

Crich Standard

CRICH | FRITCHLEY | WHATSTANDWELL | BULLBRIDGE

Issue 116 Winter 2025



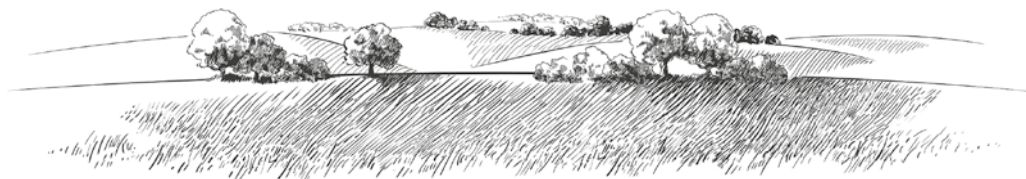
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A Community Magazine for the Parish

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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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.

Ad sizes:

1/4 page (H92mm x W60mm)

Single issue £26 2 issues £42

3 issues £58 Full year (4 issues) £72

1/3 page (H60mm x W122mm)

Single issue £32 2 issues £53

3 issues £74 Full year (4 issues) £99

1/2 page (H92mm x W122mm)

Single issue £42 2 issues £79

3 issues £116 Full year (4 issues) £142

Full Page (H210mm x W148mm)

Single issue £63 2 issues £116

3 issues £168 Full year (4 issues) £225

Back Page (H210mm x W148mm)

£Negotiable

Design Prices: 1/4 & 1/3 page £37

1/2 page £53 Full page £95

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

Please send enquiries to:

advertising@crichstandard.org

Your local history group

Crich Heritage Society, which meets at the Crich Glebe Community Centre on the last Thursday of the month, begins its new 2026 programme of talks on Thursday 29 January.

The talks will cover a wide range of subjects related to the histories of Crich, Ambergate, Belper, Wingfield Station and the River Derwent, with wider topics covering the English Civil War, Lead Mining, Stanton Iron Works and Bess of Hardwick.

We also head out as a group in July to visit a local heritage site; in 2025 our visit to Cromford Mills was a resounding success.

In 2025, entry to the talks was £3 a head and a yearly membership of the society was £15. If you are interested in joining, please contact us on our Crich Heritage Facebook page or on our webpage, www.crichheritage.org. Alternatively, simply come along to one of our Thursday talks.

New bus operator taking over Crich routes

Since Monday 6 October the bus routes through Crich have been operated by High Peak Buses, trading as Hulleys by High Peak. This followed a round of tendering by Derbyshire County Council.

The routes are the 140, 141, 142/142A, 143/143A and 319. It is understood that timetables will remain the same, with perhaps a minute or two difference in some cases.

John Young, Commercial Director of Stagecoach Yorkshire, said: "We are very sorry to be passing on the Crich network, especially after our teams have put so much hard work into restoring reliability so that customers could truly rely on them. We will miss our regular customers, who have clearly enjoyed travelling on our services. We have had many positive comments about our drivers and the improved service offered. However, our job is not done yet, and we will pass the routes over in the best possible condition."

For timetables and maps of the new routes, visit www.highpeakbuses.com/hulleys/

Crich village fête

This year's fête came and went – and what an event it was. It was really well attended, aided and abetted by fantastic weather, and there was music and dancing and bouncing and puppets and cake and ice cream and beer and burgers and getting wet (for some) and a whole lot more besides.

Thank you, people of Crich and surrounding areas, for your unwavering support. We really do appreciate it.

Planning for the 2026 fête is already well advanced. Stand by for many of the favourite entertainments, and no doubt a few new ones as well. The date for your diaries is Saturday 11 July 2026.

As we write this we are preparing for the village bonfire and fireworks – and as you read this it will (hopefully) have been another success.



Photo by Geoff Brown

For more information on our events, see our Facebook page (via QR code) or email crichfete@gmail.com



Business is booming, I mean grooming!

By Essie Prosser

September saw the opening of yet another independent family business in our little village. As the Post Office moved into Budgens, Gary and Karen Woodward, long-time occupants of the building housing the old Post Office, decided the time had come for Gary to become his own boss.

With the help of Gary's eldest son Oliver, of J & O Bespoke Joinery, the old Post Office premises underwent a rapid transformation into a modern, chic barber's salon which was christened the Mail Room Barbers with a nod to its historical use.

Dark moss walls with rich wood panelling and the latest tonsorial (look it up!) accoutrements were installed at break-neck speed, along with a new frontage bearing a specially designed logo.



Elaine Uphill, Gary's step-daughter and owner of Alma Hair and Beauty in Matlock, helped with the name and design, and to make it even more of a family affair, Gary's younger son Elliott will be demonstrating his inherited hair-cutting skills and working alongside Gary in the shop.

Gary has been in hairdressing for forty years and was previously based in Wirksworth. He is looking forward to welcoming new and old customers, and at time of going to press he was pleased to report that business was brisk.

We wish Gary and his family much success in their new venture!



Prospective customers can just drop in, or contact Gary on 07701 060747.

Opening times are:

Monday: 8:30am – 6:00pm

Tuesday: Closed

Wednesday to Friday: 8:30am – 6:00pm

Saturday: 8:00am – 3:00pm

Crich resident completes 300-mile charity walk for cancer support

By Karen Davies



Crich resident Sue Long has recently completed an extraordinary solo trek along the Macmillan Way, walking from Boston in Lincolnshire to Abbotsbury in Dorset, a journey of over 300 miles in just 18 days, to raise money for Breast Cancer Now and Macmillan Cancer Support.

Setting off in September Sue carried all her gear from place to place, following the historic footpath through fields, villages and hills before finally reaching Chesil Beach on Monday 6 October.

The walk, officially 290 miles but stretching to over 300 with detours to accommodation, was both a physical and a personal challenge. Diagnosed with breast cancer in 2019, Sue took on the journey as a way to give back to the organisations that supported her.

"I have been overwhelmed by the response to my fundraising," she said. "So far the total stands at over £3,600 with some still coming in! I'm so grateful for every donation and for the messages of encouragement along the way, especially from friends and neighbours in Crich. I couldn't have done it without that support."

Congratulations to Sue on this remarkable achievement – a true inspiration, and testament to determination, courage, and community spirit.

Donations can still be made via Sue's JustGiving page: [tinyurl.com/2e5v2vdc](https://www.justgiving.com/2e5v2vdc)

Help and advice requested by St Mary's Church

By Jo Honour

Our beautiful church building, which has served the village for so many centuries, is very special and needs a lot of care and attention. We are hoping, particularly in the light of the recent departure of Andrew Penson, that we can create a list of residents happy to be consulted when we need advice. Church attendance is not compulsory!

If you are a DIY expert or have skills in engineering, utilities or other building-related areas and would be willing to offer advice and/or practical support when we need it, please send your name, email and phone details to office@crichstmarys.org. Thank you!

Two new hairdressers at the Glebe!

The Glebe's new mother/daughter hairdressing team, Audra and Jodie, bring a wealth of experience in the hair industry. Their aim is to deliver a quality service in a professional and welcoming environment, offering monthly trims, colour corrections, perm services and more!

For more information and to book, please call Audra (07925 378 295) or Jodie (07508 495 690).

Crich Cinema Club

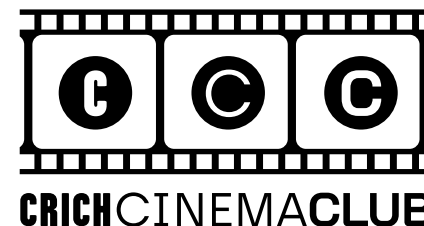
Our second season of Cinema Club got off to a great start, and we've loved welcoming lots of you to our first few films – *The Pilgrimage of Harold Fry*, *True Grit* and *Oppenheimer*.

Don't miss our December films:

Friday 12 December
The Holdovers
Screening at 7.00pm
Cinema Café open from 6.00pm

Saturday 13 December
The Grinch
A special family screening at 3.30pm,
Cinema Café open from 2.30pm

Don't forget our Cinema Café is now fully licensed!



Life at The Cliff Inn through Lilli's eyes

By Lilli Cartledge

For those who don't know me, I'm Lilli. You've probably seen me around Crich at some point – I'm the one with gingery hair, usually in odd sunglasses, now more often than not behind the bar at The Cliff Inn at the top of the village.

On Monday 14 July my parents, Joe and Amy, became landlord and landlady of The Cliff Inn. For me it feels like a full-circle moment – I grew up here when my grandparents Tracy and Liggy ran the pub, and now aged 17 I've left Sixth Form behind to do an apprenticeship here. School never really suited me, but a pub does.

We've been giving the place a good spruce-up – not ripping out its character, just nudging it in our direction. It's an ongoing project; a pub's never really "finished", is it? You'll notice little changes as time goes on...

I run the pub's social media (Instagram: @thecliffinncrich and Facebook: The Cliff Inn, Crich) which people have been surprisingly kind about. I'm extremely grateful; the encouragement from locals has made me feel more at home than most things ever have.

Behind the bar, I'm learning it's not just about pulling a pint. Knowing what's going on in the cellar, tapping barrels, keeping the ales right – that's the proper graft. It's made me realise how much goes into "getting it right" in hospitality: good beer, warm food, a tidy pub, but most importantly, people feeling welcome. Of course there are pressures – costs, competition, long hours – but if you can get the basics right, people will always come back.

Coming back into the Crich community as a young person is its own experience. The good bit is that people remember me from when I was little, so there's a sense of being rooted here – the pub feels like an extension of the village. The challenge is proving myself, showing that I'm serious about the work and not just "helping out". I'm trying my best, and people have been supportive of that.

Tradition carries on too: "Raffles presented by the legendary Teach" every Friday, "Pub Quiz Night" on the first Thursday of every month, and Sunday dinners that pull a crowd. (We have a bit of a following for this!) At 7.00pm on Saturday 6 December Chester will be here with an acoustic set, with more events to follow.

So that's life at The Cliff: still the same pub at heart, just with our family having a go at steering it. Come see what all the fuss is about!



Photos by Lilli Cartledge

Crich Parish Council update

Just like every household, the Parish Council has to manage its money, planning what we're going to spend and at the same time making sure we have some put aside for the unexpected. This year we are hoping to get on with refurbishing the public toilets in Crich – something we planned and put aside the money for – and deal with some unsafe headstones in the Burial Ground, which we did not expect.

If you have used them, you'll know that the condition of the public toilets could be better. We had hoped to have this done by now, but before we could start we had to carry out a survey to make sure there was no asbestos (there wasn't). We are now in the process of agreeing the terms of a lease from Amber Valley Borough Council which will give us more security than the licence we have now. When this is in place, we will arrange to have the work done as soon as possible.

The unexpected costs came about as the result of a new requirement for any authority owning a public burial ground to check and, if required, make safe any headstones that were starting to come loose. This is an obvious safety issue – a falling headstone could cause serious injury – so we had to check each one and, where necessary, make them safe.

Although the relatives are responsible for repairs, the records for some of the older graves don't have contact details. We have tried to find relatives, but if we can't trace anyone the Parish Council is responsible for the repair.

The Parish Council's aim is to make Crich a safe and pleasant place to live, and these are two issues that we hope will contribute to that – not spectacular perhaps, but important to many of us across the Parish.

Crich Youth Club has asked for a basketball hoop on the Recreation Ground—and we're exploring options. We would also love to hear your ideas on what would make the space better for play, relaxation, and the community.

Scan the QR code to take our quick survey and help shape the future of Crich Rec!



Laughter, friendship and perfecting harmonies

Crich Brass is dwindling. The number of players is diminishing, and the band is looking for new recruits regardless of musical ability – or lack of it! The bandroom's doors are wide open, inviting anyone to take part in this living tradition, whether to rekindle an old skill or develop a new one. Community support remains the backbone of Crich Brass, and each rehearsal is as much about laughter and friendship as it is about perfecting harmonies.

Crich Brass was formed in 2001, the brainchild of Derek Swindell, a Crich resident and brass band stalwart. As band chairman Derek has been a constant with Crich Brass, recruiting and teaching players of all ages and abilities. With Derek's guidance and brass banding expertise Crich Brass gradually grew from its early days of just four players to up to twenty regular players plus a training band. However, over recent years the band has seen a decline in playing members, and sadly at the start of this year Derek also retired from playing.

Over the years Crich Brass has become woven into the social fabric of local life, with their music providing the soundtrack for village celebrations, remembrance



ceremonies and summer fêtes. Crich has a history of brass bands going back to 1885, and we feel it's really important that this tradition continues. Whether you're a seasoned player looking for a friendly ensemble or someone eager to rekindle an old passion, there's a warm welcome waiting for you at Crich Brass.

Rehearsals are led by our Music Director James Findlay and are relaxed and encouraging, with plenty of opportunities to learn, laugh and make new friends. Joining the band isn't just about music; it's about sharing a living tradition and helping to carry its bright notes into the future. James first learnt to play with Crich Brass training band, and after playing with other brass bands and strengthening his musical knowledge he has now returned as conductor – the pupil has become the master!

Age is no barrier to learning a brass instrument. Whether you're an OAP with a few spare hours, a young child with a keen interest in music or someone in search of a new hobby with a curiosity to try their hand at a cornet, trombone or tuba for the very first time, Crich Brass is the group for you. An instrument can be provided and tuition given if required, all free of charge. The band rehearses on Tuesday nights between 7.00pm and 9.00pm in the Fritchley Congregational Chapel Hall.

**For further information contact either
Neil Wetton (07754 585215) or
Charlotte Richardson (07796 801001)**



What is creativity?

By Sandra Maycock

In Spring 2025 I accepted an invitation to become a Community Creative Agent. After initial meetings with Make/Shift and Platform Thirty1, my proposal to bring Fritchley together was successful, and I was allocated funding to get a project going through the mentioned organisations as well as Creative People and Places, and Lottery funding supported by Arts Council England.

My role is to facilitate and encourage people in the community to come together and realise a project. It doesn't have to be a 'one aspect' project; it could be one that has a thread running through it and 'avenues' leading off it. My project title, Creativity Community Together, perhaps led some Fritchley people to think they couldn't be involved because they couldn't make anything. However, it was decided a banner would be made on the theme of the people, animals and plants we see around the village. To enter the banner in the village show we had to use recycled materials, but these could be used in any way people wanted to. One lady cut out animal shapes, drew on features and glued them onto backing fabric; others cut out relevant shapes and sewed them.

This led me to a question: what is creativity? It could be anything, from research, writing, poetry, drama, music, history, geography, science with a twist, photography, art (you don't need to be a good drawer/painter), beading, simple weaving, a traditional craft or whatever you want.

To date, a few people have expressed an interest in wreath-making as well

as looking at Fritchley in the past and present – which in my mind could lead to all kinds of creative avenues. Starting with wreaths, we have been busy collecting willow and other materials. The wreaths will be used to enhance the village through the autumn and winter months. Members of the community have also started talking to people who grew up in the village, photographs are being collected, and we will be holding regular meetings, talks and exhibitions.

If you are interested in taking part in creative activities in our inclusive village, you are welcome to come along to add your ideas, or maybe even lead parts of a project. Please contact sandra.maycock@outlook.com



haunted Crich

By Claire Ganthony

We asked Crich Standard's Facebook followers to share their local tales of the unexpected for a "spooky special" article this edition, and they didn't disappoint!

Crich Tramway Village seems to be something of a magnet for the spirit world, with many sightings of resident wraiths; staff and visitors alike have reported a Victorian lady in a long dress and bonnet crossing the cobbled street of an evening, children's laughter heard and shadowy figures running between trams before disappearing. **Candi Bell** of Crich Tramway Village shared one sad story of a museum spectre.

"Many of the buildings at Crich Tramway had a past life in different locations before they were brought to the museum. The Red Lion Pub is no exception, but this acquisition brought more than just a building; the old public house came from its original home in Trent Vale in Stoke along with its own resident ghost.

"The tragic story of eleven-year-old Arthur Chesworth, errand boy to a draper in Stoke, began one Wednesday afternoon

in 1882 when he was sent with a message to Hanford. It is thought he must have got a bit lost on the way, because he didn't get there until 7.00pm. On his way back home he came through Trent Vale and asked a woman which was the quickest way home. She took pity on him and gave him 2d for a tram fare, and told him to hurry up and catch the steam tram that was waiting outside the Red Lion Pub.

"Unfortunately the tram set off before Arthur could reach it. Wanting to get home as quickly as he could, Arthur grabbed hold of the tram door handle, but he lost his grip as the tram sped up and he fell under the wheels. The conductor rang the bell to stop the tram when he heard Arthur's scream, and the poor young man was carried into the upstairs room of the Red Lion. Medical attention was sought but it was too late; sadly, Arthur died. He still had in his pocket the two pennies that the kind lady had given him for his tram fare.



Photo by Geoff Brown



Photo by Candi Bell

"His body was laid out at the pub and kept there till after the inquest, which was held in the room where the young man had breathed his last.

"Staff working at Crich Tramway have reported occasional brief sightings of a young boy in old-fashioned clothing in the downstairs areas of the pub, but more commonly have reported things being moved from one place to another, particularly overnight – almost as if he's having a game with us, said one member of staff. Staff have also reported overwhelming feelings of sadness in the upstairs rooms which, although they have been rebuilt, correspond to the area in the building where Arthur died."

One Crich resident shared her experiences in a house on The Common, which dates back to the sixteenth century. On several occasions when she was living there she heard what sounded like a child jumping down the stairs from an upper bedroom

and running across the landing. She initially thought it was her own daughter, but when she went to check on the child she found her asleep in her cot. Guests who stayed in the house also reported the same sounds, and were convinced the house was haunted. The presence felt benign, though; one person who experienced it described it as "a guardian angel".

Another former Crich resident shared her less pleasant experiences when she lived in a house on Bulling Lane. Cupboard doors would mysteriously open, and items left in one room would appear in another room as she walked into it. These events left her feeling confused and unnerved.



Steps at Chadwick Nick by Stephen Woolley



Photo by Geoff Brown

There are also tales of unsettling experiences in the woods at the end of Top Hagg, with one Bullbridge resident describing his hair standing on end when a cold feeling came over him and he sensed a presence. He later discovered a sad tale connected to the area. In the late 1940s the body of a twenty-five-year old bricklayer, Alfred Bowler, was found hanging from a tree. The body of sixteen-year-old Gloria Brown was uncovered in the bracken nearby, with a rope around her neck. They were reported to have been a couple for some time, and an investigation concluded that Bowler had strangled his girlfriend before hanging himself.

A little further afield in South Wingfield, the Old Yew Tree Inn has a reputation for ghostly goings on. The pub featured on the television show *Most Haunted*, which investigated eerie voices, mysteriously smashed glasses, strange apparitions and spooky sounds. Reported sightings around the inn include a group of monks accompanied by a feeling of bitter cold, and a wandering cattle drover known as the Grey Lady.

Do you have your own ghostly Crich tale to tell, or do any of those shared here resonate with your own experiences? We'd love to hear from you. Get in touch at editor@crichstandard.org

Crich night sky: winter

By Tom Scutt

With its long, crisp nights winter offers some of the clearest and most spectacular stargazing of the year. It might be cold enough to see your breath, but the rewards for venturing outside after dark are worth it – dazzling constellations, bright planets, and even the occasional shooting star.

One of the most recognisable constellations in the entire sky makes its appearance at this time of year: **Orion** (the Hunter). Even if you're new to astronomy you'll probably recognise his 'belt' – three bright stars in a short, straight line. Once you've spotted the belt, look above it and left for **Betelgeuse**, a red supergiant that marks Orion's shoulder, and below it and right for **Rigel**, a bright blue-white star representing his foot.

Through binoculars or even the naked eye, look just below Orion's belt for a faint, misty patch. This is the **Orion Nebula**, a vast cloud of gas and dust where new stars are being born – one of the most spectacular sights in the winter sky.

If you draw an imaginary line through Orion's belt and continue it to the right, it leads you to the bright orange star **Aldebaran** in the constellation of **Taurus** (the Bull). Nearby, a small, glittering cluster of stars called the **Pleiades** (or 'Seven Sisters') is visible to the naked eye, and quite beautiful through binoculars. Although it looks like a tiny dipper-shaped group of stars, it's actually a cluster around 440 light-years away – still one of our nearer cosmic neighbours!

Now go back to Orion's belt and extend your imaginary line to the left, towards the horizon. It will lead you to **Sirius**, the

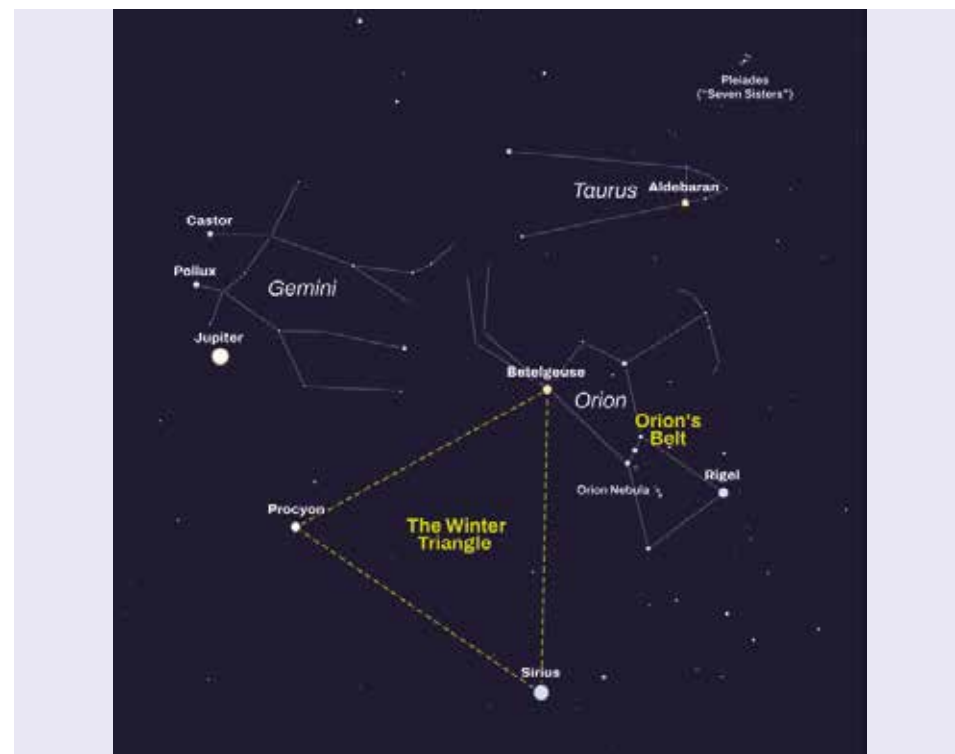
brightest actual star in the night sky, part of the constellation **Canis Major** (the Great Dog). **Sirius**, **Betelgeuse** and **Procyon** – the brightest star in **Canis Minor** (the Lesser Dog) – together form an asterism called the **Winter Triangle**.

Going back to Orion, if you draw another imaginary line from Rigel through Betelgeuse and twice as far again, you'll find **Gemini** (the Twins), marked by the equally bright stars **Castor** and **Pollux**. Below them the planet **Jupiter** will be shining brightly in the evening sky – easily spotted as an un-twinkling, cream-coloured 'star'. With a steady hand and a pair of binoculars you might even see some of its moons lined up beside it.

Jupiter has 97 moons at the last count, but the four biggest – Io, Europa, Ganymede and Callisto – are easy to spot with binoculars or a small telescope (though at any particular time one or two of them may be hiding in front of or behind Jupiter itself).

Cold nights may not be everyone's idea of fun, but winter really does offer some of the year's most rewarding starwatching. So make a flask of something hot, bundle up, and take a few minutes to step outside. There's something magical about greeting the hunter Orion – the signpost to the winter sky.

- Some interesting facts about **Betelgeuse**: yes, you can pronounce it 'Beetlejuice'! It's a red supergiant star, and it's so *large* that if it was in the same position as our sun it would engulf the orbits of Mercury, Venus, Earth and Mars. It's nearing the end of its life, and is likely to explode in a supernova sometime within the next 100,000 years. When that happens it will be as bright as the moon and easily visible in daylight.
- A date for your calendar: the **Geminids** meteor shower reaches its peak on Sunday 14 December. The moon will be a crescent so the sky should be relatively dark, perfect for meteor-watching!
- And an apology: last issue I said that if you looked at **Saturn** through a pair of binoculars you'd be able to see its rings. What I had forgotten is that although the rings of Saturn are usually visible because the planet is tilted relative to us, it just so happens that this year the rings are perfectly edge-on to us, so if you manage to see them at all they'll just look like a line across the planet. If you want to have another look, Saturn is still visible to the south-west, below the Square of Pegasus. ♦



Red sky at night – shepherd's delight

By Essie Prosser

It was early in the morning on a gloriously sunny day in October. We were in a field being watched by a group of curious calves, and within minutes their curiosity was rewarded. Shepherd's Delight, a 25-metre-tall hot air balloon, was being unfolded from the back of a trailer and readied for take-off.

The huge rainbow-coloured balloon was quickly, if noisily, inflated and the passengers were invited to board. Within minutes we were slowly and serenely drifting above farmland on the outskirts of Crich and trying to identify familiar scenery from an unfamiliar angle. Crich

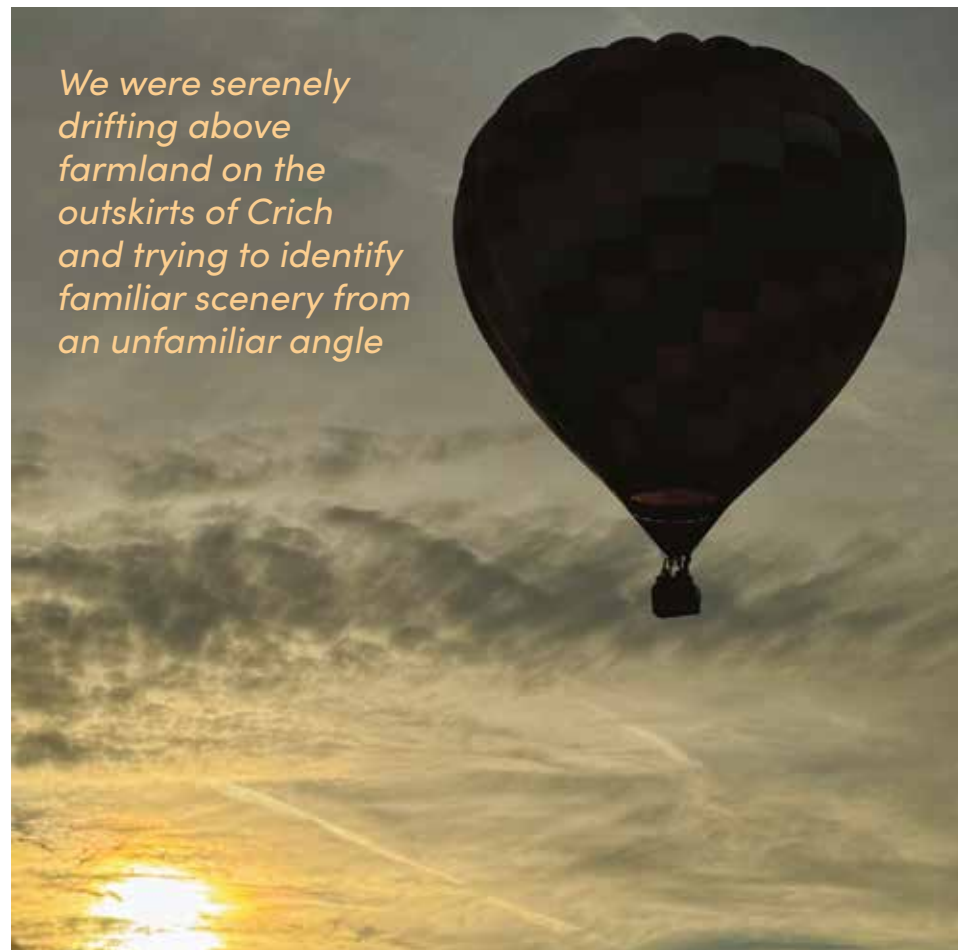
Stand faded into the distance, and the extent of the new development in our village became very obvious as we observed it from on high.

Over the course of the next hour we headed in an easterly direction, floating over Wingfield Manor, Pentrich and Butterley reservoir. The atmosphere in the basket was surprisingly still and silent, something rarely experienced in our ever noisy and frantic world. It was a soothing experience for both mind and soul.

While filled with trepidation about the whole flight, I was particularly anxious about the landing, having unwisely listened



We were serenely drifting above farmland on the outskirts of Crich and trying to identify familiar scenery from an unfamiliar angle



to various friends who swore that we would land horizontally and be dragged in an undignified manner across a ploughed field. In reality this couldn't have been further from the truth; we glided back to terra firma smoothly and painlessly just the other side of Butterley Railway.

Our pilot, Gary, was superb, and so he should be as he flies the Shepherd's Delight all over the world; he told us his favourite flights were in Switzerland in January, where the peaks and valleys must be a bit more of a challenge than the

rolling Derbyshire hills. His crew, Simon, ably aided by his small son Tino, made short work of finding us after landing and packing the balloon back into an impossibly small bag before heading off back home to Cambridgeshire.

Many thanks to Crich Fête Committee for funding our trip as first prize in their summer raffle and to Joe for facilitating it all, and following to bring us back afterwards. More thanks to Joyce and Paul Sayles for allowing the take-off from their farm.

Photos by Geoff Brown

Scouting is growing, and we need your help!

Over the last couple of terms the number of young people taking part in Scouting across all three of our sections has been increasing. We now regularly have nearly twenty young people in each section. This is great, but it does require leaders to run sessions, and can limit us from doing activities outside the hut unless we can get additional support. This term Christian has become a Cub leader in our group; this is a great help and allows Cubs to continue running. Having more leaders helps with planning, and allows for when one of us can't make a session.

As we head towards Christmas we will be helping to deliver Christmas cards from St Mary's around Crich, so you may see (or hear) us out and about at the start of December. In previous years the Cubs and the Scouts have attended the Wirksworth pantomime, which features one of our Beaver leaders, Richard (Hamster). This year, though, we've decided to stay closer to home and take our young people to a performance at the Glebe instead, which this year features one of our Scout leaders, Nigel. I'm sure the Scouts will get in the spirit and cheer him on at every opportunity.

Looking forward to next summer, planning is already taking place for our Scouts to attend Poacher. This is a week-long camp at Lincolnshire Showground, with more activities than I can list here and Scouts from all over the country to meet and make friends with. The Scouts who attended in previous years are still telling the stories. Hopefully next year's camp will be equally successful, and our Scouts will make happy memories and come back with some good stories to tell their friends in years to come.

If you're interested in offering any of your time to help the Scout group, or if you know a young person who would like to join, please email CrichBeaverLeader@gmail.com (Beavers), williamcaine@btinternet.com (Cubs), or scoutleader.crich@gmail.com (Scouts).



Community Diary

CRICH WRITERS' GROUP

A small and friendly group of local writers in different genres, meeting informally every few weeks at the Old Black Swan in Crich.

Upcoming dates:

Thursday 27 November

Thursday 22 January

Thursday 19 February

Thursday 26 March

Thursday 30 April

Email louise@lmaskill.com if you'd like more information or to come along and join us!

MAKE, DO AND MEND

Open to all, sharing skills, knowledge and experiences on different themes – DIY, well-being, sewing, woodworking, mending and more.

7.00pm–9.00pm on the third Thursday in the month, at Crich Glebe Community Centre

Upcoming dates:

20 November

15 January

19 February

Free entry, donations welcome.

FRITCHLEY QUAKERS

We welcome you to Meeting for Worship, 11.00am every Sunday at the Friends Meeting House, Chapel Street, Fritchley. All welcome. For more information please email plumcot@phonecoop.coop or call 01773 856072.

CRICH COMMUNITY WOMEN'S INSTITUTE

We usually meet at Crich Glebe Community Centre on the last Wednesday of every month at 7.00pm (although please note the exception below). Our upcoming dates are:

Wednesday 26 November:

Christmas decoration making, Crich Glebe Community Centre, 7.00pm.

Wednesday 10 December:

Christmas fuddle, upstairs at the Black Swan, 7.00pm.

Wednesday 28 January:

Crich Glebe Community Centre, 7.00pm (speaker to be confirmed).

See our Facebook page (search Crich Community WI) for details closer to the events, or ring Dawn (07791 559394).

PHOTOGRAPHY CLUB AT THE PUB

First Monday of each month, 7.30pm at the Old Black Swan, Crich. Open to all photography enthusiasts and beginners, sharing skills and experience with monthly themes and an annual competition.

Upcoming dates:

Monday 1 December

Monday 5 January

Monday 2 February

Free to attend, £1 donation appreciated.

LITTER PICK

Help keep Crich cleaner and greener for everyone to enjoy!

Next date:

Saturday 6 December, 10.00am at the Crich Glebe Community Centre.

Suitable for all ages. Equipment provided.

WHAT'S ON AT ST. MARY'S

Our usual pattern continues with services on Sunday mornings at 10.00am.

Second and fourth Sundays in the month are Holy Communion. We will now be holding a special group for children on the morning of the fourth Sunday.

Sunday 30 November, 4.00pm:
Christingle Service

Sunday 7 December, 10.00am:
Morning Worship

Sunday 7 December, 6.30pm: Advent Meditation – personal prayer with chants and biblical reflection and the opportunity to light a candle

Sunday 14 December, 10.00am:
Holy Communion

Thursday 18 December, 7.00pm:
Carols Round the Tree in the Market Place

Sunday 21 December, 6.30pm:
Carol Service

Wednesday 24 December, 5.00pm:
Christmas Eve Crib Service

Thursday 25 December, 10.00am:
Christmas Day Communion

Sunday 28 December, 10.00am:
Morning Service in the Vicarage

SPECIAL EVENTS

RETRO are a five-piece band playing classic hits from the 50s, 60s and 70s. You may be aware of their music from previous events at the Glebe, so please come along to sing and dance the night away!

Please bring your own food and drink. All proceeds from this event are in support of JKB Productions and their commitment to amateur theatre at the Glebe, in association with Crich Live.

Saturday 13 December,
7.45pm to 10.45pm at the Glebe.

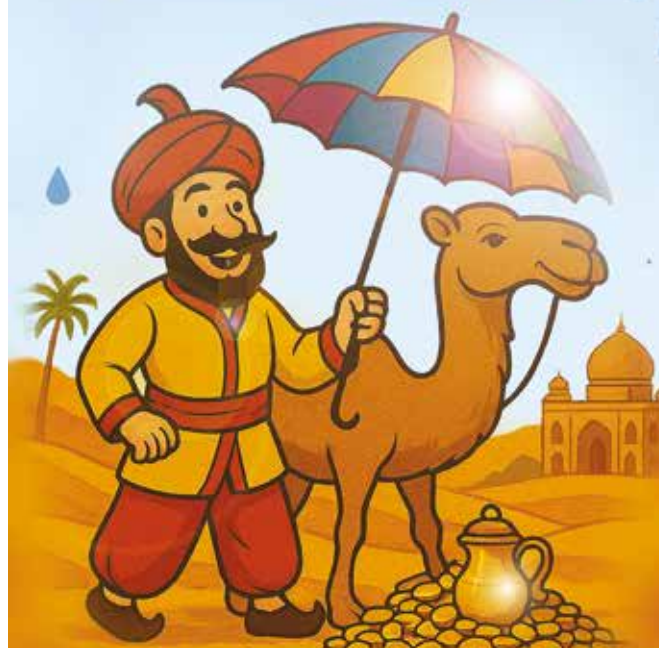
Tickets are just £10 and are available from the Glebe Monday to Thursday 9.00pm to 5.00pm (cash only), or online via www.ticketsource.co.uk/jkb-productions/

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 about what you're doing. We can help you get the word out to the community.**

**JKB PRODUCTIONS IN ASSOCIATION WITH CRICH LIVE
PRESENT**

ALI BABA AND THE 40 RAINDROPS



Fri 5th Dec
(7.30pm)

Sat 6th Dec
(2.30pm)

Sat 6th Dec
(6.30pm)



All performances at Crich Glebe Community Centre

Adults £8. Under 16s £5.

Family ticket (2 adults & 2 children) £24.50

Tickets available at <https://www.ticketsource.co.uk/crichlive>

What happens at Crich Glebe Community Centre?



www.crichglebe.org
Crich Glebe Community Centre
Email: office@crichglebe.org
Tel: 01773 857894

MONDAY

Derbyshire Toy Libraries Stay & Play
Crich Family Lunch Club
Kurling (Autumn & winter only)
Dru Yoga
Dynamic Dance Centre

9:30 – 11am
11am – 12:30pm
12 – 2pm
3 – 4:30pm
5 – 7:30pm

TUESDAY

Gentle Yoga (fortnightly)
Tuesday Club (meal – book in advance)
Sarah's Aerobics/Dancefit
Table Tennis
Dynamic Dance Centre

10am – 12pm
12:15 – 1:30pm
6:30 – 7:30pm
7 – 9pm
4 – 6:15pm

WEDNESDAY

Luncheon Club
Starlight Social Club (monthly)
Crich Community W.I. (monthly last Weds)
Dynamic Dance Centre

10:30am – 1:00pm
7 – 11pm
7 – 9pm
4:15–6:30pm

THURSDAY

Children's Dance Classes
Youth Club
Crich Heritage Group (monthly: last Thurs)
Crich Crafters (monthly: 2nd Thurs)
Make Do & Mend (monthly: 3rd Thurs)

4:45–6:15pm
7 – 9pm
7:30 – 8:30pm
6 – 8pm
7 – 9pm

FRIDAY

Yoga with Rachel
Art Group
Men's Group (monthly: 1st Friday)
Indoor Bowls (Sept to April)
Crich Cinema Club (monthly)
Dynamic Dance Centre

9:30 – 11am
10am – 1pm
1 – 3pm
2 – 4pm
from 6pm
4 – 5:30pm

SATURDAY

Dynamic Dance Centre

9am – 2pm

PLUS

Foot Health Clinic – Thursdays.

Crich Parish Council meet 1st Monday.
Crich Live – regular shows
Share & Repair Café – Quarterly Saturday.

FOR MORE
INFORMATION,
CHECK THE
WEBSITE OR GET
IN TOUCH FOR
INDIVIDUAL
ACTIVITY
CONTACT
DETAILS.

Crich Glebe Community Centre

With the cold nights drawing in our winter activities are back in full swing, and our events calendar is packed. Now is a great time to remind you, the community, of all the ways you can get involved at your Community Centre!

We're confident there will be something that takes your fancy – whether you visit us weekly, join us for the odd event, or have never stepped foot inside the building before; whether you are 1 or 101; whether you're looking for a new class to join, somewhere to book a party, or somewhere to volunteer; whether you want to learn a new skill, join a group which may improve your physical or mental health, or just enjoy an evening's entertainment or event with a glass of wine or beer; whether you're coming with a group of friends or alone.

Dates for your diary:

Crich Christmas Fair
Saturday 29 November, 10.00am–3.00pm

Christmas lunch
Tuesday 9 December, from 12.30pm

Follow us on Facebook.com/
crichglebe or Instagram.com/
crichglebecommunitycentre, or check
out crichglebe.org for news and updates
on everything happening at Crich Glebe
Community Centre.



Hindersitched Up running challenge

By Whatstandwell Social Club

Whatstandwell Social Club's annual uphill running challenge, Hindersitched Up, took place on Saturday 20 September. Talking to several of the runners afterwards, conditions were really rather good for it, with little or no wind, coolish and a bit of light drizzle – in contrast to the absolute downpour later in the evening! Like last year, the fates smiled upon us, or at least left us alone to get on with it.

Attendance was good too. A healthy turnout (no pun intended) ensured there was a reasonable amount of competition, and clearly some of the participants were looking to challenge the astonishing race record time of 7 minutes 47 seconds set last year. Others were simply there to enjoy taking part, tackling the challenge as either joggers or walkers. Family groups of various numbers, friends and individuals from running clubs around and about made for a nice mix of participants. Well done to all.

A number of local residents also turned up to watch, chat and cheer the runners on. It seems a momentum is beginning to develop as word gets around, and we hope that will result in the event growing in popularity in future years.

Prizes were presented afterwards in the Cliff Inn. The fastest time by Alex Pilcher was only 9 seconds off the current course record – a great effort. The fastest female award went to Emily Jones in a very creditable 11 minutes 41 seconds.

Thanks to all who took part, came to watch or helped with organising and marshalling on the day. A special thanks to the Cliff for laying on a hearty chilli and baked spud supper and for hosting the awards presentation. **Here's to next year's race!**

Whatstandwell Christmas lights switch-on and Christmas party will be on Saturday 6 December. Lights 5.00 – 6.00pm at the Triangle, next to the Green, off Hindersitch Lane. Party from 6.30 – 11.30pm at the Family Tree. Party tickets cost £7 which includes a choice of meal.

Contact Whatstandwell Social Club via our website for more details, or look for flyers posted on our village notice boards. Tickets available from the Family Tree.



Fritchley Community Association News

It is lovely to report that the summer, as well as bringing sunny weather, also brought warm smiles around the village. The first outdoor event to do this was our annual **Village Show**, with the green overflowing with local residents and visitors enjoying a drink, a piece (or two) of Chris' and other villagers' wonderful cake, and the live music – all while awaiting the results of the produce competition and the auction afterwards. Next year someone needs to bake a loaf that can challenge Dave's champion breadmaking skills! To those businesses who were kind enough to support us with prizes – Crich Stand Tea Room, Crich Butchers, Platform Thirty1, Grow Outside CIC and Woodward Estate Agents – we say a big "thank you".

It feels good to use the words "next year" as we plan new events that we hope will become an annual affair, something to put in your 2026 calendar as soon as you buy one. With this in mind, September saw the inaugural **Fritchley Five-mile Race**. Anything new that we attempt is always going to be a risk, but when eighty people signed up, all we had to do was sit back (not really!) and watch them fly off the starting blocks! Thanks to Laura for checking the route so many times, even in the pouring rain, to Chris for the cakes (Rocky Road included), and to the volunteers who marshalled, waved and rang cowbells. We look forward to seeing even more of you next autumn at this new yearly event.

"Christmas is coming and the goose is getting fat, please put a penny in the old man's hat..." We hope you will join us on Saturday 6 December for another of our annual celebrations (look out for posters and social media information about this nearer the time).

Not all our events are put on with the intention of raising money; some are more about raising a smile, but the Congregational Church windows are our main fundraising objective right now. Have a walk down Chapel Street and you'll soon see why. And after Christmas, look out for our next café special in February. It won't be French, it will be ... a secret for now!



CHIKS update

By Lynda Gray

CHIKS background

CHIKS is a community-run project based in Crich. It was launched in 2010 to support the orphaned children and struggling people of Aduwa, near Bondo in western Kenya, which is near Lake Victoria. The original link with Crich came through Irene, who came from Aduwa to live in Crich in 2007 to be with her husband. She worked here and got to know locals such as Jim and Lynda Gray, and others from the churches in Crich.

Her mother in Aduwa, Mama Jael, had always cared for orphaned children who came to her compound for food; indeed, many of them lived with her. The need there is immense; Irene wanted to find money to provide water, food and help educate these children, but she struggled alone, so we set up CHIKS (Children's Homes In Kenya Support) to help her. Originally the 'Home' was intended to be an orphanage, but we soon realised that placing children with local widowed guardians, in their caring homes, was a better way forward. This has worked well over the years.



Irene with guardians

Ongoing progress

We pay for up to about eight children at any one time, helping with their secondary school fees and supporting their guardians with extra food. This is all supervised by Irene's brother, Elijah, who is very caring, honest and competent. Along with Mama Jael, he and his wife Rose have a real depth of understanding of the youngsters as they grow up.

Over the years various farming businesses have flourished in Aduwo, in which all the guardians take part. They have a large greenhouse and fields in which they grow crops to sell, a chicken business, pigs, goats and cows for milking. Also, a tractor with a trailer was bought last year, and this summer we have helped them to buy a water bowser. They are becoming more self-sufficient in providing for the orphans, especially with their medical care, food, school uniforms and primary school expenses. CHIKS continues to pay the secondary school fees and some food.



Irene and children

In the past two years Irene's sister, Tabitha, has become a key person in this work, since she moved from Nairobi back to the village. She is a trained dressmaker and caterer and now has a shop in the local market which sells clothing and bedding, which they refurbish and sell at affordable prices. She is also training over twenty young widows in dressmaking and catering so that they can support their young families. In time, some may start businesses of their own, when previously they had to resort to prostitution in order to feed their families.

There are always more orphans than CHIKS can take on, but we do what we can. Most of the orphans who we have helped over the years are now happy and in employment. We thank God for guiding this work and blessing it. With more donations we can support more young children and teenagers, offering education, love, security and a good start in life.

You can find out more on Facebook:
facebook.com/PopalongChiks

For more information contact Lynda Gray:
jimlynda.gray@btopenworld.com
07890 688021



Irene with two of the ladies being trained, and her niece



The shop

Neighbourhood Creative Agent Clare Limb signs off

By Clare Limb

Mission accomplished! Over the past twelve months people from all over the parish have come together across generations and interest groups to share what they have made, done and mended.

Among other things, the Crich and Fritchley Open Gardens Group had the idea to 'Plant a Shoe', which literally grew and grew as the Open Gardens weekends approached; the Crich Parish Well Dressings Group arranged a vibrant celebration of community creativity at St Mary's Church in July; and Transition Crich supported many creative initiatives, all with the aim of helping Crich to become a greener community.

One highly successful project was the photography competition, which received forty entries this year and will return in 2026, and also resulted in a monthly photography club. A shout out to Crich Juniors and Crich Luncheon Club for being such tremendous project participants.

Make, Do and Mend sessions included skills-sharing by residents including such diverse things as kintsugi, kimchi-making, sound recording and sustainable decorations. We've also made three separate 'Banners of Possibility' which you can find displayed on the Dare to Dream digital loom:
www.derbyshiremakes.co.uk/digitalloom.

I would like to express my sincere gratitude to everyone who has helped me make this initiative a success, and to every single one of the 800+ local people who took part!



Crich Live

With our 2025/26 season in full swing, it's a great time to update you on what's been happening and the exciting shows we've got coming up!

Behind the scenes we've had a couple of small changes. After several years running Crich Live, three members of the Crich Live Committee decided to take a well-earned rest and enjoy future shows from the audience. Thank you to Roger, Geoff and Stu for many years of wonderful live entertainment.

The former Crich Live organisation dissolved and reformed under the umbrella of the Crich Glebe Community Centre. Never fear, though, Crich Live will continue as before; you will see the same branding, and the same high-quality shows will be brought to the Crich community. We will also continue to use Ticketsource to sell tickets to all our shows.

Our 2025/26 season kicked off with a sell-out performance from local theatre company Oddsocks and their latest show 'Florence Nightingale – The Lady With The Hammer'. This performance was funded by Crich Live.

This was followed a few weeks later by the award-winning song and storytelling trio Harp & A Monkey, who performed their acclaimed 'War Stories' show – a special and immersive one-off performance to mark Remembrance Weekend.

After such a great start to the new season, we're excited for the shows to come:

Friday 5 and Saturday 6 December 2025 – Ali Baba and the 40 Raindrops

This original pantomime, starring local talent, is suitable for all ages, with live music, full sound and special effects! There will be two evening performances and one matinee.

Saturday 24 January 2026 – Just Like That! The Tommy Cooper Show

The ultimate tribute to one of Britain's most loved comedians, and the first of our Live and Local shows.

Saturday 21 February 2026 – How to Survive and Thrive in an Impossible World – with a piano

A night filled with mischief, wisdom and unforgettable entertainment in the second of our Live and Local shows. A delightful blend of humour, storytelling, fantastic songs and gentle audience participation.

Saturday 21 March – True Crime Investigators UK – Wrong Place, Wrong Time

Returning for a third year after two previous sell-out shows, John and Sally Midgley are back to fascinate us with another two cases from the archives.

Saturday 25 April – Paul Walker and Karen Pfeiffer – 'Cheaper Than Therapy'

Following their previous successful show in Crich, this Anglo-German husband-and-wife folk songwriter duo are back to delight with their varied repertoire, combining beautifully written original songs and a fine choice of folk favourites.

CRICHLIVE

We look forward to welcoming you to a show soon! All shows take place at Crich Glebe Community Centre.

Community energy vision update

By Joseph George Walters

In March, CPRE Derbyshire and Transition Crich held a series of Community Energy Visioning workshops. Interested residents of Crich, Fritchley and Whatstandwell met to discuss how we felt renewable energy might look in our local landscape.

The vision shows that we are in favour of renewable energy, and would support hosting new installations in our countryside. Any developments should be sensitively positioned to protect the landscapes that we and visitors value. Options include rooftop solar installations on community buildings and houses, ground-mounted solar on existing landfill and quarry sites, and a small number of medium wind turbines.

With the vision in place, we can now take steps to make the future of renewable energy in Crich Parish a reality. This will include discussions with councils, neighbouring parishes, landowners, farmers and renewable energy developers to bring forward our proposed energy initiative.

Transition Crich are exploring options to establish a dedicated local community energy organisation to drive our community energy vision forward. This organisation would be responsible for securing grant funding and reinvesting any income generated from energy

projects back into the community. If you're interested in getting involved, please get in touch so we can add you to our project email list.

The full report, "The future of renewable energy in Crich, Fritchley and Whatstandwell: A community vision", is now available on the Transition Crich website www.transitioncrich.co.uk/crich-parish-community-energy/ or email us for a copy.

Contact Transition Crich at transitioncrich@gmail.com.

Sign up to our email newsletter for updates on our energy projects at transitioncrich.co.uk/get-in-touch.

NFU Mutual donates £30,000 to Derbyshire charities

NFU Mutual, one of the UK's leading rural insurers, has donated more than £30,000 to Derbyshire charities.

Now in its sixth year, the company's *Agency Giving Fund* helps local frontline charities across the country to support essential services in rural communities. All NFU Mutual agencies and branches can nominate charities to receive a share of the fund, ensuring that the support reaches those who need it most.

This year, four Derbyshire charities received over £7,800 each: the Local Air Ambulance service, Rural Action Derbyshire, Derbyshire Rural Chaplaincy, and Blythe House Hospice.

The Local Air Ambulance will use the donation to replace crew protective equipment, helping teams deliver critical care safely in all weathers. Rural Action Derbyshire will relaunch its community oil-buying scheme, supporting households without mains gas to secure affordable heating oil. The Derbyshire Rural Chaplaincy will continue providing pastoral support to farming families and rural residents, while Blythe House Hospice will fund its Roaming Car Service, enabling end-of-life care for patients at home.

Through the *Agency Giving Fund*, NFU Mutual continues to support vital services and help rural communities thrive.

You can find out more about the *Agency Giving Fund* here: www.nfumutual.co.uk/about-us/the-nfu-mutual-agency-giving-fund/

Crich Junior School

Our Festival of Fun Week in July was a celebration of creativity, adventure and teamwork.

Children had the opportunity to choose from a wide range of engaging activities, including bushcraft, art, embroidery, stop motion animation, and various sports. Each day brought new excitement as they explored different skills and expressed themselves in imaginative ways. The week culminated in the most eagerly anticipated event – the slip and slide, which proved to be a firm favourite, bringing a refreshing (and wet!) end to a fantastic week of fun.

This year's summer show was a dazzling production of *Scheherazade*, a captivating tale inspired by the legendary storyteller in *One Thousand and One Nights*. The performance brought to life the magic and mystery of Scheherazade's world, weaving together stories of adventure, courage and imagination. With vibrant costumes and some brilliant acting and singing, the children transported the audience to a realm of wonder,

showcasing their talent and dedication in every scene.

The show was very well attended, with parents, carers and members of the local community filling the Baptist Chapel to support the performers. It was heartwarming to see so many familiar faces, including several past pupils who returned to enjoy the performance. We have already been asked 'What show will it be next year?'

Our recent portrait project was a huge success, with every pupil producing a striking piece inspired by the distinctive style of Tim Burton. Drawing on Burton's signature gothic style and inspired by *The Nightmare Before Christmas*, the children explored exaggerated features, bold contrasts, and imaginative character design to create their own unique portraits in charcoal and white pastel. The results were fantastic, full of personality and creativity, and we couldn't be more pleased with how enthusiastically the pupils embraced the challenge.



Crich Carr Primary School and Nursery

It has been a busy start to the school year for pupils and staff.

Our Class 1 pupils have begun their Autumn Term work focussing on 'What Made History in Derbyshire?' They are learning about the Industrial Revolution and how it affected our local area. Visits will include a trip to Masson Mill in Cromford, where we will dress up as factory workers from Victorian times and find out how hard children worked in the olden days. We will also be learning about the impact of George Stephenson on the development of the railways, including in Derbyshire, and the network of railways that criss-crossed Derbyshire when the Industrial Revolution was at its peak.

Class 2's topic this term is 'Fact or Fiction?' They are investigating whether some of the preconceptions about Vikings and Mayans are correct. Were the Vikings really just scary warriors who terrorised the British Isles? Were the Mayans peaceful people who were great at building and liked chocolate? We have plenty of exciting events planned for the children, including a Viking Day at Perlethorpe and a trip to the Jorvik Viking Centre in York.

Our Year 3 and 4 children attended a sports festival at Anthony Gell, where they practiced their tennis skills. The Year 6 pupils have already completed Bike-ability Level 2 which was a fun-packed day; the children cycled in and around Crich and then back to school, with the

instructors commenting on what a great group of children they were and how they all supported each other. This is something that we pride ourselves on as a school, and it's always great to hear others outside the school community commenting on it.

Other planned activities include an all-school trip to Buxton Opera House to watch Aladdin; this is a much-loved event for the school community, especially the coach journey there and the ice cream during the interval!

Crich Carr is accepting Nursery pupils age 3 and above, and we would welcome contact from any prospective parents so you can visit the school and see our amazing community and facilities for yourself.



Pleased to be home

I was away for all of September, having a wonderful time on the west coast of Scotland from Arran to Arisaig. But as many people say, "it's good to be back", and I was glad to get home to a village with a couple of welcome changes.

First, we have a School Crossing Warden again. This is wonderful news, and we all wish Liz Parker (pictured, and apparently known by many as "Toy Library Liz") the very best in her new role.

Also I came back to a barber's shop. If, like me, you have already visited, you'll agree it's a very well appointed and useful

addition to our retail offer. Gary and his new venture are featured in this edition, as well as in our advertising section.

Which brings me to my point. I went to some wonderful places and saw and experienced amazing things on my holiday, but I can honestly say:

- I haven't been in a bakery or eaten bread as good as Loaf.
- No butcher or meat supplier has been better than Crich Butchers.
- And, although the small communities we visited are in many ways similar to Crich and even more focused on tourism, there hasn't been a village supermarket to match our Budgens.



Our shops, pubs, Comrades, hairdressers, pharmacy and so on are easy to appreciate, but they need one thing above everything else: our support. This means our custom, using them as first options.

When I'm in Crich I never buy bread or meat from anywhere apart from Loaf and Crich Butchers. Neither they nor I can expect everyone to have quite the same attitude, but perhaps we might all ask ourselves the question – could we use our local shops a little bit more?

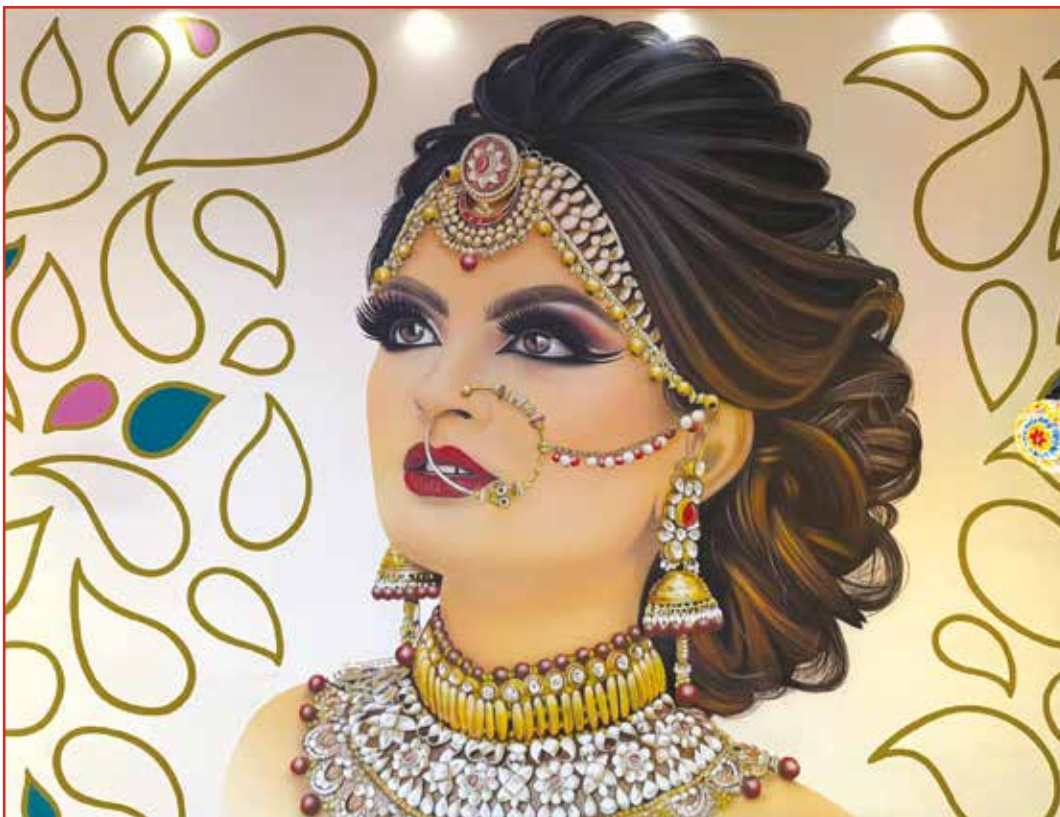
Quite simply, this is the only way we will keep them, and with them the heartbeat of the village that is essential to our community. So go on – as the year ends and a new one begins, have a drink in the pub, buy a loaf, pick up some milk and call in at the butchers. It certainly won't do you any harm, but it might just make a difference in keeping our community retail offer strong and vibrant.

From my perspective and for what it's worth, thank you to everyone involved in serving Crich with wonderful things from your friendly shops and businesses.

Finally, as Christmas and the festive season approach I want to thank the Crich Standard team of volunteer committee members, distributors and contributors, our advertisers, and you, the readers, all of whom are vital in making our village publication possible.

Merry Christmas, and a happy new year!

Tony
Chair



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Feb 9th / 23rd



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NIGHT QUIZ

9.30pm Start - £1pp

Followed by 'Play Your Cards Right'
with a cash prize

Dec 11th
Jan 8th / 22nd
Feb 5th / 19th



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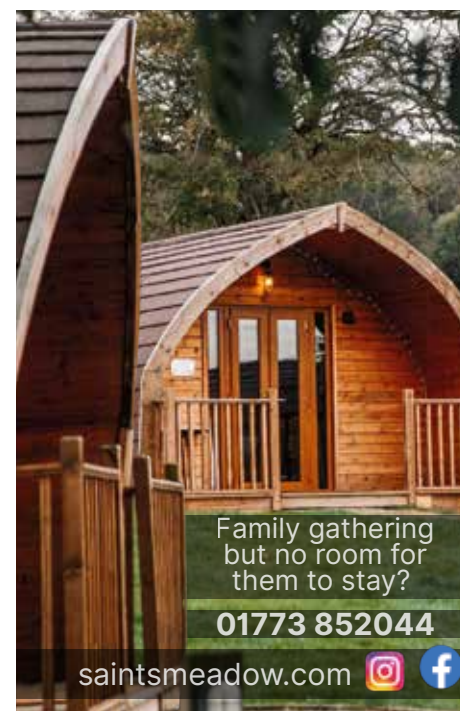
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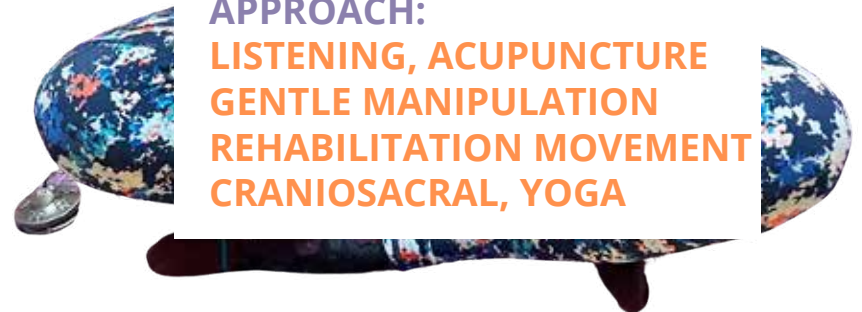
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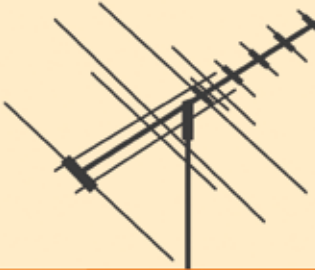
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