. Alf landed heavily and abruptly, only yards shy of the edge of the canal. He was relatively unscathed and merely required a stiff drink and a change of undergarments, but sadly his machine was not so lucky.

Needless to say, Alf decided that was the end of his flying career, and the remains of the glider were taken away and unceremoniously burned. A sad end, really; under more favourable circumstances, who knows what further strides he might have made, and what celebrity might ultimately have found our hero – Alf Pooril!

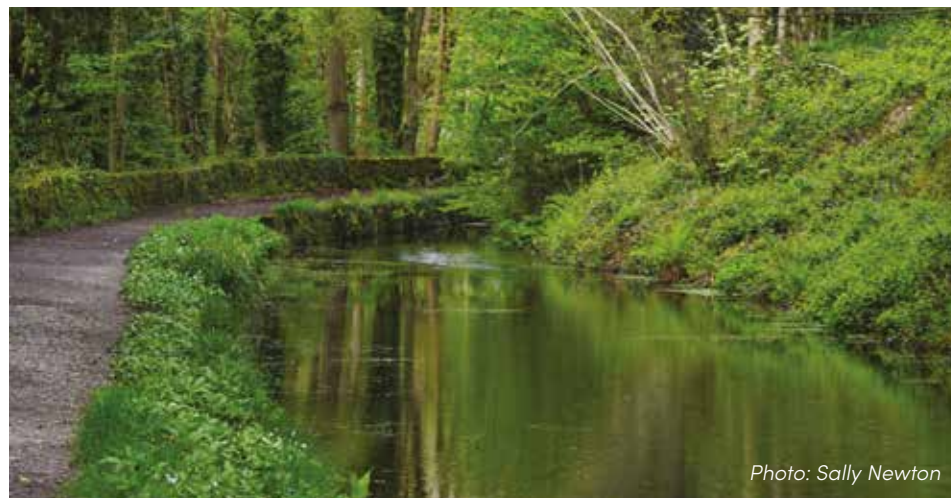


Photo: Sally Newton

Community Diary

Crich Glebe Community Centre

WEEKLY CALENDAR

MONDAY

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

TUESDAY

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

WEDNESDAY

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

THURSDAY

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

FRIDAY

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

Crich Glebe Community Centre

WEEKLY SERVICES

Optometrist and Dispensary	
Tuesday	2.00–4.30pm
Thursday	9.00am–1.00pm

Hair Salon	
Tuesday, Thursday, Friday	all day
Foot Health Clinic	Thursday

Contact information: www.crichglebe.org

Email: office@crichglebe.org

Tel: 01773 857894

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

WHAT'S ON

Salsa Evening **21 February**

Folk Night **15 March**

SpringFest **29 March**

Race Night **5 April**

Family health & wellbeing drop-in **10 April**

VE Day 80th Anniversary **10 May**

Find out more about all our events on our
website: <https://crichglebe.org/>

Or for more information you can email:
office@crichglebe.org or call: 01773 857894

Crich Glebe Community Centre

A VERY SPECIAL SHOW

Terry and Julie Bishop are pleased to bring a very special VE Eightieth Anniversary show to the Glebe Community Centre in Crich on Saturday 3 May at 7.30pm.

Musical theatre actress Sally Jones pays a loving homage to the iconic French singer Edith Piaf with her critically acclaimed one-woman show, taking the audience through a roller-coaster of emotions as she tells Piaf's wild, tragic and dramatic life story.

This stunning 90-minute performance contains a beautifully crafted narration, telling the heartbreaking but inspirational story of Piaf who rose from the backstreets of Paris during the war to become the most successful female singer in the world.

The show is a perfect blend of wonderful stories, charming humour and passionately performed Piaf classics including La Vie en Rose, Milord, Mon Dieu, Hymne à L'Amour and Non, Je ne Regrette Rien.

Performance at the Crich Glebe Community Centre:

Saturday 3 May, 7.30pm

Tickets will be on sale for £12.50 at the Glebe from Saturday 5 April.



Community Groups and Clubs

GARDENING CLUB

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

CRICH RECORD CLUB

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

BEAVERS for 6-8 year olds

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

CUBS for 8-10.5 year olds

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

SCOUTS for 10.5-14 year olds

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

Weekly Quizzes

The Old Black Swan – Sundays, 7.00pm
Comrades Club – see the ad on page 50

Fritchley Village Hall

REGULAR CALENDAR

Fritchley OAP Group – first Tuesday afternoon of each month

Community Groups and Clubs

TRANSITION CRICH

Meet on second Tuesday of the month at 7.30pm
Venue: Comrades Club
Contact: transitioncrich@gmail.com

Transition Crich also has a **Green Spaces and Wellbeing sub-group**, meeting every two months on the third Wednesday of the month at 8.00pm.

Venue: The Old Black Swan
Contact: transitioncrich@gmail.com

Share and Repair Cafés

Saturday 8 March and Saturday 17 May at the Glebe, 10.00am to 1.00pm

Love it Again Fashion Show

Friday 9 May, 7.00pm at the Glebe. A pop-up fashion show of recycled, upcycled and message-spreading clothing.

We aim to encourage awareness of the impact of the clothing and fashion industries on the planet, inspire a more creative, sustainable and affordable approach to clothing, and encourage individual style.

Make, Do and Mend skill-sharing sessions

Thursday 20 March: Fermenting with your favourite veggies
Thursday 17 April: Empower your plate, growing and foraging

Thursday 15 May: Capturing nature in action via photography and sound recording

Community gardening and litter pick

Saturday 5 April, 10.00am to 12.00pm
Venue: Meet outside the Glebe
Contact: Janet: transitioncrich@gmail.com

Crich Cinema Club

Friday 14 March: **Belfast**
Our St Patrick's Day film, nominated for seven Oscars in 2022 and winner of Best Original Screenplay. Belfast is the story of a young boy's childhood during the Troubles in Belfast in the 1960s, starring Dame Judi Dench and Jamie Dornan and directed by Sir Kenneth Branagh.

Friday 11 April: **Gladiator 2**
One of the blockbusters of 2024, surely this will be nominated for several Oscars! This all-action epic sequel stars Denzel Washington, Pedro Pascal and Paul Mescal.

Friday 2 May: **Parasite**
This six-time nominated film, a South Korean black comedy thriller, became the first non-English language film to win Best Picture at the Oscars in 2020, and also won Best Director.

Miscellaneous

WOMEN'S INSTITUTE

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

Crich Wesley Chapel

REGULAR CALENDAR

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

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

Crich Live

Tickets are currently on sale for:
Saturday 22 March:
Craig Gould and the Noble Thieves – The Campfire Sessions
Craig Gould's celebrated talent has received comparisons with songwriting royalty such as Cat Stevens, Leonard Cohen, Bob Dylan and Fleetwood Mac. Craig is happy to present to you his hugely successful Campfire Sessions show.

Saturday 26 April:
Paul O'Donnell – We've Got Each Other
A one-person masterclass in comedy, musicals and theatre. A wonderfully entertaining show from one of the most innovative theatre makers in the Midlands. For lovers of a great juke box, especially Bon Jovi!

Parish Council – Upcoming meetings

Monday 3 March, 7.30pm
Monday 7 April, 7.30pm
Monday 12 May, 7.30pm
Venue: Crich Glebe Community Centre

Whatstandwell Social Club

Contact: whatstandwellsocialclub@googlemail.com

Sports Diary

Cliff Inn Cricket Team
Contact: rogerbode64@gmail.com

Church Services

ST MARY'S CHURCH, CRICH

St Mary's continues with the usual pattern of worship, with all Sunday morning services starting at 10.00am. We also have some special services coming up:

Wednesday 5 March:

Ash Wednesday, 7.00pm

Sunday 30 March:

Mothering Sunday

Sunday 13 April:

Palm Sunday Holy Communion

Thursday 17 April:

Maundy Thursday, 7.00pm

Friday 18 April:

Good Friday craft activities, service and hot cross buns, 10.00am

Sunday 20 April: Easter Sunday

Sunday 27 April: Holy Communion

For our Lent Course and to keep up to date, visit www.achurchnearyou.com/benefice/12-061BP

FRITCHLEY CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

Find out more: Facebook @Fritchley.Church

Email: FritchleyChurch@mail.com

CRICH BAPTIST CHURCH

Sunday worship – 10.45am and 6.00pm

Prayer meeting – Tuesdays, 7.30pm

Infant Seekers Club – Thursdays, 5.00pm

Junior Seekers Club – Thursdays, 6.00pm

(Groups meet during termtime)

Find out more:

<https://www.crichbaptist.org/>

CRICH WESLEY CHAPEL

Book of Common Prayer Holy Communion – Sundays, 8.00am

Sunday Afternoon Worship – 3.00pm

Family Café Church – third Sunday of the month, 9.30–11.00am

Healing Prayer – third Tuesday of the month, 2.00pm

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

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

Are you part of a community group? We'd love to hear from you and what you're doing. We can help you get the word out to the Parish.

Make something special in spring

By Clare Limb

You may remember from the last edition of the Standard that I wrote about my new role as Crich's Creative Agent. Following consultation with many of you, some themes emerged which I could imagine being paired with possible projects or events in 2025.

To that end, we have started the year with a number of 'Make, Do and Mend' sessions which will continue throughout the year. Several groups have also started their own projects, including an intergenerational project involving Crich Junior School and Crich Luncheon Club.

All this work will culminate in a series of special events over the spring and early summer, including a sustainable clothing and fashion show. Watch out also for a series of walking workshops to capture our local nature through sound recording and photography or sketching and writing, leading to a Community Art Share Exhibition.

If you would like to help Make Something Special in Spring, please feel free to contact me: clarelimbcreates@outlook.com

Crich Writers' Group

By Louise Maskill

The Crich Writers' Group came together as a result of a small article published in Crich Standard last summer. Angela Churm, from Whatstandwell, wondered if any other local word wranglers wanted to get together every so often, so she put out a call.

Long story short (ha ha), six of us have now met up several times, and very much enjoy the companionship and mutual support in our writing journeys. Writing can be a solitary activity, but we've all come to value the local company of others in the same business.

We're not all full-time professional writers; many of us write as a hobby or a sideline, and we all write in different genres. One of us has just landed a book deal (hooray!), but some of us write purely for our own pleasure or that of our families and friends.

The one thing we have in common is that we love to write – and we'd be very happy to welcome others. If you write, whether professionally, as a hobby, or even if you're just interested in how you might get started telling your own stories, we'd love you to join us.

Our meetings are informal and usually happen around once a month at the Black Swan in Crich. If you'd like to find out more, please contact Louise Maskill at louise@lmaskill.com

Royal British Legion Crich & District branch

By Kev Oliver, Vice Chairman, RBL Crich & District Branch

RBL members were overwhelmed by the response to the 2024 Poppy Appeal. Local businesses, shops, clubs, pubs and schools within Crich Parish and the villages of South Wingfield and Wessington were, as always, keen to support the appeal, selling poppies from their premises.

Thanks to the Post Office for the loan of the coin counter for our count, which was really appreciated. Your generous donations totalled **£2,334.25** – slightly down on last year, but still a great achievement considering the current financial climate.

We had a great turnout for our Poppy Appeal quiz night at the Comrades Club; thanks to everyone who attended or donated prizes. We raised a total of £201.

Thanks also to Crich Parish Council for their continued support, and to the volunteers for installing and removing lamppost poppies throughout the village. Another thank you to Peter Shaw from Smith's Memorial Hall, Wingfield Park for their support and kind donation, and a special thank you to Chris Scolah, our Branch Poppy Appeal Co-ordinator. Your hard work paid off again!

The final thank you goes to every one of you who donated. The branch members really appreciate your kind generosity; we couldn't do it without you.

A recruitment drive led by our very own John Lucas, aka Army John, has seen the branch membership more than triple. This will hopefully secure the existence of your Crich Branch for future years We are always on the lookout for new members, though; anyone is more than welcome to join us, you do not need to have served in the armed forces. Further information is available on Facebook or at Branch Headquarters, Crich Comrades Club.

Finally, 2025 marks the eightieth anniversary of the end of the Second World War. Thursday 8 May is Victory in Europe Day (VE Day), when German forces surrendered to the Allies. Friday 15 August is Victory over Japan Day (VJ Day), when Imperial Japan surrendered, effectively bringing the Second World War to an end. **The branch is actively seeking ideas to bring the community together to commemorate this historic anniversary. If you would like to get involved, please get in touch.**

2025 is off to a roaring start!

By Grace Tomlinson

With new groups, activities, workshops, services and a jam-packed event calendar, we hope to welcome more people to the Glebe than ever before.

Check out the Community Diary pages for events scheduled so far, and keep your eyes peeled for news of family fun and children's activity days through the holidays, special Cinema Club

screenings, new events, activities and trips, and additional services in our therapy rooms.



Did you know?

- You can hire the Glebe for parties, functions or weddings.
- We offer catering for your parties and functions.
- You can hire our kitchen.
- We offer hot-desking and meeting facilities.
- You can hire our therapy rooms for as little as half a day.

We want to ensure that every member of this community knows the Glebe is here, and the extensive ways you can use and benefit from the Centre. If there's something new you'd like to see, let us know and we will work to include it!

With so much happening, we don't want you to miss a thing!

Sign up to our Newsletter
crichglebe.org/news/newsletter-signup



Follow us on Facebook
facebook.com/crichglebe



Follow us on Instagram
instagram.com/crichglebecommunitycentre

Charity purchases land adjoining local woodland

By Claire Ganthony

Many local residents will have enjoyed walks in the beautiful ancient woodland of Shining Cliff, a Site of Special Scientific Interest and home to the splintered remains of the two-thousand-year-old 'Betty Kenny' yew tree, believed to have inspired the nursery rhyme 'Rock-a-bye Baby'.

In Autumn 2024 farmland adjoining the woods became available for auction, and the Grith Pioneers, a charitable organisation who have owned and managed a section of the woodland since the 1930s, were successful in raising funds to purchase some of the land. The charity

plans to protect the land from development and increase the biodiversity of the area through re-wilding, as well as improving access for groups that use the area regularly for nature-based wellbeing and education activities.

The fundraising was a collaborative effort between the Grith Pioneers, local organisations, and around 200 individuals who contributed through a crowdfunder. Ideas for the land include the natural regeneration of trees, some tree planting, hedgerows and possibly a wildflower area, as well as the creation of a shelter for the use of those providing and taking part in educational and wellbeing activities.



Crich Village Fête

An early reminder that Crich Village Fête will be on Saturday 12 July this year, from 1.00pm on the Recreation Ground.

Planning is already well under way, and we hope to have another great mix of traditional and new things to entertain you. This is an event run by the community, for the community.

As always, we welcome other community organisations to book a space to raise their own profile or to fundraise. However, we won't be chasing you so hard this year because we know that many of your own volunteers may already be doing other things, or just want to fully enjoy what the afternoon has to offer!

We also invite local 'makers' and crafts people to book stalls and demonstrate the huge depth of creative talent that we have in the area.

Follow us on Facebook



www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100076240337160

or email us:
crichfete@gmail.com



A new gardening year

By Judy Berry

Gardening in the early part of the year is full of anticipation about what lies ahead. Ensure an abundance of flowers by pruning wisteria tendrils back to two or three buds, and improve the appearance of perennial grasses by cutting back the old growth to allow new shoots to appear. When snowdrops and aconites have finished flowering they can be divided and replanted 'in the green', providing a bigger show next spring. It's also a good time to get climbers under control before the nesting season starts.

If you have a propagator or a sunny windowsill, seeds such as tomatoes and chillies can be sown in trays or pods. Summer bedding plants can also be sown ready for summer. Many vegetables can be started now; first early potatoes will need chitting ready for planting. You can also plan ahead for further colour over the next few months by planting summer flowering bulbs.

Other jobs include cleaning out bird boxes to reduce the parasitic load. Remove all the old nesting material, scald the box with boiling water and scrub with a brush, place a small amount of hay (not straw) or wood shavings in the bottom of the dry box, and replace. You can also clean feeders to remove any old food or mould.

Gardening tools will also benefit from a once-over; remove any rust with a wire brush, and then oil them to ensure they remain rust-free. Sharpen things that should be sharp.

Happy spring, everyone! We made it through the winter. Don't forget, Gardening Club is held on the first Wednesday of the month at 7.30pm in the Comrades Club.

Crich Youth Club

By Debbie Kinghorn

They say “a picture paints a thousand words”, so here are a few to tell you what Youth Club gets up to.

In order to run our youth club each week we have to do some fundraising. Thank you to everyone who got involved in our fundraising events last year!

If you'd like to make an online donation to Crich Youth Club, our bank details are:

Account Name: Crich Youth Club

Account Number: 51253054

Sort code: 60-01-33

Crich Youth Club runs every Thursday, 7.00–9.00pm at the Glebe, and is open to all young people between the ages of 11 and 16.



War Graves

For many years the Commonwealth War Graves Commission (CWGC) refused to acknowledge that two Crich Parish men, Frederick Bown and Frank Hall, were entitled to military headstones on their burial plots in Crich churchyard, despite them being named on various Rolls of Honour and on the Crich War Memorial. The community recognised their sacrifice in the service of their country, but for over a century they lay in neglected and unmarked burial plots.

However, thanks to the efforts and generosity of several local people and organisations, this is no longer the case. These two men now have appropriate headstones alongside their fellow soldiers. On hearing about the neglected graves Terry Bishop began voluntarily strimming the plots, and he has masterminded the creation and erection of these long-overdue memorials. In this he has been supported by Peter Patilla, who recognised the injustice through his work on creating the Crich Parish Roll of Honour remembering those lost in the First World War.

Thanks to John Lucas, a member of the Crich branch of the Royal British Legion, Terry was put in contact with Robert Shields, the CEO of Longcliffe Quarry, which supplied stone for military headstones. Two headstones were subsequently donated by Mr Shields.

Colin Julian of Petts Stonemasons in Middleton-by-Wirksworth organised the engraving and erection of the headstones at a minimal cost. The name Petts is closely connected with memorials in Crich; it was

the stonemason Isaac Petts who designed and carved Crich Cross, erected in 1871.

Frederick Bown served with the Cheshire Regiment and Frank Hall with the Labour Corps. The current archivists of these two regiments have been very supportive, and Cindy Clark of the Cheshire Regiment Association has been amazing in gaining funds. Generous support has also been received from the Mercian Regiment, the Royal Logistic Corps, Veterans' Associations and clubs.

Within days of taking office our new vicar Jo Honour cut through the bureaucracy around placing the headstones and gave immediate permission for them to be erected on the soldiers' burial plots.

Last year a multi-media presentation entitled 'Poppies – Lest We Forget' was shown at St Mary's, devised by Terry Bishop and featuring Martyn Offord, pupils from Crich Junior School, Terry's daughter Nikki and grandson Samuel, and Terry himself.

It is hoped that in the spring there will be a formal dedication ceremony with military presence at the grave sites. Biographies of Frederick Bown and Frank Hall can be found at www.crichparish-WW1.co.uk



Crich Scouts

By Duncan Ganthony

One of the radio operators at our 'Jamboree On The Air' last year told us that our Scout hut is an example of a Vic Hallam hut. Vic Hallam started building chicken sheds just before the First World War, but his business took off in the 1950s when he started supplying pre-fabricated school rooms. The business was based in Marlpool and Langley Mills, near Heanor. Our hut was built in 1967, when the business was at its peak. Vic Hallam produced buildings at speed, which was the highest need at the time, but the temporary nature of the buildings means that there aren't very many still around.

A few years ago the felt on our hut was torn during the winter storms. We fixed the roof to keep the hut watertight, but some of the internal ceiling had already been damaged. We also haven't re-decorated for a few years. In fact, I think some of the names featured on the wall of the hut might be in their twenties now, indicating that perhaps it might be a little bit more than "a few"!

Last year we received donations from some members of our community. Some of our parents, Chris Orton and Paul Moorhouse, volunteered to lead on making some overdue updates to the hut. The plan is to give the hut a new ceiling, new LED lights and a lick of paint, making it a nicer venue for activities for our young people in the future, as well as preserving this example of a Vic Hallam hut.

As a group we currently are planning the programmes for the Scouts, Cubs and Beavers in 2025.



The whole Scout group are planning a trip to RAF Cosford for St George's Day. When we're there we'll be able to march with other Scout groups, and renew our promises next to an historic plane.

The Beavers have asked to get their bike badge, so we'll be learning bike maintenance and also going on a colony bike ride.

There are spaces in all of our groups:

Beavers: Mondays, 5.45–7.00pm

Cubs: Tuesdays 6.30–8.00pm

Scouts: Wednesdays, 7.00–8.30pm

We also encourage adults who would like to help run the sessions, or join our committee, to get in touch.

Contact us via email: For Beavers:

CrichBeaverLeader@gmail.com

For Cubs: williamcaine@btinternet.com

For Scouts: scoutleader.crich@gmail.com

Exciting activities at Crich Junior School

Last year we had the pleasure of welcoming an inspirational poet, Andy Tooze, into our school. It was a fantastic day filled with creativity, where each class collaborated with Andy and discovered the art of poetry.

We also embarked on an RE excursion to the Open Centre in Derby. This experience introduced us to various faiths through visits to a Gurdwara, a Hindu Temple and a Mosque. The children embraced the opportunity to learn about different beliefs, fostering a sense of respect and understanding of different cultures and beliefs.

Our talented choir also had a busy season! They performed at the 'Poppies Lest We Forget' presentation by Terry Bishop and Martyn Offord, and dazzled the crowd at the Christmas Fayre. All our children sang their hearts out at the Luncheon Club Christmas Party, and the grand finale was our Christmas concert at the Baptist Chapel, which was a wonderful way to bring everyone together.

To wrap up our busy term and spread some holiday cheer, we organised our annual gift box delivery to local businesses in Crich. We also collected gifts for the Derby Refugee Centre; these were delivered by Mrs. Shakespeare, and were met with immense gratitude. What a lovely way to give back!



Science Week at Fritchley Primary and Nursery School

Science Week at Fritchley CofE (Aided) Primary and Nursery School was a time when young minds embarked on a cosmic adventure, igniting their passion for astronomy and space science. Throughout the week the children engaged in interactive lessons about the solar system, space missions and the moon. Hands-on activities like building model rockets, simulating moon landings, and stargazing sessions made learning both fun and memorable. By the end of Space Week our students had not only expanded their understanding of the universe, but also nurtured a sense of curiosity and wonder about the endless possibilities that lie beyond our planet.



Our school visit to the Space Centre

We journeyed beyond the confines of our classrooms to explore the limitless realms of the universe. Our highly anticipated visit to the National Space Centre was a stellar hit!

Students could hardly contain their amazement as they interacted with exhibits demonstrating the principles of space travel, gravity, and planetary science. The hands-on workshops were a highlight for many. Whether it was building and launching mini-rockets, creating simulations of lunar landings, or programming Mars rovers, these activities brought STEM subjects to life in ways the classroom couldn't. Every child became an explorer, scientist, and engineer for the day.

Many of us returned with a newfound passion for science, dreaming of futures where we could perhaps be the ones making groundbreaking discoveries or exploring new worlds.



Crich Carr C of E Primary School update

We're delighted to report that we have expanded our nursery provision, and can now provide some wrap-around care to make it more suitable for working parents. We already had a breakfast and after-school club, and nursery children can now access some of these sessions.

Children can start in our nursery from their third birthday. School nursery gets the children off to a great start, and helps make sure they are ready for school when they start in Reception. Please contact us for more information.

Last term the Juniors spent a day at Mount Cook in Wirksworth learning about Romans as part of their topic 'What Can We Learn From Ancient Civilizations?'

Meanwhile, the Year 1 and Year 2 children walked along the canal to Cromford to visit the Florence Nightingale exhibition. As part of their topic 'How Can I Make A Mark On The World?' they've been finding out about Britain's most famous nurse, and how she changed nursing and the hospital care patients receive.

Class 2 have been learning to play brass instruments under the guidance of the Derbyshire Schools Music Partnership. They've been learning either the trumpet or the trombone, as well as playing singing and rhythm games to develop their musical skills. All this practice is building towards a concert for parents and classmates.

Coming Up

Our Class 1 children will be out and about in Derbyshire learning about 'How We Build A Community.' We will be exploring Crich and Whatstandwell to find out what happens in the local community, and getting on the train to visit Matlock and Derby to find out how life is different in our towns and cities.

Class 2 will be learning about Derbyshire's industrial past, and exploring how we shape our local environment. We'll be visiting quarries and discovering the myriad railways that used to criss-cross the county, as well as researching the area's lead-mining past.



They think it's all over...

Christmas trees are long recycled, New Year's resolutions are forgotten and gym memberships have rather less appeal, but as this issue of Crich Standard hits the doormat the people involved in producing our community magazine are already working on the next one.

Of course there is some breathing space. Our wonderful distributors, almost 40 in number, can walk where they want to instead of following their delivery rounds, and our layout editor can get on with her day job – for a while, at least.

Meanwhile, contributors are probably already working on their first drafts for the summer, whether on behalf a volunteer group, a school, or by writing a short story. Several of the committee are also bouncing ideas around for things we hope could be interesting for many of the nearly 2,000 households we deliver to.

Over the last few editions, all this activity has enabled us to build up a library of articles waiting for space. The winter edition alone would have been at least ten pages longer if we simply printed everything we had. Quite a challenge – but it's great for us to have pieces that are less time-critical in our reserve library. We can only salute the commitment of so

many in the community who want to be a part of Crich Standard.

For each edition, as we get close to the print deadline about three weeks before publication, the content we have received is reviewed, and sometimes it may be turned down or edited – sometimes due to length, but also on occasion because of our responsibility to keep things fresh and interesting for as many people as possible. We encourage organisations to avoid the “same old same old”, even when that is a difficult task.

We are always pleased to provide advice and feedback, with this column in particular being improved on a regular basis by our copy-editing and proofreading team. Sometimes I hardly recognise what comes back from the printer, and I wonder whether I actually wrote the piece at all!

Wherever possible, anything we change is a team decision to reflect our thoughts about the interests of the community. The Crich Standard committee is fairly representative by age, status, experience, and involvement in community affairs, making us comfortable with what we do. Sometimes contributors don't like or agree with our changes, edits, thoughts and feedback, but the feedback we receive from readers suggests we get it right more often than we get it wrong.

We have a vibrant community; go to the Community Diary on pages 18–22 for local events and activities

So this is it, our first edition of 2025. Our mission remains the same; as usual the Standard committee wants the magazine to inform, entertain, and also evolve. We thank all the individuals and groups who have contributed, and particularly our advertisers, whose continuing support makes the whole thing possible.

Tony

Tony Mills, Chair

Photo: Chris Baker

