

Crich Standard

CRICH | FRITCHLEY | WHATSTANDWELL | BULLBRIDGE

Issue 119 Autumn 2026



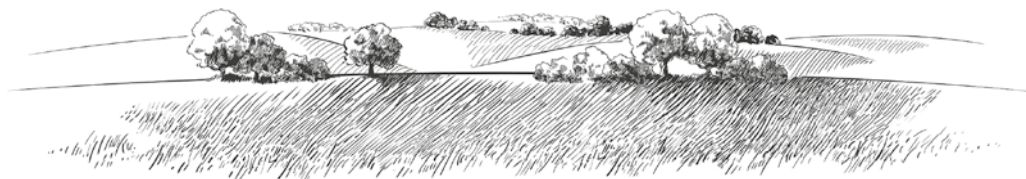
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A Community Magazine for the Parish

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





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.

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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.

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Crich Standard

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Support your community and advertise to your local customers.

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1/4 page (H92mm x W60mm)

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3 issues £58 Full year (4 issues) £75

1/3 page (H60mm x W122mm)

Single issue £32 2 issues £53
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3 issues £116 Full year (4 issues) £142

Full Page (H210mm x W148mm)

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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

Whatstandwell Open Gardens

Our 2026 event went ahead on a fortunately dry day sandwiched between wet ones. We welcomed a record number of visitors, both local and from further afield. Everyone that we spoke to was very complimentary about the gardens, and greatly enjoyed the afternoon.

We, the organisers, must offer our apologies for the initial uncertainty among some of our visitors about the location of the gardens; we will address this for next time. Perseverance was rewarded, though, with new gardens as well as old favourites, and at one of the locations a cornucopia of delicious homemade cakes as well as hot and cold beverages. So well received were the cakes that they ran out very quickly, and the hosts had to make a quick run to the local store for replacements!

The organisers would like to express their thanks to everyone who took part – hosts, helpers on the day, and of course our visitors. After weeks (if not months) of hard work preparing each garden for show, it is part of the enjoyment for the hosts to be able to chat to all the lovely people who enjoy the afternoon exploring our village and some of its normally unseen treasures. The record proceeds this year were donated to the ARK animal rescue and rehoming centre. They do sterling work taking in unwanted or stray cats and dogs and providing TLC and necessary veterinary care prior to adoption while promoting responsible pet ownership.

Our next planned Open Gardens event will be in 2028. Look out nearer the time for our entry in the National Open Gardens Directory (www.opengardens.co.uk) and on our website.

Should any Whatstandwellians who have not previously participated be interested in doing so, please do get in touch via one of our Social Club contact methods.

Crich Parish Well Dressing 2026

By Sylvia Nutt for the core group of Crich Parish Well Dressings

I hope you managed to view this year's garden-themed well dressings. As always, there were some wonderful interpretations. We were so pleased to welcome Transition Crich for their first time, and hope they're enthused and ready for next year.

The weather held for the blessing in the Market Place, and we thank Revd Jo, Martyn Offord for his rendition of his Puddling Song, Crich Brass Band and the Crich Carr Community Choir.

Thanks must also go to the Parish Council for their help and support, to Mark Berry from the Fête Committee who gave his time and assistance, and especially to all the local businesses for their contributions of donations and raffle prizes.

We do hope that all the well dressers were happy with the process of producing such incredible dressings for all to enjoy. It's a lot of hard work, but the results and the camaraderie make up for that, and we hope they'll all be looking forward to next year. We thank them, too.

Hindersitched Up! 2026 – date to be announced

Our annual uphill running event will take place again this year, and the date will be some time in September. The event can be both a personal challenge to walk, jog or run up from the Family Tree to the Cliff Inn as quickly as you can, or for keen athletes there is the target of breaking the current course records in various age categories. Trophies will be awarded to the winner in each category.

The date will be announced well in advance, and will be posted on our social media platforms and on local notice boards.



Whatstandwell Beer and Music Festival

Musically there was something for everyone at Whatstandwell Festival this year, with special guest Mark Radcliffe (of Radio 1's "Mark and Lard" fame in the Nineties) and a great selection of live bands. In particular, local bands Sun Shadow and Facsimile went down a storm. Following appearances by two groups made up of youngsters, we're going to look into a new initiative to encourage and bring promising young bands on.

It was a hot day, but thankfully not too hot, and we had a range of 25 ales to quench the thirst. Two Green Men made an appearance – one a real live storyteller and the other a wooden carving by Frosty, our local chainsaw sculptor. This was auctioned off, with the winning bid of £260 being donated this year to a bone cancer charity.

Other activities included gong bathing, yoga and entertainments for the kids. Food, coffee and ice cream caterers were on site for anyone in need of refreshment.

There were many positive comments received afterwards, and this is no small part thanks to the efforts of all our hard-working volunteers who helped to make the whole event happen. Primarily a family festival for our local communities to enjoy, we are already thinking about 2027, so we hope to see you all again next year.

Are you knitting comfortably

Crich Royal British Legion is working in association with Crich Parish Council and The Mercian Regiment to produce a poppy cascade on the Beacon (as in the mock-up photo).

To do this by November (in time for Remembrance), your help is needed to produce the 4,000+ poppies that will be required. Knitted poppies in red wool with a black centre are preferred, but they could also be crocheted or made from fabric instead.

If you need wool, patterns or have poppies ready you can text or phone Poppy Helpline: 07511 672020.

Poppy drop off points are: The Comrades Club, Crich Stand Tea Rooms, or the Glebe. Alternatively, they can be posted to: 4 Dowie Way, Crich, DE4 5NJ.



Crich Village Fête (plus something new!)

Saturday 11 July proved to be another warm and sunny day for the 2026 Crich Fête. And what a day it was! Great entertainment for everyone.

Thanks to the many people and organisations who supported us by being part of it, and particular thanks to everybody who came on the day to soak up the atmosphere.



Next up is something new!

BE RYTE is a music event for the whole family, to be held on Crich Recreation Ground on Saturday 5 September.

This will be a family-friendly afternoon of music from local bands, including young musicians just starting out, with food outlets and a licensed bar.

The event will be free to attend, but we would love you to support the fête and other events by purchasing your food and drink from our outlets if you can! There will also be donation buckets if you would like to contribute that way.

Bring your own chairs or rugs, but be prepared to be up and dancing as well!

Finally, don't forget the annual bonfire and fireworks on Thursday 5 November at Town End.

For more information, see our Facebook page or email us on crichfete@gmail.com



Crich Monument Race 2026 – we're back!

This year's Crich Monument Race, which started and finished at the Fête on Saturday 11 July, was a huge success. After missing a year in 2025, the race team pulled out all the stops to put on the event in 2026 – and what a race it was.

There was some concern about the weather in the days leading up to the event with the Met Office issuing heatwave warnings, but the team pulled in extra support for additional water along the route, and took very inventive measures to keep water cool for finishers at the end!

In the end the race went off almost without a hitch, with heroic runners battling hills, heat and undergrowth to make it back to the Fête field. All the competitors are winners in our book, but this year's overall race victors were Daniel Haworth (men's race, 41m 09s) and Michelle Holmes (women's race, 50m 17s). This year's King and Queen of

the Hill were Jack Broughton (9m 17s) and Michelle Holmes (11m 19s).

Huge thanks to all our sponsors, especially our title sponsor White Peak Distillery, and to all the course checkers, marshals, water station attendants, sweep runners, clearers-up, the Fête Committee, and all the other volunteers without whom the race wouldn't happen. We're also extremely grateful to Tom McPhillips and Lily Carr, who answered our desperate last-minute call for photography on the day. Thank you to all of you!

See you next year when the race will be back, bigger and better than ever – although hopefully not quite so hot! Watch out for updates and entry details on our social media:

Facebook: www.facebook.com/crichmonumentrace

Instagram: www.instagram.com/crichmonumentrace



Photo: Tom Scutt



Photo: Ian Travers

2026 Community Award goes to the Scouts

The Crich Standard Community Award was presented to the 1st Crich Scouts Group at the Village Fête.

The award was presented by Stephen Woolley from the Crich Standard team, who interrupted the group as they were hard at work raising funds by running the Fête barbecue.

The story of this group starts exactly 102 years ago, through the vision and commitment to young people of the then-manager at Cliff Quarry. Early meetings were held in the front parlour of his home, later migrating to the joiner's shop at the Quarry, then to the clubroom at the Black Swan, the Junior School hall, and finally to their own clubhouse on Jeffries Lane.

Over the years there have been too many committed leaders and helpers to

mention by name. However, their invaluable work and legacy is now carried on with commitment and equal dedication by an inspiring present-day team of leaders and officers, including Alex, Bill, Christian, Clare, Catherine, Debbie, Di, Duncan, Isaak, Martin, Mark, Nigel, Paul, Richard and Rory.

This year's award recognises the opportunities, and the sound values of citizenship, that Scouting gives to our young people – not only in the present day, but also to so many past generations of Crich youngsters.

The citation on the award reads:

"In recognition of over a century of commitment to Scouting values, and the opportunities and guidance thus given to so many of the young people of Crich parish"



Fritchley 5 Mile Run returns on Sunday 20 September 2026

Following the fantastic success of last year's event, the much-loved Fritchley 5 Mile Run is back on Sunday 20 September 2026, promising another morning of running, community spirit and stunning Derbyshire countryside.

The race begins at 10:00am from Fritchley Green and follows a beautiful scenic circular route through the picturesque local landscape, offering runners an enjoyable and rewarding challenge in one of the area's most attractive settings.

Whether you're an experienced runner chasing a personal best or someone looking to enjoy a relaxed run with friends, all abilities are warmly welcomed. The event is all about bringing people together, encouraging participation and celebrating the wonderful community spirit that made last year's race such a memorable occasion.

There will be plenty of refreshments available, with tea, coffee, homemade cakes and even a pint of beer on offer before the race, throughout the morning and after runners have crossed the finish line. Spectators, supporters and local residents are encouraged to come along, cheer on the runners and enjoy the friendly atmosphere.

As with any community event, volunteers are essential to its success. Anyone who would like to help by marshalling the course on the day is invited to get in touch via the Fritchley 5 Mile Facebook page. Your support would be greatly appreciated, and will help to ensure

another safe and enjoyable event for everyone.

Entry costs £15, with registration available through the Fabian4 website or by scanning the QR code below.

So lace up your running shoes, gather your family and friends, and join us for what promises to be another fantastic morning in Fritchley. Whether you're running, volunteering or simply coming along to support, we'd love to see you there on Sunday 20 September.



Crich Parish Council update

The Parish Council is delighted to report that we have been successful in our bid to the National Lottery Community Fund for money towards a basketball hoop on the Recreation Ground. This is something that young people (and their parents) have been saying would be well used, and it will be a good addition to the facilities that are already there.

Luckily, the Recreation Ground is big enough to have the hoop and a small area of tarmac as well as a football pitch and, if we can, we want to replace the goal posts. Parish Councillors have learnt a lot about different playing surfaces, hoops and backboards, which will help in making sure we get the best possible provision.

Like every public body, when we spend money we have to get at least three quotes for the work and select the best, looking at both quality and value for money. We will be asking for quotes over the summer, and will make a decision at the Parish Council meeting on 7 September.

Still on the subject of the Recreation Ground, sadly we have had more vandalism – not just accidental damage, but deliberate digging out of the ground. We have reported this to the police so they are aware of the problem.

Elsewhere, we have continued with the regular work of the Parish Council – there have been repairs to headstones at the Burial Ground, and the summer floral display has been installed. This is being written just before Crich Fête and we will have a stall there; listening to what people think will make our Parish a good place to live and will inform the focus of our work in the year ahead.

Crich Parish Council Community Groups Grants 2026–2027

Each year the Parish Council sets aside a small fund to help local community groups within Crich Parish.

If you run a community group, you could consider applying for a grant.

You are welcome to apply between Wednesday 12 August and Monday 12 October 2026. Grants will be paid into the group's bank account in January 2027.

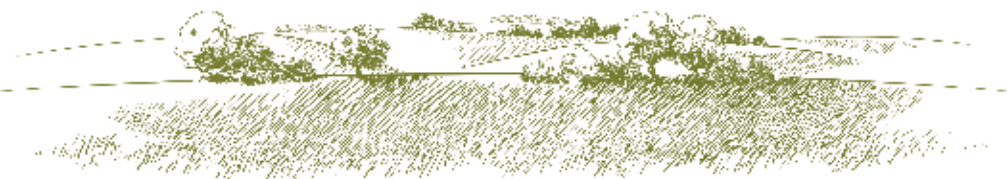
When considering applications the Parish Council will be guided by the following criteria:

- The group must serve Crich Parish community and must not be run for gain.
- The group must have an open membership policy.
- At least 50% of members must live in Crich, Fritchley, Whatstandwell or Wheatcroft.
- The group must be able to demonstrate the need for financial support as shown by the presentation of end-of-year accounts or a financial statement. Out-of-date accounts or financial statements will not be accepted. Bank statements cannot be accepted.
- Applications must be made in writing using the official application form.

- Grants will only be considered if the application has been made in the prescribed way, is complete, includes end-of-year accounts or a financial statement, and has been submitted to the Parish Clerk by **Monday 12 October 2026**. Incomplete and/or late applications cannot be accepted.

When you complete the application form for 2026/2027, please do so in anticipation that your group will be able to carry out your planned activities. It is on this basis that the Council will base its decisions when making the awards.

The application form can be obtained on request from the Clerk by emailing: clerk@crich-pc.gov.uk or online at crich-pc.gov.uk



Being a teenager in Crich

By Jess Cockerill

When I was first asked to write this article, I wasn't quite sure how to begin. Growing up in Crich has given me a unique perspective on teenage life – one shaped entirely by my experiences here. Attending secondary school in a nearby town means many of my friends live in places like Wirksworth and Matlock. From them, I've learned that being a teenager in a larger town is quite different from village life. Living in Crich has made me more involved in my community; I enjoy volunteering for the Scouts and helping out at local events like the fête. These experiences and the odd jobs I've taken on have truly shaped who I am today. I've also noticed that my friends' towns don't seem to have the same sense of community. Some of them don't even know their neighbours' names. In Crich, though, the strong community spirit has helped me grow and make lifelong friends.

One of the key differences between Crich and surrounding towns is just how close-knit our community is. It almost feels like the village is one big family, with everyone looking out for one another. I know that if I ever needed help, there are several people I could turn to. That's what makes Crich stand out as a village. Talking with adults here has helped me build confidence and believe in myself, thanks to all the support I've received. Even writing this article feels like one of my proudest achievements.



Crich is also quite different for teenagers than other towns, as we have things here such as Crich Youth Club which I enjoyed while growing up, especially during that transition to secondary school when it provided me with a safe place to hang out and make new friends with people my age who were going through the same things as me, while also giving me a range of trusted adults to talk to about bigger issues. This space means teenagers in the village always have somewhere to go to see people their own age, which I understand isn't common in other towns.

Crich also is quiet and peaceful due to its low traffic and noise pollution, which overall makes it a much safer place than other towns or cities. I am able to take myself on walks through the countryside or go on runs through the village in the evening, which is something I find incredibly freeing, and as a teenager that feeling is very important as it helps us to become more independent.

One common misconception held by some of my friends is that living in Crich we don't have many weekend and summer jobs. However, this hasn't been true for me; I have been working in a local café since I was 13. This experience has helped me to learn a work ethic and gain new experiences while also letting me earn money on my own. In my opinion, Crich offers the same, or even more, opportunities than anywhere else.

However, one of the downsides of living in Crich as a teenager is the limited amount of entertainment for people my age, like shopping centres and cinemas. However, I have been able to catch trains to nearby cities like Nottingham to go shopping and to watch football, and to Derby to the cinema. The bus links here are also pretty good, apart from the fact that there are no buses to Wirksworth where a lot of my friends live.

Overall, there can be a few downsides to being a teenager in Crich, and you do have to occasionally make more of an effort to do certain things. On the whole, though, I think living in Crich has shaped me into the person I am proud to be now.



Early memories of Keith Fretwell, Ram Furniture

Crich is where I spent my boyhood over seven decades ago. Children today follow the same route as I did so long ago, attending the top and then the bottom school, but we all walked to school then.

I lived on Coasthill with my parents and two younger brothers. The mineral railway was at the bottom of our garden; I'd climb down and put one of the big old copper pennies on the track so that Dowie and her carriages could double it in size.

I had a happy and carefree childhood. My friends and I ranged far and wide, fishing for sticklebacks by the bridge on Dimple Lane, gathering frogspawn and catching minnows in the pond at the bottom of Wheatsheaf Lane. The quarries were my favourite places; Church Quarry, now filled

in, was accessed by a tunnel cut through the limestone under Cromford Road. It was a great place to play and make dens. The spoil heaps in Cliff Quarry were also a great playground. Purple spotted orchids grew in profusion here, but this all came to an end when we were turfed off by big boys in suits who wanted to play with trams there.

I loved singing, and joined the choir at St Mary's. We were paid half a crown (one eighth of £1) to sing at weddings; in those days that was a fortune! The shop at Town End, run by Mr. and Mrs. Harrison, had every sweet you could think of and ice cream to die for. You don't need much imagination to work out where my two shillings and sixpence went.



I became a Wolf Cub at seven. Meetings were held at the top school, where Akela was Barbara Haslam. I later became a Boy Scout; at that time our meetings were held in the upper room at the Black Swan, years before the Scout Hut on Jeffries Lane was built. We Scouts collected old newspapers to raise money for the new hut, and Dr. Twist let us store it in his old barn at the top of Dimple Lane. Today the barn has been transformed into a beautiful home.

Camping with the Scouts each year was a great adventure. Gervase Taylor would take us all in the back of his lorry, together with tents and camping gear – no “elf ‘n’ safety” in those days! Our brown ex-army ridge tents were very heavy, and cooking was done on open campfires – magic! Reg Page, our Skipper, made sure we'd cleaned our blackened saucepans so they were were bright and sparkling at the end of camp.

I was 12 when our family moved from Crich to Homesford, near Whatstandwell. I

attended New Bridge school at Wirksworth for one year before I was awarded a place at the Joseph Wright Art School in Derby, which was attached to Derby Art College on Green Lane. It was here that I fell in love with working in wood; cabinet making was my favourite subject.

On leaving school I didn't choose woodwork, an error that only resolved itself years later. I became an engineering apprentice at Fletcher and Stewart Ltd., where I became a draughtsman; the firm made machinery for processing sugar cane, and in 1970 I left England to work at a sugar estate in Jamaica. Here I re-acquainted myself with wood in the well-equipped joiners' shop on the estate; I spent many happy hours there whenever I could.

It was there that I met and fell in love with Diane, an English girl who taught at the high school. We married in Christ's Church in Morant Bay. Our daughter Rachel was born a short time before my contract in Jamaica came to an end, and we decided to come home.

I applied for and was given a place at Loughborough University to train to be a teacher of – yes, you've guessed it, woodwork. I taught briefly in Derby and then for seven years in Hornsey, but Diane didn't teach when we came home, being a full-time mum. When our children were at school, though, Di was itching to continue teaching, and I too wanted a change. Over the years I'd built a workshop with all the kit needed to make furniture, and had done a few commissions; I realised that I could make a crust at furniture making.



Di got a teaching post in Derby, and I took over premises in one of the Mansion House units in the Market Place – and Ram Furniture was established! The rest is history. It was very hard to begin with; I needed to establish myself and get some orders. We survived, however, and a couple of years later I moved my workshop to Cliffside, where it still is.

In all the years I've never been without work. Mostly it was the other extreme; I had too much work. I'm retired now, but I still like to potter in my beloved workshop.



To be a farming girl

Meet Scarlett Mann, whose farming ambitions, honed by living with her parents Ed and Alana and her brother Harry in Fritchley for the last eight of her seventeen years, are very much in place.

Known to many through her recent years helping at The Loaf on Saturdays, Scarlett was at first anxious about moving from town to country, but says that she has “never looked back” since finding herself surrounded by green Derbyshire fields and starting to thrive and make new friends at Crich Junior School. Her interests then broadened to embrace Cubs, followed by Scouts and Explorers, while also finding time to play her part in the Youth Club.

Sporting interests, particularly swimming and lifesaving, led Scarlett to early thoughts of becoming a physical education teacher, but the pull of the land, perhaps planted by dairy farming connections to her aunt and uncle in Melton Mowbray, has matured into full-blown and carefully thought-out plans for a career in agriculture.

Richard Lynam of Dial Farm at Crich, whose two sons, Tom and Sam, went through school with Scarlett, has been both help and inspiration, allowing Scarlett to work in all aspects of dairy farm work when her school/college studies permit. Through friends of friends, this has been augmented by weekly milking duties at a dairy farm near Matlock. She has not been fazed by a couple of the wettest winters and springs



on record leading to extremely soft (to use a neutral word!) ground and farmyard conditions.

All of this led to Scarlett choosing to leave school after GCSEs to follow a one-year Level 2 Agriculture course at Broomfield College, which she has greatly enjoyed, despite the rival attractions of keen membership of a local Young Farmers Club. Summer shows this year at Ashbourne and Ashover will see Scarlett exhibiting prize sheep from the Broomfield flock, having previously been well placed in a college tournament for stock judging/showing sheep.

In September Scarlett will, during termtime at least, be saying goodbye to Fritchley and her much-loved Collie puppy Clemmie and spaniels Henry and Betsy (sorry, Mum, Dad and Harry – of course she'll miss you too!) to take up a place at

an agricultural college in Cheshire where she'll be following a two-year Level 3 course, broadly based to keep all future options open, whether arable or livestock.

And then what of the future? Scarlett has her feet (and wellies!) firmly on the ground as to the challenges ahead, but family contacts in Australia raise the possibility of working there, and perhaps also in America, to further develop her skills and experience. However, with the average age of UK farmers at around sixty years, Scarlett is more than aware of the need for, and thus the opportunities open to, fully trained and enthusiastic newcomers to an agricultural vocation and career. She sees farming as not only a vital part of the fabric and character of UK life, but also as vital to the country's future prosperity and self-sufficiency. We wish her well!



Memories of Stevenson's Dyeworks in the 1950s

By Margaret Dennis

I started working at Stevenson's Dyeworks in 1952, aged 16. At the time I lived at the bottom of Lowes Hill in Ripley (near Hammersmith), and I would set off from home at 6.30am, walking up to the market place in Ripley to catch the 7.00am Trent bus to Bullbridge, ready to start work at 7.30am.

I worked until 6.00pm, with an hour for dinner and a couple of fifteen-minute breaks, morning and afternoon. My first job was collecting work and delivering it to the men for processing. Later I worked checking for flaws in stockings that had been dyed (there were no tights back then). They were slid over a 'leg' to make the job easier. Before we started we had to go into a cubicle to have our hands checked for rough skin or broken nails, so as not to snag the stockings.

I remember there being an innovative technique called 'roll and fold' which increased efficiency, although I can't recall any details except that if any visitors came to look round, the shutters went down in case of industrial espionage!

At dinnertime I would sometimes go with my friend for three penn'orth of chips from Mrs White's chip shop along Gas Lane (now Drovers Way). We would eat these outside the Nelson with a glass of pop. Occasionally my friend and I would have a walk along Cromford Canal, which ran along the top of the dyeworks site before it was filled in. One time we were chased by a very angry gander whose mate was sitting on her eggs nearby. It was a

good job we could run fast in those days! My fast legs also earned me a place in Stevenson's ladies football team. We played our matches on Sawmills rec, and my dad would come down and cheer me on.

I left in 1958 when I was expecting my first daughter. During the time I was there my wage went from £3 and 5 shillings (a good wage at the time) to £14 per week. My younger sister started work there in 1960. She eventually worked pressing jumpers and using the Hoffman presses, and even though she was one of the fastest workers, she earned only around half of what men on the same job earned!

I have enjoyed reminiscing – maybe I might have rekindled some memories for others.

Stevenson's Dyeworks was founded in 1893 by James Francis Stevenson, who built on his family's dyeing and bleaching expertise. After expanding to its Bullbridge site in 1910 the company grew into one of Britain's leading textile dyeing businesses, pioneering innovations in textile finishing and supporting the war effort through the production of camouflage materials and military fabrics. Throughout the twentieth century Stevenson's became the largest dyeing company in the UK, with more than 1,400 employees by the 1970s. After over 110 years of operation the works closed in 2006, marking the end of an important chapter in Derbyshire's industrial heritage.

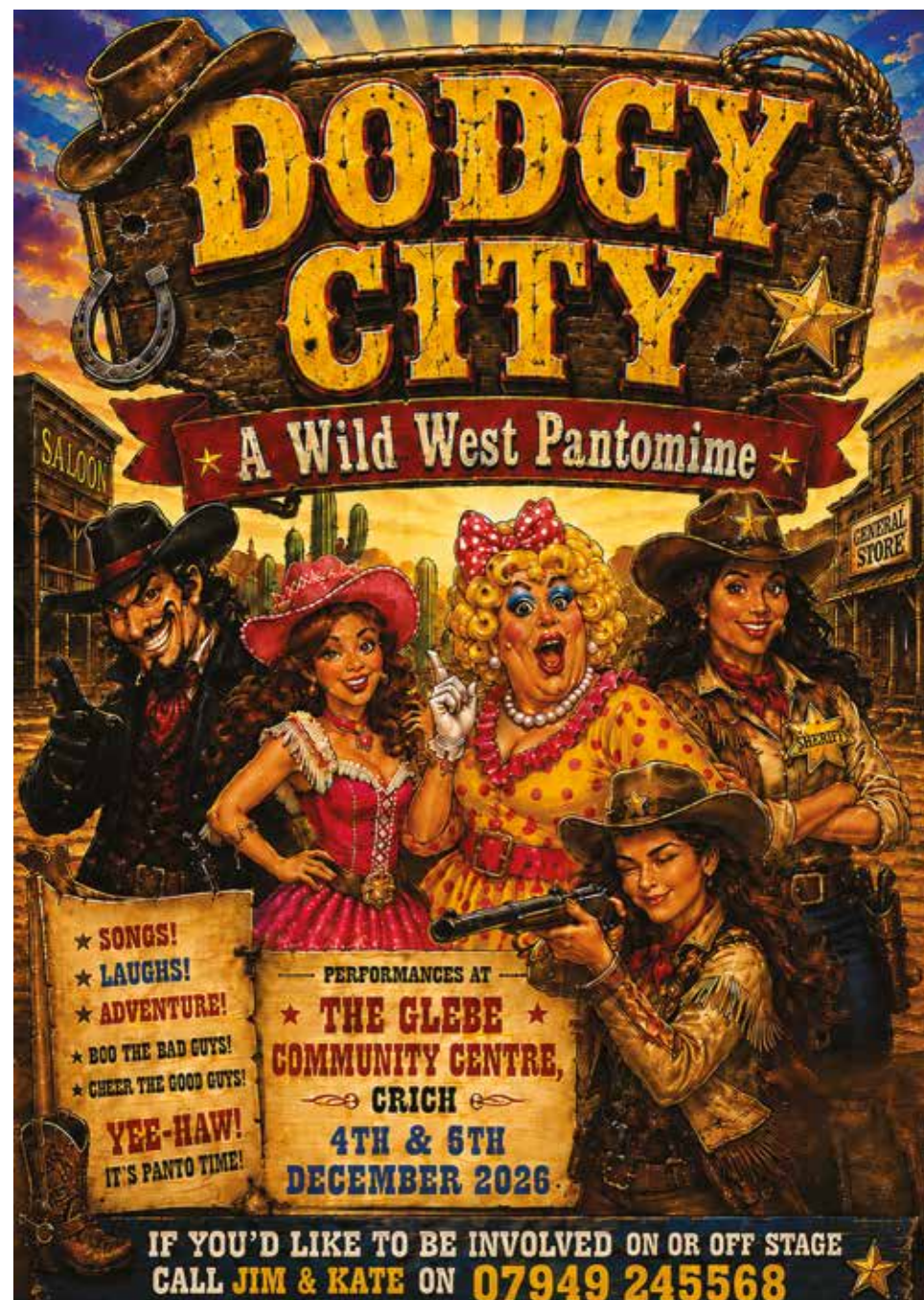
Crich Pubs and Restaurants Puzzle

By Tom Scutt

Each row of this puzzle contains the name of a pub or restaurant within a six-mile radius of Crich, reading left-to-right, if you add a letter in the central box. Each letter of the alphabet will be used exactly once in the central column; you can cross them off as you go. When you're finished, another local pub or restaurant will be spelled out reading down a portion of the central column.

G	O	L	D	B	L	A	C		S	W	A	N	N	I	N	G
A	S	P	O	T	T	E	D		O	W	L	I	S	H	L	Y
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B	E	H	O	L	D	Y	E		T	R	E	E	T	O	P	S
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C	Y	C	L	E	C	L	I		F	I	N	N	S	B	U	R
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D	E	E	P	B	L	U	E		E	L	L	A	F	I	T	Z
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Community Diary

CRICH WRITERS' GROUP

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

Upcoming dates:

Thursday 27 August

Thursday 24 September

Thursday 29 October

Thursday 26 November

Thursday 28 January

Writers in any genre, either professional or for leisure, are very welcome. Email louise@lmaskill.com for more information.

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.



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.

Free to attend, £1 donation appreciated.

CRICH SHARE & REPAIR CAFE

Saturday 19 September 2026

Saturday 14 November 2026

10am to 1pm

Crich Glebe Community Centre

Free of charge (donations welcome)

Come along to this friendly community event for repairs, sharpening, stalls, talks, crafts, homemade food, Sacred Bean Coffee and more.

MAKE, DO & MEND SKILL SHARE

Third Thursday of the month

7pm to 9pm

Crich Glebe Community Centre

Free of charge (donations welcome)

Unlock the power of community and sustainable living at these Make, Do & Mend workshops and dive into a world of skill sharing that's free of charge.

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.

ST MARY'S CHURCH, CRICH

Our regular service pattern is All Age Service first Sunday in the month, Holy Communion second Sunday, Morning Worship third Sunday and Holy Communion fourth Sunday. All morning services start at 10am, but note the following special events:

Saturday 3 October – Harvest Craft Afternoon. See posters for time

Sunday 4 October – Harvest Festival 10am

Sunday 11 October – Sunday@7 Informal evening service at 7pm with refreshments at 6.30pm

Sunday 1 November – Toy and Tin Service 10am

Sunday 1 November – 4pm Memorial Service for those recently departed

Friday 6 November – 'Lest we Forget' 7pm featuring the V&A Folk Choir

Sunday 8 November – Remembrance Service 10am

Sunday 20 November – Christingle 4pm

Times may be subject to change, so please check details nearer the time.

Other regular events:

HEALING PRAYER: On the 3rd Tuesday, 2pm @ Crich Wesley

POPALONG TODDLER GROUP: Fridays during term time, 9.30am at Crich Wesley

WEEKLY PRAYER MEETING: All are Welcome. Mondays 9am @ 16 Culland View Saturdays 9.30am @ 22 Cromford Road

HOMEGROUP: On the second Monday 2pm @ 21 Culland View

BOOK OF COMMON PRAYER HOLY COMMUNION: 8am @ 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/Vicar> (Part-time)

Rev Jo Honour: jo.honour@crichstmarys.org
Tel: 07902 111253

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

CRICH WELLBEING WALKS

Last Sunday of the month

10am to 1pm

Crich Market Place

Free of charge (donations welcome)

Volunteer-led 3-4 mile social walks in the local countryside at a comfortable pace.

Dress for the weather, wear sturdy shoes and bring walking poles if needed.

CRICH COMMUNITY LITTER PICKS

Saturday 3 October

Saturday 5 December

10am to 12 noon

Crich Glebe Community Centre car park

Free of charge

Get outside, meet like-minded people, and do something great for the planet and our community.

GROWING TO GATHERING COMMUNITY LUNCH

Saturday 10 October

12 noon - 2pm

St. Mary's Church, Crich

Free of charge

All welcome

Check our website transitioncrich.co.uk or socials for more information, updates and other ad hoc events.

CRICH COMMUNITY WOMEN'S INSTITUTE

We usually meet at Crich Glebe Community Centre on the last Wednesday of every month at 7pm.

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

Crich night sky: autumn and the zodiac

By Tom Scutt

The zodiac continues its journey across the night sky as the evenings begin to draw in, but it does not get any easier to spot in the autumn. Unlike the bright, unmistakable constellations of winter or the dramatic scorpion of summer, the autumn zodiac is rather more subtle. Capricornus, Aquarius and Pisces all contain relatively faint stars, and you'll need darker skies and a little more patience to appreciate them. Fortunately, however, they all have a fascinating story to tell.

Capricornus (the Sea Goat): Capricornus is one of the oldest constellations known, having been recognised for more than 3,000 years. Despite this impressive history, though, it's another constellation that's a little ... underwhelming. Its stars are fairly faint, forming a broad triangular shape that's easier to recognise once you've found it than it is to discover in the first place.

The strange half-goat, half-fish creature it represents comes from Babylonian mythology, although exactly why anyone looked at these stars and imagined such a beast remains something of a mystery.

Aquarius (the Water Bearer): Aquarius is the second largest constellation in the zodiac, yet it contains surprisingly few bright stars. On a dark night you may be able to trace the zigzag pattern that represents flowing water, but it certainly requires more imagination than Orion or Leo.

Aquarius is home to one of the most intriguing nearby planetary systems.

Around the red dwarf star **TRAPPIST-1**, just 40 light-years away, astronomers have discovered seven Earth-sized planets, three of which orbit within the star's "habitable zone" where temperatures may allow liquid water to exist. Whether any of them harbour life remains unknown, but they're among the most promising places we've found to search.

Pisces (the Fish): Pisces is one of the faintest and most difficult of all the zodiac constellations. Rather than a recognisable shape, it consists of two long chains of faint stars ending in a small circle of between five and seven stars (depending on how dark it is and how good your eyesight), known as the **Circlet of Pisces**. Although it is faint, once you've spotted the Circlet below the Square of Pegasus you'll probably wonder why you never noticed it before.

In my spring article I mentioned that your star sign isn't quite determined by where the Sun is among the stars when you're born. The reason is something called **precession**. Earth's axis slowly wobbles like a spinning top, completing one full wobble every 26,000 years or so. As a result, the position of the Sun against the background stars at any point in the calendar changes very gradually over time. When the zodiac was first devised over 2,000 years ago the Sun really was in Aries – the first sign of the zodiac – at the spring equinox. Today, it appears in Pisces instead.

Other things to look for:

- Saturn reaches opposition in September. This simply means that the Earth lies directly between Saturn and the Sun, placing the ringed planet opposite the Sun in our sky. As a result, Saturn is visible for almost the entire night and is at its brightest – making this the best time of year to see it through even a modest telescope, although the rings themselves are almost edge-on to us at the moment and won't be visible in their full glory for another couple of years.
- By late autumn the familiar **Square of Pegasus** dominates the southern sky. Although not part of the zodiac, it's one of the easiest autumn asterisms to recognise, and is a useful signpost to many other celestial objects including

the **Andromeda Galaxy**. At around two and a half million light-years away, this is the most distant object most people will be able to see with the naked eye (though it's easier to see with binoculars or a telescope!).

The zodiac constellations of the autumn sky don't shout for your attention in the way that the winter ones do. Instead, they reward patience. Give your eyes time to adapt to the darkness and the faint patterns of Capricornus, Aquarius and Pisces gradually begin to emerge. They may not be the brightest constellations in the sky, but they've guided observers for thousands of years – and they'll still be there, quietly watching, long after we're gone. ♦



Royal British Legion Crich and District Branch

By Kev Oliver – Vice Chairman RBL Crich and District Branch

A Unity Conference was held on 14 May 1921 in London to discuss the formation of the British Legion. Four main associations – the National Association of Discharged Sailors and Soldiers (1916), the British National Federation of Discharged and Demobilised Sailors and Soldiers, the Comrades of the Great War (1917) and the Officers Association (1920) – amalgamated on 15 May 1921 to form the nucleus of the Royal British Legion (RBL) as we recognise it today.

Comrades of the Great War Crich Branch were represented at the Unity Conference by Mr M Jackson, but Crich Comrades did not join the British Legion until September 1929. After a public meeting of ex-servicemen, their families and friends it was agreed to inaugurate a local branch, to be known as Crich and District Branch of the British Legion, with the committee formed from the Crich Comrades Club Committee.

In March 1932, disagreements regarding the management of the Comrades Club, along with unfounded rumours concerning its closure, prompted the resignation of several committee members who subsequently established an independent British Legion committee. This newly-formed group conducted its inaugural meeting at the Jovial Dutchman, Crich in May 1932, remaining there until the venue's closure in 2009. At that time they relocated to the Old Black Swan before eventually moving to the Cliff Inn. In November 2018 the branch returned to the Comrades Club; how appropriate that their return coincided with 100-year anniversary of the end of the First World War where the story first began.

On 24 April this year at Crich Comrades Club, Terry Bishop, our Crich Branch president, delivered an excellent and informative presentation about the Gallipoli Campaign of the First World War in 1915 to mark ANZAC Day. Branch members held a raffle and raised £168, which will be donated to the 2026 Annual Poppy Appeal. Before the presentation James Stafford DL, Chair of the Derbyshire Royal British Legion Branch, formally presented to our Branch Chairman, Keith Forsyth, the 2024–2025 Growth Membership Award in recognition of our achievement in recruiting the highest number of new members. A few years ago Crich Branch faced dwindling membership with only about six active members. Led by retired Army Captain John Lucas, a recruitment drive boosted the group to over 40 members, helping to secure its future.

At the heart of the RBL's mission is ensuring that the unique contribution of the Armed Forces community, in the UK and across the world, is never forgotten. By joining the RBL you can make new friends and help to keep the charity strong for years to come. Anyone can become a member, whether they have served or not. For further information find us on Facebook, enquire at Crich Comrades Club or contact Branch Chairman Keith Forsyth on 07984 203138

Celebrating Popalong at 20

Popalong at Wesley Chapel is 20 years old this autumn, so we're holding a celebration on Saturday 19 September at the Comrades Club from 2.30pm to 5.00pm.

Anyone who's ever been involved with Popalong – as a child, a parent, a carer, a helper or anything else – will be very welcome. This will be a wonderful opportunity to catch up with each other; we know that Popalong was quite a boon for many of you as young parents, offering a chance to meet others in the same situation and enjoy a decent cup of coffee during that exhausting time of your life.

It will be particularly interesting to meet some of our 'toddlers', many of whom are

now in their late teens and early twenties! There will be activities for the younger ones, some light refreshments, and the bar will be open. Crich Brew is brewing up a keg of Jig Jog Ale specially!

Maybe, if it's not too embarrassing, we'll see if you can remember some of the old songs, and we'd love to hear your memories and see any old photos.

We don't have contact details for everyone, so please spread the word. If you intend to come, it would help to have an idea of numbers, so please email Martyn: martynofford@gmail.com

We're looking forward to seeing you again!

The Thing About Dreams...

By Angela Churm

I'd dreamed of being able to write for a living since I was six, but minor things like putting a roof over my head and eating meant that this seemed unlikely. However, the dream never wavered.

The thing about dreams is they only become real if you work to make them happen. I would write on the bus to work, in my lunch hour, and as soon as I got home. I wrote fan fiction, published fanzines and sold them at conventions, and then a few years later I tried my hand at magazine features and sold a lot quite quickly. I wrote a trial script for the BBC for Doctors and ended up writing scripts for them for 20 years, also working on Coronation Street as a storyliner.

But something was still missing; I wanted to write original fiction. I wanted to write books. Books were my first love, and the characters waiting for me to tell their stories were languishing in the notebooks on the shelves behind my desk.

So I had a go. I got a lot of things wrong; you have to grow a thick skin to write. But I kept going, writing not one novel but three, all of which were rejected. Then a well-known editor became my mentor. I wrote one book for her, which was also rejected, but she said, "Write me another." Just like that! I pored over my notebooks, and began writing The House on Howling Hill, and finally I was successful.

Someone once said, "Success is about showing up." It's also about not giving up, even when it feels like you'll never get there. The thing is, even if nobody was paying me

for it, I would still have to write. This was my dream, and now it's my reality.

The House on Howling Hill is published by Tiny Tree books and will be released on 20th August. Available from any bookshop and from Amazon, or if you'd like to get a copy in person I'll be doing an author event at Belper Library on 5th September at 11a.m.

I love to talk writing, especially with other writers, whatever stage they're at. Some time ago I put feelers out asking if any other writer people out there would be interested in a local group – and Crich Writers was formed. **We meet around once a month on Thursdays at 2pm at the Old Black Swan. If you're a writer of any kind and would like to join us, you'd be very welcome – dates and contact details are always on the Community Diary pages of Crich Standard.**



Crich Glebe Community Centre Luncheon Club

The luncheon club at the Glebe is a pleasant way to spend a few hours on a Wednesday. From 10.30am until 1.00pm, for £10 you get coffee, biscuits and a two-course lunch cooked by Maxine, the Glebe's resident cook. Most importantly, there is chat, laughter and support, a chance to meet old friends and make new ones.

We have entertainment, activities, quizzes and conversation weeks, an annual outing and the ever-popular Christmas party. The picture is of our most recent excursion aboard the Peak Railway, a day enjoyed by all.

We currently have space for new members; you would be made to feel very welcome. Most of our members are of retirement age, and we have a mix of single people, couples and those that have lost a partner. If you would like to come along, please contact Marie at the Glebe, and then pop along for a couple of weeks and see if you'd like to join this lovely group.

We also offer a community lunch on a Tuesday if you don't want to make a regular commitment; this is bookable the Wednesday before. Of course, you are more than welcome to attend both.

Please be aware that unfortunately we are unable to offer transport to the Glebe.

Email: office@crichglebe.org or tel: 01773 857894



Beware of postal scams

We're all familiar with scam phone calls, text messages and emails, but don't forget that scammers still use the post.

A letter recently arrived at our address for a previous owner who passed away several years ago. It claimed to be from a law firm in relation to a legal matter, and asked the recipient to confirm receipt before any details would be given. The letter gave no explanation of the matter, only an email address and a request to make contact.

Whether genuine or not, the letter contained several warning signs that are common in scams:

- It was addressed to someone whose details were clearly out of date
- It created curiosity without explaining why contact was needed
- It encouraged the recipient to respond before providing any information
- It lacked the sort of contact details and professional presentation you would normally expect from a genuine law firm – there was no letterhead, the letter was dated April despite it being received in July, and there was no signature

The letter has gone in the bin, but this is a useful reminder that fraudsters don't just operate online or over the phone. They're still using traditional mail to try to catch people out.

If you receive an unexpected letter asking you to get in touch, don't respond straight away. Instead, verify the sender independently using contact details you find yourself, not those given in the letter. If you're at all unsure, ask a trusted friend or family member for advice before taking any action.

A healthy dose of caution can help protect us all, and if sharing this experience prevents even one person from becoming a victim, it will have been worthwhile.



Growing to gathering

By Transition Crich

We have all become aware of the term 'ultra-processed food', or UPF as it is commonly referred to, and recently there has been a great deal of coverage of this subject in the media and on television, especially following the publication of the book *Ultra-Processed People* by Chris van Tulleken.

Transition Crich's Growing to Gathering project aims to provide a solution to the UPF problem by encouraging local people to grow their own food (and subsequently know where it has come from and what it has in it), buy locally-sourced produce and plants from growers such as Pingle Produce and Earthed Up, and source their store cupboard staples from refill shops such as Skopa (Wirksworth) and Eartharmony (Belper).

As part of the project we've been helping Crich Junior School with their gardening, and have formed a group especially to support them to 'grow their own'.

We're also working with Crich and Whatstandwell Allotments to find a purpose for surplus crops, and will be collecting theirs, as well surplus fresh fruit and veg from anyone else in the parish who would like to donate, at the autumn harvest

collection at St. Mary's Church on 3 and 4 October (during church opening hours).

Then you are welcome to join us for a 'cook-up' at Crich Wesley Chapel on Wednesday 7 October from 10.30am to 1.30pm, where we will be transforming all the locally-grown produce into delicious soups, stews, salads and pies.

The food will be served free of charge at a community meal on **Saturday 10 October in St. Mary's Church**. Come along with your friends and neighbours to taste the delicious bounty of non-processed, locally grown, chemical free food. All are welcome.

Nostalgia ain't what it used to be

By Don Zmartzy

Nostalgia, as we all know, is a feeling of pleasure and maybe slight sadness when you think about certain things that happened in the past. I find myself more and more susceptible to it these days. For me, there are certain sounds, sights and so on that either trigger general memories of yesteryear, or somehow evoke positive thoughts and emotions related to specific past experiences. I guess this must be the same for many people. But is it a gradually disappearing phenomenon?

Most recently for me, it was brought about by the sound of bells ringing. This is not all that common these days, although there are some households in Crich who presumably hear it daily. This is what AI has to say about it:

"Hearing bells ring has profound, scientifically backed benefits. Acoustically, the rich frequencies of bells immediately engage both hemispheres of the brain. This acoustic stimulation breaks lingering thought patterns, promoting mindfulness, deep relaxation, and significant stress relief."

Well, yes, I guess so – from a distance, though, rather than in very close proximity! However, this got me thinking about what else sets me off on a trip down Memory Lane. I started to make a list...

Cocks crowing and chickens clucking

It seems to me that not so many people keep chickens these days. I live just across the road from a family who do, and I must say I do like to hear the birds chatting to each other occasionally. My maternal grandparents used to keep them at the bottom of their garden, and as a lad I used to enjoy a walk down to watch and listen to them.

Birdsong

Not rare by any means, but how many of us take the time to sit and listen? Scientific studies confirm that birdsong is indeed a disappearing phenomenon. Extensive acoustic mapping has discovered that natural soundscapes are growing quieter and less varied globally. This fading symphony is a direct result of severe declines in worldwide bird populations brought about by many factors. Because the decline is happening slowly, over generations, are we failing to notice how quiet the landscape has become compared to the past? To try and stay connected I've now got the Merlin birdsong identification app on my mobile, which I have to say is brilliant!

Stopping for a chat

In the street, in a shop, on the bus – is the art of chatting now a disappearing cultural meme in today's society? Here the memory is of a slower paced age, when it seemed normal to take time out for a wee chat when out and about. Back then it seemed to have the effect of binding neighbours and communities together more firmly.

Gardens

Working to look after my garden, as well as visiting others, is a continuing pleasure (well, mostly!), but with new homes having smaller and smaller plots and people generally seeming to have less time or interest, is gardening a diminishing pastime? Back in the day folks seemed to spend much more time tending their cottage borders, allotments or growing flowers for shows.

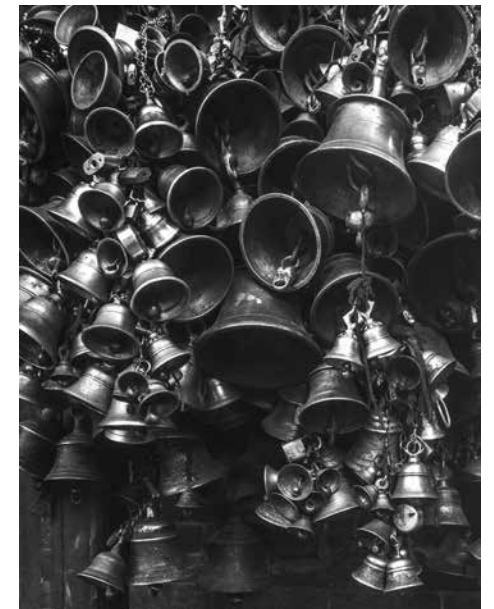
Classic cars

Every time I see a classic vehicle out on the road it reminds me of times when cars didn't all look the same. You opened the bonnet and everything was visible, recognisable and accessible. Inside you'd often get a bit of quality wood veneer and some nice analogue instruments (I loved my Triumph Dolly), comfy velour seats (Wolseley, Vanden Plas etc.) and plush carpets. Of course, there were some duds (think Allegro or Marina), but there was style, and we had a dynamic and competitive industry.

Trams

OK, this is going back a bit further, but with the Tramway Museum on the doorstep, what a great opportunity for a bit of nostalgia. The build quality, the over-engineering, the attention to detail, the craftsmanship – and you can go for a ride on one! You don't have to go to some European capital where a few of the old trams still run.

The list goes on – TV programmes, music, films, and other examples abound. Here's the ending that you will probably be expecting, though – no doubt with eyes raised to the skies. What from the last 20 years will be remembered with fondness in another 10, 30 or 50? Interesting food for thought, I think.



Views from Crich Stand – fact or fiction?

By Pete Charboneau

You can see Skegness clock from Crich Stand ... or so I was once told.

One evening in the Cliff Inn, soon after I came to live in Crich, I was told that you can see Skegness clock from Crich Stand. Really! Skegness clock is 122km away and only about 10m in height, so I knew they were pulling my leg, but it got me interested. So I set out to find out for myself what could be viewed from the top of the Stand.

It is said that you can see:

- The Humber Bridge
- Lincoln Cathedral
- Five counties – maybe more

Several years, maps, articles, calculations and numerous site visits later, this is what I've established.

The Humber Bridge

Now this is a massive structure, no question. When it opened in June 1981 its 2,220m single span was the longest of its kind in the world, and was only surpassed in 1997. Its main towers stand just over 155m high on their bases, with the tops of the towers reaching about 160m, but it is around 100km away! While it's theoretically possible to see something

160m high at that distance, assuming no intermediate interfering terrain, only the top 55–60m can be seen because everything below that is hidden by the Earth's curvature.

Scrutinising the landscape along the ridge that runs between Hardwick Hall and Bolsover Castle raised early hopes. A bright white column was spotted peeping just above the horizon in roughly the right location.

I had my doubts, so I decided to verify the sighting by taking shots from both Crich and Highordish. Alas it was not the bridge; it had to be something nearer, since both views showed it to the south of Bolsover, rather than to one side or the other, as would be the case if the object was as far away as the Humber.

I have found no credible other likely object, and therefore decided to draw a halt to the Humber Bridge search, at least for now. I have since been told that you can pick out the aircraft warning lights at night, but sorry – for now, the Bridge has to go!

Lincoln Cathedral

Now the Cathedral is just over 65km from Crich – still a long way to see anything, but again, it's theoretically possible. Whether or not we can do so depends on a number of factors: the earth's curvature, the terrain, and last but not least, the atmospheric conditions.

I can say this has been tough to investigate, and I have found that it's not possible to see it from the comfort of the Crich Stand car park – not even with binoculars. Furthermore, I have not managed to see it with the naked eye at any time.

But the good news is, it is there! The magnificent structure of Lincoln Cathedral is 83m high, standing on the crest of a hill some 50–60m above the surrounding flatlands of Lincolnshire. The top of the cathedral is therefore around 150m above sea level. Crich Stand sits on a hill 286m high, and the height above sea level of the viewing platform is approximately 300m.

I needed to verify the outline of the building which I thought through binoculars was Lincoln Cathedral, so I needed to get closer but also stay on the line of sight from Crich Stand. On the far side of Mansfield there's a little village called Kneesall, sitting on a ridge about 30km this side of Lincoln (approx halfway from Crich) overlooking the low-lying terrain eastwards to Lincoln. From Kneesall I saw the cathedral, still only small with the naked eye (say 2–3mm in size at arm's length), but nevertheless twice the size at which it can be seen from Crich.



Lincoln Cathedral from Crich hilltop (2017)



Lincoln Cathedral from Highordish (2017)



Lincoln Cathedral from Kneesall (2017)



Lincoln Cathedral from Crich at sunrise (2018; as original but enhanced for clarity)

I concluded that the outline of the hill and the building which I could see from Crich Stand was indeed the same as the outline seen from Kneesall, proving that Lincoln Cathedral really is visible from Crich Stand. The light could have been kinder, but I managed some photos, making a satisfying end to this part of my project.



The far-off Peaks beyond Matlock (2018)

Now on to the counties

Clearly we're surrounded by Derbyshire, we can see the cooling towers at Radcliffe on Soar power station on the Leicestershire border, and Lincoln Cathedral ticks the box for Lincolnshire. The high ground of Huthwaite in Nottinghamshire is easily visible, so on to county five – Yorkshire. To the north over Matlock you can see the snowy peaks of Kinder, in Derbyshire, but to the east and overlooking the Derwent reservoirs around Bamford you can also see the peaks of Broomhead Moor, which lie just inside Yorkshire.

So we can definitely tick the box for five counties – but are there more? Maybe

Staffordshire, Lancashire, Cheshire even? One Wikipedia entry on Crich says that eight counties can be seen, although it does not name them. An entry on Atlas Obscura states seven, excluding Cheshire, while William Adam's book of 1851, *Gem of the Peak*, states that the view "from the top of Crich Cliff embrac[es] (it is said) a range over five counties".

So, we'll trust there are five at least – for now...

Note: All photos are originals, enhanced for clarity where appropriate, and are not for copying without permission. Copyright P. Charboneau.

Alphabox

Crich Pubs and Restaurants Puzzle Answers

OLD BLACK SWAN (Crich), SPOTTED COW (Holbrook), STONES (Matlock), OLD YEW TREE (South Wingfield), REMARKABLE HARE (Matlock), RK LOUNGE (Crich), OLIVE (Belper), MAAZI (Matlock), QUARRYMAN (Wirksworth), JUG AND GLASS (Lea), ARMANDO'S (Belper), LIME KILN (Wirksworth), BARLEY MOW (Bonsall), FEATHER STAR (Wirksworth), DEAD POETS INN (Holbrook), HURT ARMS (Ambergate), ANILA (Ambergate), RED LION (Crich, Fritchley), EXCAVATOR (Buckland Hollow), CLIFF INN (Crich), DEVONSHIRE (Belper), LE MISTRAL (Wirksworth), BLUEBELL (South Wingfield), BOAT INN (Cromford), HORSE AND JOCKEY (Wessington), FISHPOND (Matlock Bath). **Final hidden pub: GREYHOUND (Cromford)**

Crich Scouts update

This article is being written following the Fête, so I have to start off by saying thank you to the Crich Standard committee for awarding Crich Scout group the community award. The award is for all the current and past leaders and young people who support the community. I think this is an important part of Scouting – not only offering fun activities that young people might not be able otherwise experience, but also taking an active part in village life, which will hopefully carry on once they outgrow Scouts.

We had a successful BBQ and coconut shy at the Fête this year – thank you to everyone who come to our stalls. The money raised helps to pay the bills for the Scout Hut and keep the group running. It takes a team of people to run the stalls, and this year we had help from our leaders, their families, young people, their families, and friends from around the village. We were able to get all our bread from the Loaf and the meat from Crich Butchers; thank you for supporting us.

We're already looking forward to the next events. The Scouts will be taking part in Poacher, which is a week-long international jamboree held at Lincoln Showground. Reading about the activities that are on offer in the parent consent letter, I'm a bit jealous; the list includes driving a hovercraft and skydiving. I'll

report back on all the fun we had in the next issue.

Following on from a successful Mother's Day service, all the sections will hopefully be getting involved with a harvest festival service at St Mary's. Keep your eyes peeled for more information closer to the time.

I've seen a request for a cascade of remembrance poppies at Crich Beacon (see page 4 of this issue of Crich Standard for more information), so both me and the Beavers are going to be learning crochet and knitting next term. We'll all learn some new skills and hopefully help to produce something that looks great.

Another fun-packed term at Crich Junior School

The Brownlee Triathlon at Moorways Sports Village in Derby was a fantastic day enjoyed by everyone involved. Fifty children took part, challenging themselves, building confidence and experiencing the excitement of a triathlon in a fun and supportive environment. Every participant received a medal and goody bag, but most importantly, everyone had a wonderful time.

Our talented young musicians also shone at the Derby Arts Festival, performing solo and ensemble pieces on instruments including the recorder, piano, violin and cello. We were especially proud that our instrumental ensemble earned a spot in the prestigious Winners' Concert. Thank you to our dedicated music teachers, and to the many families who supported the children throughout the festival.

A huge thank you to Mrs Porter and everyone involved in this year's Well Dressing project. From preparing the clay to placing every petal and seed, countless hours of creativity and teamwork produced a stunning Wildlife Garden display.

This year's production of Peter Pan, performed at the Baptist Chapel, was another highlight. Despite the hot weather the cast delivered three fantastic performances, delighting audiences with their acting, singing and enthusiasm. We are incredibly proud of everyone who took part, both on stage and behind the scenes.

Finally, it is with great sadness that we say goodbye to Mr Orridge, who has served as our Headteacher for the past six years. During his 23 years at Crich Junior School he has led and taught with dedication, kindness and unwavering commitment, making a lasting impact on the lives of countless children, families and staff. We thank him for his many years of service, and wish him every success in his future endeavours. We have no doubt that he will be feeling rather smug in September, as the rest of us return to school while he embarks on his West Highland Way walk! We send him our heartfelt thanks and very best wishes for the future.



Crich Infants update

At the end of term, Crich C of E Infant School held a 'Thank you Tea Party' to celebrate and thank the wonderful people who help to make our school special throughout the year. In particular, we celebrated and thanked Mrs Snape, who has moved on after 19 years at our school. Many children and families will have very fond memories of Mrs Snape's kind, calm and nurturing nature and we will miss her very much.

We're very grateful for the support given by all the volunteers who read with the children, help at Forest School, organise fun events and fundraising as part of the PTFA, and offer their services as members of our governing board. We currently have vacancies for both parent and community governors. If you are interested in finding out more about this or other opportunities to get involved with the life of our school, please contact us on 01773 852165 or enquiries@crich-inf.derbyshire.sch.uk



Crich Carr School and Nursery update



As we come to the end of another successful school year, it's important to reflect on everything our children have achieved and accomplished.

Our Nursery provision has continued to flourish, and we are all so proud of the nurturing, inclusive environment we have created at Crich Carr. We continue to witness how this environment allows all our children to achieve success and fulfilment.

Class 2 recently attended the Count Me In Orchestra in Derby, following on from playing with the Halle Orchestra last year. The children worked hard on their flute skills, leading to a fabulous performance playing alongside other local schools at Derby Arena. The children played along to a wide range of popular and less well-known songs including Wallace and Gromit, Waltz of the Flowers and Pirates

of the Caribbean. The children love to take part in these fabulous annual events to show off the musical skills they have learnt throughout the year. Next year – ukuleles!

Some fabulous artwork has been produced by the children, which was showcased to parents and family during our School Summer Fayre. The children created landscapes based on the work of Claude Monet, which was also the inspiration for our well dressing entry. Every child in the school contributed to our well dressing; we were so proud of them all, and we think they did a super job of creating a beautiful artwork.

The Early Years children have been spending time at our beach; they really enjoyed this, and spent many hours enjoying the sensory activities. As the children enjoyed it so much, we extended our beach to include a campsite next door. This was another great activity that the children loved, with many of them wanting to sleep over!

Our Class 2 children put on an incredible performance of Superstar for their families, held at the Glebe in Crich. The children were incredible and showcased their amazing acting skills, their fabulous singing and dancing, as well as their excellent comic timing. It was a great evening which we know the audience enjoyed!

We would like to recognise the hard work of all our children this year, as well as the staff who work around the clock to ensure the children have the best primary experience possible. A special thanks to Mrs Redgate, who has worked at the school for many years and has always gone above and beyond to help the children. The children adore Mrs Redgate, and we are all very sorry to see her moving on to a new role. We know you will be amazing, but we will all miss you very much – thank you for everything you have done!

We hope everyone in our school community has an amazing summer, and we'll be back in September to kick off another fun-packed year here at Crich Carr.



Thank you, Tony

After many years of involvement with Crich Standard, Tony Mills has decided to step down from the committee and his role as Chair.

Tony's contribution to the magazine has been significant. Since becoming involved shortly after moving to the village, he has given a great deal of time, energy and enthusiasm to helping shape Crich Standard into the publication it is today. He played a key role in guiding the magazine through its transition from its early days with CACN to the full-colour, engaging publication enjoyed by residents today.

During his time as Chair Tony has helped bring together the stories, events and people that make our parish such a special place to live. His commitment has also helped build friendships and strengthen the community connections that sit at the heart of the magazine.

Although Tony is stepping down from the committee, we are delighted that his support for Crich Standard and the wider community will continue. We would like to thank him sincerely for everything he has contributed.

As the magazine moves forward, we hope to build on Tony's achievements by welcoming new ideas and new volunteers to the team. If you would like to get involved in helping shape the next chapter of Crich Standard, please contact us at editor@crichstandard.org or via our Facebook page @crichstandard. We'd love to hear from you.

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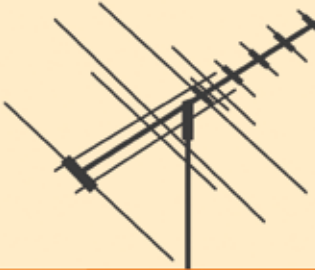
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