

Crich Standard

CRICH | FRITCHLEY | WHATSTANDWELL | BULLBRIDGE

Issue 114 Summer 2025



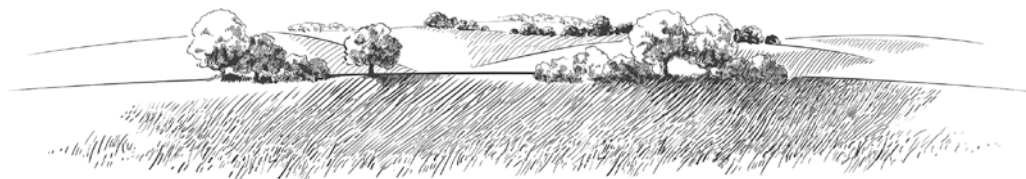
A Community Magazine for the Parish

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

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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

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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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3 issues £55 Full year (4 issues) £68

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Single issue £30 2 issues £50
3 issues £70 Full year (4 issues) £95

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Single issue £40 2 issues £70
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Single issue £60 2 issues £110
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Back Page (H210mm x W148mm)
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Design Prices: 1/4 & 1/3 page £35
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

This year's well dressing

The well dressing theme for 2025 is 'Nature's Wonders', and on Saturday 5 July there will be a blessing of the wells by Rev. Jo Honour at 12.00pm in the Market Place.

On the day we'll have entertainment by the Alfreton u3a Ukelele Group and Crich Carr Choir. This will be followed by a service of thanksgiving in St Mary's Church at 2.00pm.

The church will be open throughout the day with displays showcasing the talents of many gifted people, including a photographic display and handcrafted items.

There will also be a great raffle, with tickets sold all day and the prizes drawn at the end of the afternoon.

Weather permitting, the dressings will remain in place until the fête on Saturday 12 July.



Crich Village Fête

As you read this, Crich Village Fête is only a matter of weeks away. We hope for glorious weather on Saturday 12 July, and another great afternoon for everyone to enjoy.

We have many of the usual activities, including live music from the brilliant Ollie and his band Facsimile, a balloon launch (weather conditions permitting), a fun dog show, children's games, a climbing wall, circus skills, a bouncy castle and more.

This year we also hope to feature the fire service cooking oil fire demonstration unit, the local neighbourhood police, Derbyshire Blood Bikes, Morris dancing, crazy golf and much more.

And to keep you refreshed, the bar, tea-tent, barbecue and ice cream van will all be there! We look forward to seeing you.

At the beginning of May, Crich Fête Committee worked alongside volunteers from Crich Parish Council, the Mercian Regiment, Crich Standard and Derbyshire Fire and Rescue (Crich Fire Station) to organise the respectful beacon lighting ceremony at Crich Stand to honour the 80th anniversary of VE Day. Due to operational commitments it was initially thought that the lighting could not take place, but we were delighted that input and help from the community ensured that a scaled-back event could go ahead.

Contact Crich Fête on
crichfete@gmail.com

Crich Quarry planning application

Perhaps appropriately, Tuesday 1 April was the deadline for the applicant, BMET Ltd., to appeal Derbyshire County Council's decision to refuse their application to build a holiday resort in Crich Quarry. There has been no appeal; this was finally confirmed at the end of the month, and was a clear and welcome outcome for supporters of the campaign group, Residents Opposed to Amber Rock (ROAR).

As the owners of the quarry, BMET may make alternative proposals in the future; the current suggestion is that they intend to reopen the quarry. Sceptics believe further quarrying is highly unlikely, but in any event it is certain to be some time before anything else happens.

Crich had a united community majority against the holiday resort plan, and there may well be a similar majority against, or indeed in favour of, any future applications. Either way, ROAR continues to promise a pragmatic, balanced and principled response for the community to consider.

Thank you Steve!

Many of you in Crich, as well as in Fritchley, will know Steve Wood. For more years than I am allowed to say he has been an active member of our community, but he has finally decided to call time on some of the many roles he has taken on. For almost a decade he has dedicated his time, attention and knowledge to our Fritchley Community Association committee, as well as stepping up to volunteer at many events (you may have noticed him in full "Allo Allo" costume at the French café).

He was vital in the campaign to save the village hall, ensuring that hiring processes were set up, and he has managed the hall ever since. He has supported numerous Chairs of the committee, and performed the role of Treasurer for many years.

We want to say a huge "thank you, Steve" for the time you have committed, for your care and support, and for the steady hand you have held out to the village in such a quiet, unassuming manner.

Thankfully Steve will continue to contribute ideas as a volunteer, and will be sporting an appropriate costume at a future Spanish café!

Thank you, Steve, from everyone involved in the FCA. (PS – don't forget your lederhosen for Oktoberfest!)

St Mary's Church

Our regular service pattern is All Age Service on the first Sunday in the month, Holy Communion on the second Sunday, Morning Worship on the third Sunday and Holy Communion on the fourth Sunday. All morning services start at 10.00am. However, please note the following:

Coffee morning, Saturday 7 June, 10.00am–12.00pm

Sunday@7, Sunday 8 June, 7.00pm

Well dressing, Saturday 5 July. Blessings in the Market Place at 12.00pm followed by a service and arts display in the church at 2.00pm

Service focusing on the environment, Sunday 31 August

Other regular events:

Family Worship Café Church: second Sunday, 9.30–11.00am, Crich Wesley

Healing Prayer: third Tuesday, 2.00pm, Crich Wesley

Popalong Toddler Group: Fridays during term time, 9.30am, Crich Wesley

Weekly Prayer Meetings: All welcome. Mondays, 9.00am, 16 Culland View; Saturdays, 9.30am, 22 Cromford Road

Homegroup: second Monday, 2.00pm, 21 Culland View

Book of Common Prayer Holy Communion: Sundays, 8.00am, Crich Wesley

A Church Near You: Keep abreast of what's happening at St Mary's and at our other local churches:
<https://achurchnearyou.com/church/13152/>

Priest in Charge (part-time): Rev. Jo Honour, jo.honour@crichstmarys.org, tel: 07902 111253

For all enquiries at St Mary's please contact the administrator:
office@crichstmarys.org

ArtStand will be back!

Make a date in your diary for Saturday 25 October 2025, when ArtStand will be holding their October Art and Crafts Exhibition with a preview evening on Friday 24 October. Come and join us for a glass of wine!

In the meantime, we're heading to Hartington Village Hall for the Bank Holiday weekend, Saturday 24 to Monday 26 May, for our Spring Exhibition in the Peak District – it would be lovely to see you there.

Crich Post Office is on the move

After decades of dedicated, professional and very much appreciated service, Phil and Karen are finally leaving the letters, parcels and counter behind in May this year. On behalf of everyone who has used and benefited from the service they have provided, as well as the rest of the wider community, Crich Standard thanks them both for loyal and dedicated service.

Happily, our Post Office will endure as it moves down the street to our friends at Nisa. They have a hard act to follow, but we are sure they will continue to deliver the same high level of service the parish has enjoyed up to now. We wish them luck and success in this new venture for them.

The new Post Office, which will operate as a local-style branch, will open its doors at 1.00pm on Tuesday 20 May.



Photo by Geoff Brown

New website for Crich Standard



Eagle-eyed web browsers may have noticed that we have not updated the Crich Standard website for a while. Apologies for this, but it was becoming too time-consuming for our busy band of volunteers.

However, this summer we are delighted to be launching a new site. Simpler and easier to maintain, it will provide basic information to help people navigate what's available in our parish, including:

- Background and historical information about our villages.
- Searchable links to the advertisements featured in the magazines.
- A directory of local community organisations with contact information and links to their websites where relevant. [If you are involved with a community group and DO NOT want your information to feature, please let us know.]

When the new website goes live we will make an announcement on our Facebook page, so if you don't already follow us there, please find us at:
<https://www.facebook.com/crichstandard/>

Crich Parish Council update Remembering

Almost everyone has cherished memories of friends and family, but there are also important memories that belong to the community as a whole. The last edition of Crich Standard reported how people had come together to provide military headstones for two Crich Parish men who had fought in the First World War. At the same time, Crich Parish Council was asked if they could arrange for the War Memorial at St Mary's Church to be cleaned.

That sounded like a fairly simple request, but before we could start we had to find out whether we were allowed to do so. There used to be regulations that prevented a parish council from spending money on anything inside a churchyard. However, happily we discovered that has now changed, so we could go ahead.

The next issue was how to clean the stone without damaging it or the lettering. Luckily there are specialist firms who have the necessary expertise, so after getting quotes for the work we were able to arrange for the cleaning to take place.

If you have walked past the War Memorial recently, we hope you'll have noticed how good it looks – a fitting tribute to those who gave their lives for their country.



Fritchley flooding

In the early hours of Saturday 18 January, a substantial number of Fritchley homes and residents were severely affected by another distressing and damaging incidence of flooding.

Just before that event, Crich Standard had received from Severn Trent an article explaining the Ambergate/Crich pipe laying taking place across the Tors and elsewhere in the Parish. Our receipt of that article describing the pipe laying was entirely unconnected to the subsequent flooding at Fritchley. You can find the original article from Severn Trent on page 8 of this issue.

Following the flooding, a village meeting was convened on Thursday 6 March with the assistance of Linsey Farnsworth, MP for Amber Valley. Senior representatives of Severn Trent attended, and, as could well be anticipated, they faced many questions from concerned Fritchley residents.

Severn Trent agreed at the meeting to communicate fully, and on an ongoing basis, regarding their plans to remediate and eradicate the cause of the flooding. Although Fritchley residents will receive such information directly, Severn Trent has agreed to work with Crich Standard, again on an ongoing basis, as a means of sharing this information with the wider Crich Parish community.

Any time-relevant information we receive from Severn Trent will be included in the Standard, and will be updated as and when further updates are received. However, it should please be noted that any correspondence or questions arising should be directed to Severn Trent, and not Crich Standard.

This edition of the Standard also features a piece from Murren Gallacher, Social Value Advisor from CPC Civils (see page 10), the contractors undertaking the pipe laying works. This article details CPC Civils' intentions to financially assist community projects in the area, and we understand they have already met with the Parish Council to discuss this initiative. Again, any enquiries about this should be directed to CPC Civils and not Crich Standard.

Severn Trent's £22million investment in Crich and the surrounding areas on track to finish this summer

Severn Trent's multi-million pound project to secure the water supply network for residents in Crich and the surrounding areas is on track to be completed this summer.

The water company is currently investing £22million in the area to improve the resilience of the water network for customers.

The Derwent Valley Aqueduct (DVA) is a piece of nineteenth-century engineering that supplies water to tens of thousands of homes throughout the area. To support the DVA, and to build resilience in the network, Severn Trent designed 23 projects – collectively known as the DVA Resilience Project – at key points between Bamford and Ambergate to help boost the resilience of the DVA and reduce the chance of a supply shortage to 98,000 homes.

Working closely with National Highways, Derbyshire County Council and local stakeholders, Severn Trent teams have co-ordinated projects to minimise impact as much as possible. The works began in



Crich Traway Museum defibrillator.

January 2024, and are due to complete in summer 2025.

Neil Russell, Severn Trent Senior Project Manager, said: "This has been a huge project in Crich and the surrounding areas, and one that has been essential for our customers in the area. We want to thank everyone for their patience while we have been on site. We have been working hard, and are currently on track to have all the upgrades finished this summer."

The DVA works surrounding Crich were split into three separate sections:

Lea Moor Distribution Service Reservoir (DSR) to Matlock – budget £2.4million:

This involved a 2.8km pipeline from Lea Moor DSR to Tansley. Work began in May 2024; the main works have been completed, and teams are currently reinstating private land.

Crich DSR to Lea Moor DSR – budget £3.6million: This involves a 3.4km pipeline from Crich DSR to Lea Moor DSR. Severn Trent started work in February 2024, and the project was on schedule to complete in February 2025, followed by some reinstatement of private land.

Ambergate DSR to Crich DSR – budget £4.2million: This represents 1km of new pipeline, part of which has been drilled underneath a SSSI woodland in order to prevent disturbance. The work was carried out by the Severn Trent contractors CPC Civils. Teams started work in August 2024, and are due to complete the project in summer 2025.

While working in Crich both of the Severn Trent contractors, Forkers and CPC, have been firmly embedded in the community and have worked with them to ensure the work has gone as smoothly as possible. In addition, Forkers donated a new defibrillator at Crich Tramway Museum, and the cost of the clay to the Crich Community Well Dressing.



Crich Community Well Dressing

Amanda Gillespie, Severn Trent Project Manager, added: “The Crich community has been very understanding of the need for these works, and we have appreciated their support. We are now in the final few months of the project, which will be of service to generations of Crich residents for many years to come.”

Introducing CPC Civils

My name is Murren Gallacher, and I am a Social Value Advisor for CPC Civils. My role is to ensure that our projects go beyond the physical work we do, creating lasting and positive impacts on the communities in which we operate. This means integrating Environmental, Social and Governance (ESG) principles into our operations, reflecting a strong focus on community engagement and sustainable practices.

CPC Civils’ philosophy is rooted in the belief that our success is measured not only by the quality of our works, but also by the strength of local communities. We are committed to ensuring that our projects leave a lasting legacy of improvement and opportunity.

A key part of our approach is supporting grassroots initiatives that address specific community needs. This allows us to collaborate with local organisations to improve and build resilience within their communities. We create employment and training opportunities for local people, and we prioritise using sustainable materials, reducing waste and minimising our carbon footprint.

Crich Standard Community Award Roll of Honour

The Crich Standard Community Award (formerly the CACN Community Award) has been presented annually since 2008. It was set up to recognise the contributions of people who work voluntarily to improve, or enhance, the community spirit in our parish. Each year the deserving winner(s) are selected and presented with an award, along with our thanks. Here’s a list of all the past award winners.

2008 Derek Killingsley-Smith	2017 Stephanie Day
2009 Sylvia Taylor	2018 Crich Firefighters
2010 Ken Heywood	2019 Peter Patilla
2011 George and Heather Johnson	2020 Sue Wetton
2012 Phil Dolby	2021 David Billyeald
2013 Esme Woolley	2022 Jim and Lynda Grey
2014 Valerie Thorpe	2023 Karen Woodward
2015 Joyce and Paul Sayles	2024 Martyn and Deirdre Offord
2016 Doreen Mason	

Kite flying

By Essie Prosser

I sit in my garden on a rare warm and sunny afternoon, waiting for inspiration. The sparrows in the hedge are gossiping loudly, while others in the eaves are dropping bits of nesting material on my head without a second thought. The daffodils are nodding in the wind, and the bees are enjoying the dandelions and daisies on my as-yet uncut lawn.

And then, suddenly, there it is – the inspiration I've been hoping for. High up in the cloudless blue sky a bird is circling, seemingly effortless and serene.

From this distance I can see its distinctive reddy-brown plumage and forked tail, making it instantly distinguishable as a red kite from the more usual buzzards. Its form holds my attention and raises my curiosity; if I were to get closer to it I would also notice its pale bluish-grey head, deep yellow bill and legs, and rusty socks. It also has an enormous wingspan – up to 195cm according to experts.

Red kites were almost extinct in the UK a century or so ago. In the fifteenth and sixteenth centuries, however, they were a common sight, particularly and somewhat surprisingly on London's filth-strewn streets. Red kites feed mainly on carrion, and in medieval London the unwanted leftovers from the trade in meat 'on the hoof' were simply abandoned on its thoroughfares. Red kites and other

lovers of rotting flesh were able to help themselves. It was because they were such good scavengers that it was made illegal to kill them in London, as it was believed they helped in preventing disease by disposing of potential health hazards.

These urban red kites were also reported to snatch food from children's hands and washing from drying places, particularly in the breeding season. The red kite pairs for life and lays its eggs in pairs and threes in an untidy nest made of twigs, which is softened by the addition of sheep's wool, leaves and linen stolen from washing lines (guard your knickers, ladies!). Even Shakespeare advised, 'When the kite builds, look to your lesser linen.'

By the mid-nineteenth century, however, the kite population had been decimated by farmers, game keepers and poultry lovers wishing to hold on to their valuable food sources. In the 1930s and 1940s it was estimated that there were fewer than ten breeding pairs in the UK, mostly in Wales.

Over the last century several organisations including the RSPB, Natural England and

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High up in the cloudless blue sky a bird is circling, seemingly effortless and serene.

Nature Scotland have instigated schemes to protect and reintroduce the red kite into all areas of the UK. It remains listed under the highest protection, although kites are still dying from poisoning by banned pesticides and shooting. Nevertheless, their recovery has been a remarkable success story; over 6,000 breeding pairs are now reputed to be found in the UK, which means we can hope to see more and more of these spectacular birds over our Crich skies.

Note: Any form of bird crime (all wild birds included) can be reported to Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111. Crime against birds of prey specifically can be reported to the DEFRA helpline on 03459 55 77.



Crich night sky: summer

By Tom Scutt

A recognisable pattern or group of stars in the night sky, often formed by stars from one or more constellations, is known as an **asterism**. These can act as signposts that allow you to find your way around the night sky. I always find it strangely comforting to recognise planets, stars and constellations – rather like meeting old friends (perhaps I should get out more!).

In the UK, the stars of the Northern night sky are relatively unchanged throughout the year. Most recognizable are the **Plough**, an asterism formed from the brightest stars of Ursa Minor (the Great Bear), and the distinctive W shape of the constellation Cassiopeia. Two stars in the Plough – the ‘pointers’ – can help you find Polaris, the North Star. It’s not particularly bright, but its position in the sky never changes (it’s always due north) and all the other stars appear to rotate around it.

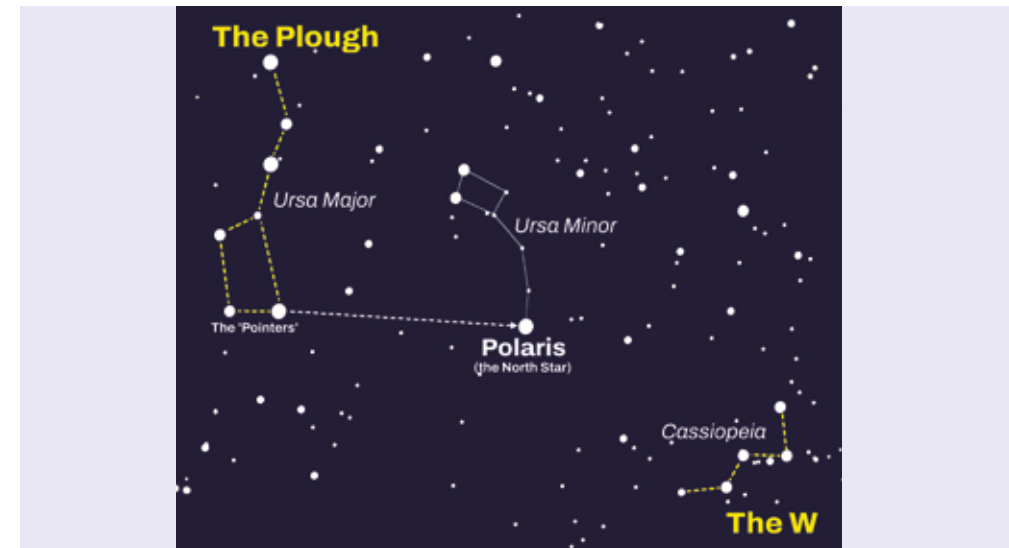
In the summer, an asterism called the **Summer Triangle** stretches overhead. It is comprised of three bright stars:

- **Vega**, a bluish-white star, the brightest of the three and a mere 25 light-years away (a very near neighbour in astronomical terms), lies in the constellation Lyra (the Lyre), four stars of which form a parallelogram just next to Vega
- **Altair** is even closer at 17 light-years; its constellation Aquila (the Eagle) is not very distinctive, but Altair itself is easy to find as it’s flanked by a pair of relatively bright stars
- **Deneb** is over 2,000 light years away; this is a blue supergiant star 100,000 times as bright as our own sun. It is in the constellation of Cygnus (the Swan), which has a recognisable cross shape.

Now you know your way around the summer sky, here are a few other things to watch out for.

- Deneb is the tail of Cygnus, and at the opposite end of the cross is its head – a star called **Albireo**. Through a good pair of binoculars you’ll see that this is in fact a double star – a beautiful golden-orange star with a fainter blue companion
- On dark summer nights away from streetlights the **Milky Way** – the hazy band of light formed from the billions of stars that make up our own galaxy – can be seen passing through the Summer Triangle. If you look at this area with a pair of binoculars you will be able to see thousands of stars
- Just next to the Summer Triangle is the tiny constellation of Delphinus (the Dolphin). It doesn’t contain the brightest stars, and looks more like a tadpole than a dolphin, but once you’ve spotted it, you’ll recognise it on future dark summer nights. If a constellation could be described as cute, it would be this one
- The **Perseid meteor shower** is expected to reach peak activity on 12 August this year. Try to get somewhere away from streetlights, and allow

your eyes at least 15 minutes to get used to the dark (no looking at your phone!). Unfortunately the moon will be nearly full, so it will be bright – ideally stand somewhere where it’s hidden behind a building. If it’s a cloudless night and you’re patient enough, you should see at least a few meteors. Make yourself comfortable (use a reclining chair or lie on a picnic rug) and look up at the wonderful summer night sky ♦



Derbyshire Toy Libraries

By Claire Ganthony

The local charity Derbyshire Toy Libraries is celebrating its twenty-fifth birthday in May this year. Originally set up by Ann-Marie McMillan and other parents who first met at the Baby Clinic at Crich Medical Practice, the charity was founded as Crich Millenium Toy Library in 2000.

Ann-Marie's initial motivation for setting up the toy library was quite personal. As a new mum who had recently been made redundant she needed to regain a sense of purpose, but she was also motivated by environmental concerns. The aim was to provide good quality toys that would last and be reused time and again, encouraging families to borrow, not buy. However, the Crich community was another key motivating factor; Ann-Marie felt there was a need in Crich in particular. There was already a toy library service up and running in Belper, but in some ways Crich felt very isolated because of its limited public transport links.

With encouragement from the area Health Visitors, Ann-Marie and some other mums decided to volunteer in Belper to see how it worked and how they could adapt the service for the Crich community. Planning



began in November 1999, and with the aid of training from the National Association of Toy and Leisure Libraries, a core group quickly established itself; they remain firm friends to this day.

There was already a toddler group running at Crich Glebe Field Centre, so this was the natural home for the new toy library. Roles were assigned according to the individual strengths and skills of those involved, and the decision was made to register as a charity to access funding streams. Funds of around £4,000 were raised, and within six months they were ready to launch, with local resident and former Blue Peter presenter Simon Groom as the charity's Patron. Ann-Marie's role evolved as she became an outreach worker for the National Association of Toy and Leisure Libraries, and Crich Millenium Toy Library became Derbyshire Toy Libraries when the libraries in Belper, Wirksworth, Matlock and Kilburn joined the group.

Although the work of the charity has evolved over time, at the heart has



At the heart of it all remains the desire to create connections and build support networks for families.

remained the focus on providing the communities served with what they need. The establishment of intergenerational 'Young at Heart' sessions was an important addition; beginning with informal connections between the daycare provision at the Glebe and the toy library session there, regular formal sessions were introduced in residential care homes in the local area. These intergenerational sessions proved very popular, and had benefits for young and old alike. While the intergenerational sessions had to stop in person due to the pandemic, they continued online for some time, and Ann-Marie hopes to be able to reintroduce them eventually.

Covid also brought positive changes to the provision offered by Derbyshire Toy Libraries. When the Stay and Play sessions had to close, a click-and-collect service was established in order to allow families to provide their children with play and learning resources while they had to remain at home. It also allowed the staff some time to pool, catalogue and cull some resources, leading to the establishment of online toy sales and auctions. This in turn has provided the charity with an additional funding stream, meaning they are not so reliant on grants. Duplicate and unneeded resources were put to good use through the creation of 'Age and Stage Packs', which were donated to families through local food banks.

Post-pandemic, Derbyshire Toy Libraries has settled back into a regular termtime routine of Stay and Play sessions in Crich, Grassmoor, Belper and Kilburn. Recently a professional musician, Sarah Dale, has been working with groups, and at Crich the toy library session is followed immediately by a family lunch club, helping to foster greater connections within the community.

Looking to the future, there are plans for the development of educational music packs, story sacks, and themed resources such as a renewed focus on loose parts play and open-ended resources. There are also plans to focus on resources for children with additional needs.

Reflecting on the achievements of the last twenty-five years, Ann-Marie's proudest moment was when Derbyshire Toy Libraries was recognised as part of the centenary celebrations of the National Council for Voluntary Organisations in 2019. Ann-Marie was among the representatives of two hundred grassroots charities invited to be presented to the Queen at a reception at Windsor Castle.

Of course, Derbyshire Toy Libraries would not be what it is without the many volunteers and families who have been involved over the past two and a half decades. At the heart of it all remains the desire to create connections and build support networks for families.

Twenty-fifth birthday celebrations are planned at Crich Glebe Community Centre for Monday 19 May 2025. There will be fancy dress, musical instrument making, a buffet lunch, and of course birthday cake to share, all for the original session price of just £1. Toy library members past, present and future are all invited to join the fun, and it is hoped that Simon Groom, the charity's original patron, will be able to join the party too.

Crich Vicars

After welcoming Rev. Jo Honour as our new vicar last year, I thought it would be interesting to reflect on some of her predecessors in that role. Past Crich vicars have sometimes faced challenges with their parishioners!

Thomas Cornthwaite (1801–1838)

Rev. Thomas Cornthwaite had quite a reputation for eccentricity during his ministry. In spite of this, he seemed to recognise that his ministry had not been a great success. It was recorded that he took a pair of shoes to one of his neighbours to be re-soled, and then went himself to fetch them. He asked how much the charge was, and then sat and mused for some time, turning the shoes over. Eventually he sadly exclaimed, "Well, Piggins, thou art cleverer than I; thou hast made two new soles for one and ten pence, and I have been vicar of this parish over thirty years, and have neither made nor mended a soul yet."

His last service was on Sunday 27 August 1837 to a very full church, and the sermon was sufficiently unusual to have been recorded for posterity:

"Tomorrow, my friends, this living will be vacant, and if any of you is desirous of becoming my successor, he has now an opportunity. Let him use his influence, and who can tell but he may be honoured with the title of Vicar of Crich. As this is my last address, I shall only say, had I been a blacksmith, or a son of Vulcan, the following lines might not have been inappropriate:

By Peter Patilla

My sledge and hammer lie reclined,
My bellows, too, have lost their wind;
My fire's extinct, my forge decay'd,
And in the dust my vice is laid.
My coal is spent, my iron's gone,
My nails are drove, my work is done;
My fire-fried corpse lies here at rest,
And, smoke-like, soars up to be bless'd.
If you expect anything more, you are
deceived; for I shall only say – friends,
farewell, farewell!"

William Acraman (1875–1900)

Rev. William Acraman was Crich's most notorious vicar, ending his ministry defrocked and serving two years hard labour in Derby Gaol. During his twenty-five year ministry his antics produced pages of newsprint, with reporters revelling in writing about the scandals he provoked. In 1883 his conflict with the village school's headteacher led to the Head's sacking after an impassioned letter to the vicar:

Rev. Sir,
The school is now left to myself and my daughter. I wish to know if you are going to supply me with help, or am I to take the responsibility of supplying myself.
Last week three teachers did the work of six teachers, and now this week two teachers have to do it. I shall give a half-holiday tomorrow to rest ourselves.
I am, Sir,
Yours obediently,
H. S. Scott

This event caused great parish upheaval and was widely reported:

Sheffield Independent, 3 February 1883

THE VICAR OF CRICH AND SCHOOL AFFAIRS

Headmaster Mr Scott made to resign after disagreement with vicar, despite running a successful school. ... A public meeting at Crich to discuss the affair defended into acrimony, jostling, epithets, with much support of the sacked headteacher.

Things became so heated that the vicar had to ask for police protection, and his temper resulted in his assaulting his curate at a school governors' meeting:

Derbyshire Times, 7 April 1883

A SUMMONS GRANTED AGAINST THE VICAR OF CRICH

... the vicar having committed an alleged violent assault against the curate by throwing him on the ground and kicking him.

The news of the curate's 'victory' over Rev. Acraman caused great excitement in Crich. It was not good news for the vicar, however; several hundred parishioners paraded an effigy of him through the village before setting fire to it outside the vicarage. The crowd then went through a mock burial service, and eventually the head of the effigy was kicked around like a football. Rev. Acraman wisely stayed indoors, but the events were widely reported in the local press.

In 1888 the fifty-year-old vicar married a twenty-year-old local girl who died shortly after in childbirth, causing a good deal of village gossip. Then in 1897 he sacked the newly-appointed headteacher of the village school, Mr Kent, after only three days in post:

Derbyshire Times, 6 November 1897

INDIGNATION MEETING AT CRICH, THE VICAR AND HIS PARISHIONERS

On Tuesday night a meeting of the ratepayers and inhabitants of Crich was held in the Independent Club Room, to express sympathy with Mr Kent and protest against his arbitrary dismissal from the position of headmaster at the Parochial School. There was a good attendance, probably 400 persons being present, and including church people.

It was not until 1899 that Rev. Acraman finally came to the end of his turbulent ministry in Crich:

Derbyshire Times 2 September 1899

SENSATIONAL ARREST OF A DERBYSHIRE VICAR, Two Serious Charges

Derbyshire Times 2 December 1899

TWO YEARS HARD LABOUR for the VICAR OF CRICH

Scathing remarks from the judge; witness told what to say. Sensational incident at close of trial.

H.W.C. Geldart (1900–1906)

The replacement vicar, Rev. Geldart, continued the tendency to have serious disagreements with the church school headmaster, this time involving the role of the church choir.

Mr Nash was appointed as headteacher and choir master at Crich by the vicar. His salary as Head of the Parochial School was £100 per year, with an extra £10 for being choir master. He was a gifted musician whose main task was to improve the church choir. The vicar was concerned that the all-female choir, which did not practice, was below standard.

Mr Nash set about his task with great enthusiasm, but in the process he upset the older members of the choir. Faced with upset from “locals” and his choir, the vicar chose not to support Mr Nash, and a fundraising event to help buy a piano for the school was used to attack him. This resulted in a heated exchange of letters between head and vicar, each accusing the other of underhand behaviour.

Of course, since these early days the ministry at Crich has been much more peaceful, and we have been fortunate to enjoy vicars who have worked closely with the community and received their support.

Sources:

“History of St Mary’s Church, Crich”,
A.B. Done

“Parish Life with a Troubled Vicar”,
Peter Patilla

Crich parish website:
www.crichparish.co.uk

Gardening in summer

By Judy Berry

Gardening in summer can be encompassed by four tips:

1. Weed
2. Feed
3. Deadhead
4. Don’t forget winter crops

Right, with that out of the way, in this article we are going to look at one specific plant, its origin, its history, uses and cultivation.

The camellia

The camellia is an ancient plant, with fossilised remains found in Japan, Bulgaria and the United States. They were cultivated in China for many centuries before they were seen in Europe; most Europeans would first have seen the ‘Japan Rose’* on pottery and wallpaper imported from China and Japan.

While we know camellias as large evergreen bushes bearing beautiful flowers, the main reason for their existence is the production of tea and oil. Camellia sinensis leaves are picked, dried and processed to make our daily cuppa. The seeds of camellia oleifera and camellia japonica are pressed to make tea seed oil, which is an extremely important cooking oil for hundreds of millions of people, particularly in southern China. In addition, the oil of camellia japonica seeds is used as a haircare product in Japan, and as an anti-inflammatory. The ornamental varieties are camellia japonica and camellia sasanqua, and it is their hybrids

that have given us the thousands of cultivars available today.

The first camellias in England were grown by James Gordon in 1739, a single red and a single white. He was head gardener at Thorndon Hall in Essex, and he went on to grow camellias commercially. As the tea trade increased members of the British East India Company brought other cultivars over to England, with twenty-five recorded as blooming in 1819. They went on to become the ‘in’ plant in society, until they were eclipsed by the popularity of hothouse orchids.

Sasanqua varieties bloom in the autumn and into winter, while japonica varieties bloom in late winter into the spring. They all need acidic soil, or ericaceous compost if in a pot. Their natural habitat is woodland so they prefer dappled shade with indirect sun, and they need to be sheltered from the worst of the wind. They like to be moist and should be well watered, especially in the summer; if their compost dries out in July/August/September they will not form flower buds. They can be fed with specialist ericaceous feed, but not after July, because again this can stop flower buds forming.

Happy gardening, and remember to sit, breathe and enjoy what you have created!

*Englebert Kaempfer, a German botanist, gave them this name in 1712.

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

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

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 community.

Community Groups and Clubs

CRICH WRITERS' GROUP

A small group of writers meeting informally
every few weeks at the Black Swan in Crich.

Upcoming dates:

Thursday 26 June

Thursday 24 July

Thursday 28 August

Email louise@lmaskill.com if you'd like more
information or to join the group

GARDENING CLUB

Venue: Comrades Club

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

CRICH RECORD CLUB

Third Tuesday of each month at 7.30pm

Venue: The Old Black Swan

Contact: Simon Philo:
simonjphilo@icloud.com

BEAVERS for 6–8 year olds

Mondays, 5.45–7.00pm (termtime)

Venue: Scout Hut, Jeffries Lane

Contact: Crichbeaverleader@gmail.com

CUBS for 8–10.5 year olds

Tuesdays, 6.30–8.00pm (termtime)

Venue: Scout Hut, Jeffries Lane

Contact: williamcaine@btinternet.com

SCOUTS for 10.5–14 year olds

Wednesdays, 7.00–8.30pm (termtime)

Venue: Crich Scout Hut

Contact: debbiecaine@btinternet.com

Community Groups and Clubs

TRANSITION CRICH

Meet on second Tuesday of the month
at 7.30pm

Venue: Crich 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 7.30pm.

Next date: 16 July

Venue: The Old Black Swan

Contact: transitioncrich@gmail.com

Energy & Waste Sub Group, meeting on the
last Wednesday of the month at 7.30pm.

Next dates: 25 June, 20 July, 27 August

Venue: Crich Comrades Club

Contact: Joe: joegeorgewalters@gmail.com
for more information

Share and Repair Cafés

Next date: Saturday 13 September at the
Glebe, 10.00am to 1.00pm

Wild Flower Walk

Get ready to immerse yourself in nature's
beauty! Join us on Sunday, June 29, 2025, at
11:00 am

Meeting point: Crich Market Place by the
bus shelter.

Community gardening and litter pick

Next dates: Saturday 7 June and 2 August,
10.00am to 12.00pm

Venue: Meet outside the Glebe

Contact: Janet: transitioncrich@gmail.com



Miscellaneous

WOMEN'S INSTITUTE

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

Crich Wesley Chapel

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

Weekly Quizzes

The Old Black Swan – Sundays, 7.00pm

Comrades Club – see the ad on page 54

Sports Diary

Cliff Inn Cricket Team
Contact: rogerbode64@gmail.com

Whatstandwell Social Club

Contact: whatstandwellsocialclub@googlemail.com

Fritchley Village Hall

REGULAR CALENDAR

Fritchley OAP Group – first Tuesday
afternoon of each month 2:00 to 4:00pm

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.

See page 5 for details of other events.

FRITCHLEY CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

Find out more:

<https://staging.fritchleyvillagehall.co.uk/congregational-church/>

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

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.

Cleaner, greener futures

By Clare Limb

The countryside charity CPRE, in collaboration with Transition Crich, hosted three workshops early in the spring engaging the local community in envisioning what renewable energy solutions in the landscape could look like. The community shared their insights on the local landscape, ideas for renewable energy generation, and aspirations for a cleaner, greener future.

Across all the workshops we recognised the value of our landscape and appreciated our easy access to countryside and nature, as well as our local history and the amenities available in the village. In our exploration of different renewable energy options, wind turbines and rooftop solar on community, farm and residential buildings seemed to be the most viable solutions with the most support. Residents would prefer any changes to the landscape to have minimal disruption to our access to it, and any infrastructure to be shielded by hedgerows, trees and terrain as far as possible.

CPRE is now putting together a report and vision for Crich, which will be presented to and shared with residents. From there, Transition Crich will continue working with the community to explore ways to bring this vision to fruition.

We are also busy planning our stall for the fête, and look forward to having conversations with you about how we can make our community greener and more sustainable.

www.transitionccrich.co.uk

@transitioncrich

Neighbourhood Creative Agent update

By Clare Limb

We've had a number of projects running over the last few months on the theme of Make, Do and Mend, including Crich's first-ever fashion show and an intergenerational project involving Crich Juniors and the Luncheon Club.

Coming up, we have a photography competition to celebrate the natural wonders of the Crich area, with three subject categories for four age groups. The categories are plants, animals, people, and places; the competition is a must for all budding photographers! Entries close on Saturday 31 May, with winners announced on Thursday 19 June. A selection of entries will be exhibited at different locations around the village throughout the summer, including in St Mary's Church on Saturday 5 and Sunday 6 July as part of the Crich Parish Well Dressings celebration.

Crich Area Patient Group (CAPG)

The Patient Group attached to Crich Medical Practice has existed for over two decades. In recent months it's had a "refresh", with a new committee, thoughtful discussions about what we do and don't do, and a new statement of aims and purposes. It's been really interesting to see just how far the Practice reaches in terms of the territory it serves, and we will soon have a definitive map of its footprint – a footprint full of patients.

We've recently changed our name to reflect that footprint – and to remind ourselves, as well as everyone else, that together with the Practice we serve a much wider area than only Crich. The Practice catchment includes Fritchley, Shirland, Lower Hartshay, Lea, Wessington, Holloway and South Wingfield, with the last two having valued Satellite Surgeries. It also includes a large slice of Ambergate, and parts of Bullbridge and Sawmills.

The CAPG doesn't normally deal with complaints; the Practice has its own mechanism for those, and if you need to express dissatisfaction the receptionists remain your first point of contact. What we can do, however, is channel general issues in the direction of the professionals as we pick them up from those who contact us. We also help with large projects wherever it's practical for us to do so.

One example of a large project was the two October Saturdays in 2024, when we helped to usher and inform patients coming in large numbers for Covid-19 and flu vaccinations. People seemed to

appreciate this, and the doctors and other staff were incredibly grateful.

Another thing we've done over the years is patient surveys. A queue for vaccination or other appointments can be a good opportunity to catch people in the waiting room with a fairly straightforward set of questions asking for quality judgements. These surveys have to be short, but they are incredibly valuable in highlighting the good, the less good and the "far too difficult to do" from patients' points of view.

Lastly – we would love to see you!
Our regular meetings are usually held at the Practice early on a weekday evening, and it would be good to have more representation from Fritchley, Wessington and among people under 30.

To get in touch with us you can contact the CAPG by emailing ppgcrich@gmail.com, use the form on the "Patient Group" page of the Practice website, www.crichmedicalpractice.co.uk, or you can follow or message us via our Facebook page.

Fritchley Community Association News

By Elaine Glenwright

2025 may have begun cold and wet, but our French Café event in the Village Hall certainly warmed things up; we counted over 80 visitors, including our local MP, Linsey Farnsworth. It was great fun and so nice to see you all entering into the spirit of the day – thank you for bringing the village hall to life! With the kind help of volunteers, I think we may have another regular slot to add to Fritchley’s calendar of events. Will it be an Italian, Spanish or other country’s flag flying next February? Perhaps we should do a straw poll on our Facebook page.

The Fritchley Village Show returns on Saturday 23 August, promising a vibrant celebration of local talent and creativity. We warmly invite everyone to participate by entering their homegrown produce, stunning floral arrangements, delicious baked goods and handcrafted creations. Whether you’re a seasoned gardener, an enthusiastic baker or a crafting enthusiast, there’s a category for everyone to showcase their skills. Join us for a day of community spirit, friendly competition and the chance to display your hard work. Help make this year’s event our most successful yet by sharing your passion with your near (and far) neighbours!

A new event in the hall this year will be **an evening with an author on Friday 16 May**. Fritchley’s own Book Club invites you all to join us from 7.30 to 9.00pm for an informal talk by Neil (writing as Dawood Ali) McCallum. Tickets cost £4 and include a welcome glass of wine and cake. Neil has had a fascinating life, and has had five novels published so far. His website is www.dawoodalimccallum.com. **Tickets are available from Elaine (tel: 07974510067) or contact us on our Facebook page.**

We need your support! We are asking you to join our community association to help build Fritchley’s future. We need your ideas and energy to create a stronger, more sustainable village while supporting the preservation of our historic village hall and church. If you’d like to help, we look forward to seeing you soon.

‘New’ trams at Crich Tramway

By Bob Pennyfather

Following temporary closure of tramway operation and changes in management arrangements at the Wirral Tramway in Birkenhead, three of their heritage trams have been relocated to Crich.

It is planned that these trams will be used in passenger service at Crich, but as is standard practice, they require a detailed examination. Unfortunately, however, this will have to wait a while because the commissioning work on our existing fleet, which we undertake at the start of each season, is rather more involved than normal.

The Tramway at Crich is an educational charity and houses the national collection

of tramcars, as well as extensive archives of documentation and photographs. As such, we have an interest, and also a duty, to care for trams if they fill a gap in our ability to showcase the development of British trams. While two of the three ‘new’ trams have their own interest, the Wallasey 78 has the only surviving example of a Bellamy roof, halfway between a balcony tram and a fully enclosed tram, which gives it a distinctive appearance.

Storage space was already stretched and these additions pushes capacity further. We are now seeking to raise funds to erect a new depot which would allow us to transfer trams and equipment currently stored at Clay Cross, as well as easing the pressure on our existing buildings.



Our Scouting family

By Duncan Ganthony

In one of the previous Standard articles I mentioned the wide family of people that come together to ensure we can have Scouting in Crich. Looking back over our activities so far this year, I think it's important to recognise some of the people who enable these things to take place.

We started the year in January with our annual Chilly Challenge. The weekend was organised by Paul Elliott, the lead volunteer for the Dove and Derwent District who is also standing in as our lead volunteer for the Crich group. (If you want to learn about what being a lead volunteer entails, please contact us.)

In March we camped again, this time in St Mary's churchyard – a first for all of us, I think! Thank you to Rev Jo and St Mary's Church for letting us use the church. This was part of the Great Tommy Sleepout, raising money for the Royal British Legion to support homeless veterans. We raised £1,140; thank you to all who contributed.

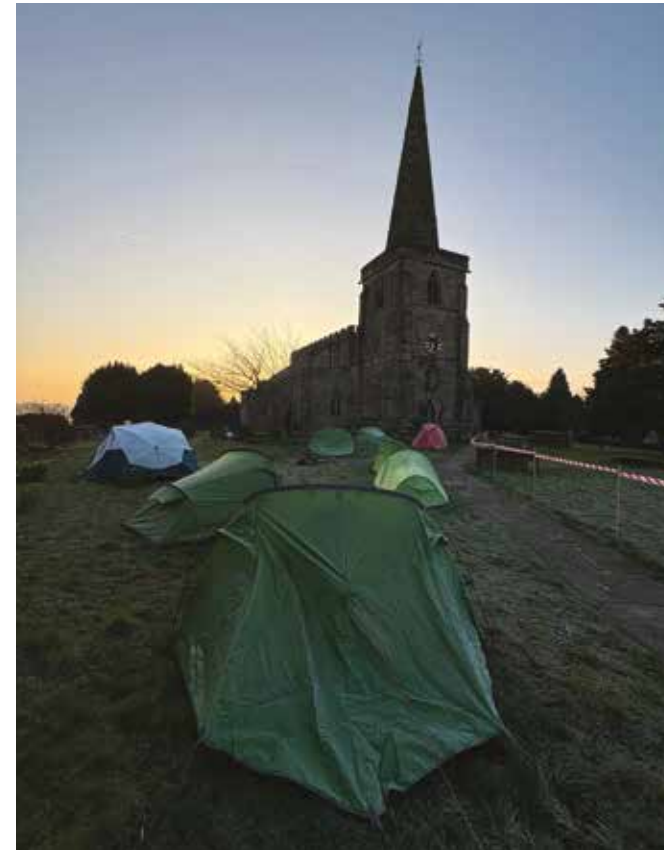
We have also made great progress with replacing the Scout Hut ceiling. Paul Moorhouse, dad to a Scout and a Cub, has been leading this task. Paul helped his own dad with the same task when he was a Scout, so there is a real history of family support for the group. When

the old ceiling was taken down the state of the joists was worse than expected, so additional repairs had to be completed. After two long days the hut was back in a usable condition; thanks to Chris Orton, Nick Coward, Mark (Nick's brother-in-law), Harvey Lancashire, Dawn and Paul Hubbard, and Nigel and Bill, our Cub and Scout leaders. Hopefully the repairs will last us for many years to come.

The Beavers learnt how to fix a puncture, and then went on a colony bike ride from Middleton Top to Hopton railway cottages. This allowed the Beavers to earn their Cyclist badge, and was only possible because parents came along and joined in.

One of our Cub leaders, Morgan, is leaving us. Morgan started as a Beaver and has stayed with us to become a leader. Morgan is moving away, but will continue to support other Scout groups. Thank you, Morgan, for your support to Crich Scouts over the years.

We are planning a Cub and Scout camp to Walesby over Whitsun bank holiday weekend. The Cubs and Scouts will be able to take part in a range of different activities, with the biggest difficulty being choosing between everything on offer. We will need some parents to support us over this weekend as well.



Get involved

If you have a child who would like to join Scouting, there are spaces in all our groups:

Beavers: Mondays, 5.45–7.00pm

Cubs: Tuesdays 6.30–8.00pm

Scouts: Wednesdays, 7.00–8.30pm

We would also like to encourage adults who could 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

Whatstandwell Festival time

By Stuart Hastings

It's getting to that time of year again! The Whatstandwell Beer and Music Festival is scheduled to take place on Friday 27 and Saturday 28 June, over at Hankin Farm on the opposite side of the valley to the main village of Whatstandwell. The festival has been held every year since 2005 (apart from a brief hiatus due to Covid), so you could say we have been going twenty years! The event is run by Whatstandwell Social Club with help from its many friends and volunteers, and the fact that it's still going strong is testament to the amazing community spirit in the area.

Ever since last year's festival the committee has been working away in the background to try and make this year's event the best yet. Each year we try to include a mix of music genres to suit all tastes, including rock, pop, folk, electro and more! We are pleased to debut this year's line-up here - see p24!

You will probably be aware of how many fantastic artists we have in the village, but you may not know that we also have some incredibly talented musicians. SunShadow, one of the rock bands that will be performing this year, was formed by members from the village itself. In a bit of a coup, we have also secured White Town to play a set on the Saturday. You may recall their hit song 'Your Woman', which reached number 1 in the UK singles chart in 1997.

As always we will have our Walter Stonewell bar, where beers are typically selected to offer different choices year on year, and efforts are made to source from local and regional breweries where possible. There are always a few from further afield, though, where particularly good brews have been identified during our extensive field work! Of course, there are also other drinks available including ciders, wines, a Whatstandwell Festival house cocktail, and soft drinks.

There is always a good selection of food options; we pride ourselves on ensuring no one goes hungry! This year there will be homemade pizzas, burgers, curries, ice creams, teas, coffees and of course cooked breakfasts in the morning to help soak up those hangovers.

As well as all the musical entertainment, we continue to offer a wide range of family activities throughout the weekend.

For more updates, and of course to be the first to know when tickets go on sale, please visit our website, Facebook and Instagram pages. We hope to see you there!

www.whatstandwell.org

 **Whatstandwell Social Club**

 **@whatstandwellsocialclub**

Crich Juniors

This term we've taken a thrilling dive into the incredible world of Ancient Egypt, and what a journey it has been!

One of the absolute highlights was our hilarious attempt at mummifying oranges and sausages - yes, that's right, who knew our lunch could go through such an epic transformation? It's safe to say we now have a whole new appreciation for mummies!

We've been getting all musical by singing Egyptian songs in assemblies and choir, and we have made our own cartouches. We created stunning designs with hieroglyphics on our own handmade papyrus - and let's not forget our art project! We transformed ourselves into Egyptian royalty, complete with fancy clothes and fabulous headwear. It has been such a fun way to learn about this fascinating civilisation!

Recently our Year 5 and 6 class had a lovely morning out at the Crich Glebe Community Centre. We teamed up with the lovely members of the Luncheon Club to get our creative juices flowing. The aim? To create fabulous art pieces using the principles of reduce, reuse and recycle. It was amazing to see students chatting with the Luncheon Club members, sharing stories and ideas as they made flowers from recycled book pages, wires and buttons. Everyone brought their unique style to the table, and it was inspiring to see such teamwork! We learned about using materials that we often take for



granted. It was a great reminder that art can connect people of all ages! The other classes are going to join in on similar projects next term. We can't wait for more fun and creativity ahead.

What an amazing day we had for World Book Day! The children arrived dressed as their favourite characters adorned in fantastic costumes! Our wonderful teachers didn't miss out either, showcasing their own creative outfits. And we can't forget Comic Relief, which was celebrating 40 years of fundraising. We decided to choose a fabulous 1980s theme. The bright colours and funky outfits really brought back the spirit of the decade. Well done to all who joined in.



Fritchley School update

Does Fritchley need a shop? The children of Fritchley Primary and Nursery School investigate.

We began the year by exploring where Fritchley is in the world. We learned about continents, countries and counties. We then began to explore closer to school. We went on a walk through the village to investigate how much old buildings have changed. We were surprised to learn

that at one time Fritchley had a number of businesses including Davidson's shop, the Shoulder of Mutton pub and the Post Office. This made us wonder if Fritchley would benefit from a shop now...

Everyone in our class thought yes (mainly because we wanted to buy sweets after school!), but we knew we needed to gather the opinions of our school community and neighbours. We created a survey which we shared with parents and local residents. We were delighted to receive 93 responses; 77% said they thought Fritchley would benefit from having a shop, 10% said they didn't, and 13% were unsure. Many respondents were



77% said they thought Fritchley would benefit from having a shop

worried about the lack of parking and the impact this would have.

On our final walk we looked at different plots where a shop could possibly be located. We thought very deeply about this. There were many tricky problems, such as parking, access, noise pollution, uneven land, and whether it was a brown or green field site.

So, while we would love a village shop, our geographer's mind has led us to the conclusion that there simply isn't a good place to put one.



Crich Carr C of E Primary School update

We're very excited that our nursery provision is continuing to grow. We've had a few new members join our community, but we still have some places left.

Nursery children at Crich Carr C of E Primary School get to experience a wide variety of activities. We have an excellent outdoor area for them to explore,

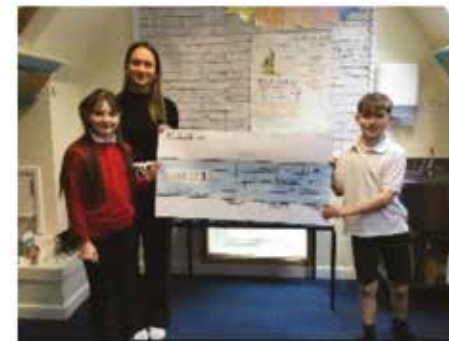
amazing resources for them to enjoy indoors, and our staff go above and beyond to ensure their time at nursery is thoroughly enjoyed.

Meanwhile, Class 1 have been very busy with their topic 'How Do We Build A Community?' They have visited Crich on foot, Matlock by train and on foot, and Derby by train to learn about different communities and what makes a village, town and city different from each other. The children enjoyed their walking, clocking up 15,000 steps on each day!



Class 2 have also been extremely busy this term. They enjoyed a fantastic trip to the Heights of Abraham where they were able to explore the caves, learn about what it was like to work down the mines, and visit the playpark; this was a definite highlight for all!

It didn't stop there for Class 2. They have undertaken some charity work to raise money for those less fortunate than themselves. A student teacher here at



Crich Carr, Miss Pierrepont, has been out to work at Cherish School, Nakuru, Kenya. Our year 3, 4, 5 and 6 children, together with Mrs Pawlitta, decided to do something kind and thoughtful and raise funds for the Kenyan school children. They walked from the Stone Centre at Middleton all the way back to school – 4.5 miles! – and **raised a grand total of £1,010**, which will be spent on stationery, clothing and shoes.



Does Crich need a Community Association?

Community is a nice word, a catchall for those living within some kind of boundary – a commune, a village, a Parish or something similar. But perhaps our frequent use of the word ‘community’ misses the chance to fully recognise all the differences that are present within these groups of people.

Similarities are straightforward. According to our ages, interests, demographic groupings and so on, we tend to find we ‘belong’ within particular parts of any broader community – but this risks limiting our interactions to others within the same groups, rather than engaging more widely to create a collective message.

This is something we are very conscious of at Crich Standard. The magazine is delivered to 1,900 households, but how many are truly interested in the contents? How many read it at all? We try hard to be inclusive, but we know there is no way we can really appeal to everyone.

It is very clear from discussions with many residents that the same is true of our community groups, because there will always be different opinions and priorities. People will always ask: What does <insert name of organisation or group> actually do, and how do they speak for me?

This is fine if there is another voice, an alternative forum for those that want it. But are we, as a community, missing chances to do things differently in addition

to the things that are already happening? Are we failing to take advantage of how a collective voice could be so much more effective than individuals speaking alone? And does the community work together as often as it should?

A recent example is the support from a number of volunteers that enabled the Parish Council to arrange for the lighting of the Beacon below Crich Memorial in celebration and commemoration of the VE Day 80th anniversary. This is a crucial and extremely meaningful event for many, but it was very nearly cancelled before people came forward to support the Council and fill the gaps in their resources that would have prevented it from taking place.

There are regular topics raised in shops, pubs and social events:

- Why can't Crich have some of the traffic-calming measures that we see in other villages? What are the criteria, and why don't we meet them?
- Why do we talk about improving the Market Place, but never take any steps forward?
- Why does there seem to be no plan for EV charging points?
- VE Day was celebrated in Crich by different groups with one-off events and sometimes late announcements. Could this have been a more collective effort, so that more people could have been involved?

A Community Association could arrange events that people want, become a forceful lobby group with relevant authorities, and be more powerful than any individual. It *could* research and identify how, among other things, EV charging points could be installed. Put simply, a Community Association could be proactive for the greater good of the broadest possible section of the community.

The missing link, of course, is the collective will to make it happen. If we truly are a community with an interest in being effective and joined up, do we owe it to ourselves and each other to take our lead from Fritchley and Whatstandwell and form a broad-based community-led group like those in our neighbouring villages?

Does Crich need a Community Association?

Interested?

Email editor@crichstandard.org

Tony

Tony Mills, Chair

We have a vibrant community; go to the Community Diary on pages 22–25 for local events and activities

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