



Ironville & Codnor Park Newsletter



Local news, events, articles and more March 2025



Welcome to Issue Number Twenty Two

We hope that you continue to find our village newsletter of interest and enjoy its articles and other contents. If you would like to get in touch or send in articles or other news items please write to the editor - Andy (acadman175@yahoo.com)

For further information why not visit the web site: <http://tinyurl.com/nzxc2t9w>

News From Ironville and Codnor Park Primary School



☎ 01773 602936

We have been celebrating **READING** in a big way at Ironville and Codnor Park with our Storytelling Week recommendations shared in classes. Kestrels class have been gearing up for World Book Day on March 6th by writing speeches to tell the school of the benefits of reading and why it is so important! Last term saw a great deal of invasions, with Vikings in Eagles class, Romans in our Kestrels class and the uncovering of Ancient Egypt in Kingfishers class. This term is all about exploration as our classes travel across Northern Italy to Venice and Robins class find out about London and Beijing. We have been proud to be part of the '100 Trees Project' which supports our eco-friendly efforts; the younger members of our anti-bullying crew received the 'Diana Award' Anti-Bullying training and the whole school participated in Internet Safety Day and Mental Health Awareness week which both ensures that our school is a safe and welcoming environment for all!



www.ironvillecodnorpark.derbyshire.sch.uk



"Thank you to the South Notts ringing group for taking their time to ring the cygnets at the Res" See page 9 to find out more.

Photo: Andy Moon



**What is going on here?
See pages: 27 & 28
To find out more.**

Parish Council Update *by Kath Gruber, Parish Clerk*



Ironville Roads & Community Efforts: Working Together for a Better Village

Residents of Ironville will no doubt be aware that potholes on our roads remain a frustrating issue. With the wear and tear of winter weather, they seem to appear faster than they can be fixed! While it may feel like an uphill battle, the best way to get them addressed is by reporting them directly to Derbyshire County Council. You can do this quickly online via their website [Road maintenance - Derbyshire County Council](#) or by calling their help-line [01629 533190](tel:01629533190). The more reports they receive, the sooner action is likely to be taken.

I'd like to take a moment to recognise the hard work of our Parish Councillors. These dedicated people give their time and energy tirelessly to support our village, all without financial reward. From raising local concerns to improving facilities in the village, they work behind the scenes to make Ironville a better place for everyone.

One shining example of their commitment was the 2024 Christmas light switch-on event. Months of planning and coordination went into making it the best one yet, bringing festive cheer to the whole village. Their efforts ensured a magical atmosphere for families to enjoy, and we hope everyone had a wonderful time celebrating together. If you see our Councillors around, a simple thank you goes a long way!



Together, by reporting road issues and supporting our local councillors, we can all play a part in making Ironville an even better place to live.

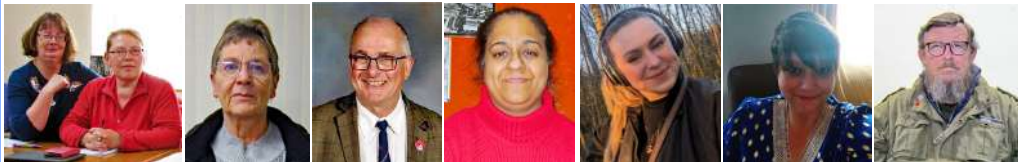
On a related note, Join Ironville Parish Council – Help Shape the Future of Our Community
Ironville Parish Council has two vacancies, and we are looking for passionate, community-minded individuals to join us in making Ironville even better.

Do you love our village? Do you want to have a say in local decisions that impact our residents today and for generations to come? If so, this is your opportunity to make a real difference.

As a Parish Councillor, you will:

- ✓ Represent the views of residents and help shape local policies
- ✓ Support initiatives that enhance community well-being and public spaces
- ✓ Promote biodiversity and sustainability to protect our environment

Your Parish Councillors are pictured below:



L to R: Cllr E. Holgate (Chair), Cllr T. Bowler Vice Chair, Cllr Y. Hutsby-Bird, Cllr P. Rose, Cllr B. Gill, Cllr N. Farthing, Cllr J. Payne, Cllr W. Taylor

Councillor Liz Holgate:  As a parish councillor, I am honoured to be the Chair of Ironville Parish Council. I have the privilege of contributing to our fantastic community. From enhancing local facilities to supporting community events, every effort we make helps to make our village a great place to live. Please consider joining us in making a difference to our local community.



If you are interested in joining the council and playing a key role in our village's future, we'd love to hear from you. Contact the Parish Clerk, Kath Gruber, by emailing clerk@ironvilleparishcouncillor.gov.uk or calling 07595 515154

Join us in making a positive impact—together, we can help Ironville flourish

Find out what is happening by checking the Parish Council website which has details of meetings, policies and initiatives. The website can be found - www.ironvilleparishcouncil.gov.uk

If you have any comments, suggestions or questions for the Parish Council please contact the Parish Clerk, Kath Gruber, on clerk@ironvilleparishcouncil.gov.uk or 07595515154

Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Parish Council will take place at 7pm in the Community Centre on Monday 17 March 2025.

Dale Club, Main Road, Jacksdale, NG16 5HR

Saturday 15 March 2025 – 7:00 p.m.

Present in Concert

The Pye Hill & District Male Voice Choir

FREE Admission – Everyone Welcome

Bar and Raffle Available



Come along with family and friends and enjoy an evening of singing and entertainment. Expect a blend of choral favourites, songs from the shows, contemporary music, talented soloists, and humour!

*Editor's note - This choir originally practised and performed at Ironville & Pye Hill United Free Reform Methodist Chapel
See page 34.*

JOIN OUR HUGE MACS

Easter Eggs

Food boxes

Easter Bonnetts

Peter Rabbit

Biscuits

Games & More.

EASTER PARTY

SATURDAY 19TH
APRIL 2025

IRONVILLE CHURCH
HALL

2:00pm until 5:00pm
tickets £4 per child

For more information visit
MACS FACEBOOK PAGE

News from the Forge *from Sally Fisher*

Hi Everyone,

Last summer saw us complete the dry path from the Iron gates to the Canyons but we always knew that the real test of our work would be through the winter months. We did not have to wait long because in November we had one of the heaviest snowfalls we have had in years. Many of you walked along that path knowing it was firm underneath and enjoyed the views something you would not have attempted in previous years because of the mud. Generally the path had stood up to the wear and tear it has received though we are aware we need to do some topping up once we can bring vehicles back on to the land. The snow was heavy enough to cause many trees to bow under the weight of the snow so we had to check very carefully for any broken bows and deal with any branches which could cause blockage of the footpath or hang over the footpath. Fortunately we know a man, Malc by name, who is always very willing to give us a hand with this work.

The footpath runs through the Canyons to Blackbridge where a safe set of steps were needed along with railings. The Friends of Cromford Canal offered to design, build and help us install these whilst we funded the operation. To anyone who has given a donation, thank you, as prices have rocketed in the last three years



Left-right are John Sparham, Mick Biss, Chris Auckland and Malcolm Chisnall.



We have also taken on a young student who wants work experience in conservation. (See photographs below) So far we have done some litter picking, cut back scrub to hopefully restore the re- emergence of some over-whelmed orchids. He is getting used to using our tree poppers and very determined about it too. We are also introducing him to the flora and fauna as we come across it, recently red elf caps.

As always we want to thank all of you who pick up litter as you enjoy your walks. Can I make a plea for dog walkers not to throw their poobags into the trees but to dispose of them in the bins along the canal or on Station road. Please continue to pick up your dog poo though. Together we can make this a clean welcoming space for everybody. Contact details: Sally: ☎ 07434781465 Deb ☎ 07737699584



  **THE ANVIL CLUB**  

The Anvil Club is open every evening - Monday - Tuesday 5-10, Thursday 5 - 11 Wednesday 5 - 11, Friday 5 - 12, Saturday 2 - 12 & Sunday 2 - 10



The Anvil Club is the perfect place for your functions. Where you can celebrate those special times or hold important meetings.



A cosy place, to enjoy a pint of good bitter ale with a welcoming atmosphere. A great place for a game of Pool too. With Your host Maria serving ales clear and bright.



See BACK PAGE column 1 for full details of activities & events



Find us on Facebook 
"The Anvil Club"

Contact Maria McCormack on 07816-439881

The Anvil Club, Casson Street, Ironville, Nottingham, NG16 5NN

IRONVILLE PARISH COUNCIL

Where is your money spent?

What Your Parish Council Does

Ironville Parish Council provides and maintains local amenities to ensure Ironville is an attractive place to live

% of Budget spent on



- Allotments
- Bus shelters
- Public seating
- Grit bins
- (Some) Litter Bins
- Litter Picking
- Information on website & noticeboard
- Defibrillators
- Hanging Baskets
- Village Planters
- Arranging fly tipping removals

81% goes on providing **services & facilities** for you



Community events



Litter Picking



Clean and Tidy



Information



Christmas Lights



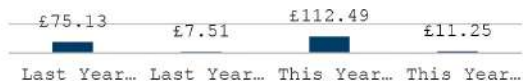
Floral Displays



Village Maintenance

Council Tax Cost for (Band D)

Households



Rising costs have meant that the Parish Council's portion of your Council Tax (the precept) has increased by 49.7% since last year. While this may sound significant, in real terms, it equates to just an additional £3.74 per month (or even less for Band A, B, and C households) when spread across the usual 10 monthly payments. Unlike other local authorities, which are having to cut services, we are committed to maintaining—and even improving—the services we provide to our community. This modest increase ensures we can continue delivering essential local services despite rising costs, giving you more, not less, for your money.

What Other Councils Do

Derbyshire County Council



Transport & Roads



Footpath/Hedge Maintenance



Education



Social Care

Amber Valley Borough Council



Planning



Waste Collections

TEAM IRONVILLE *by Nigel Lane*

Spring is on its way again, after what has been a fairly unremarkable winter. We did have a little fun, decorating the small conifer on Parkside and were very grateful for the number of positive comments we received. What has happened to the snow we remember as children? I know that most people don't like the cold, especially as we get older, but it is really good for the natural world. Many plants rely upon cold to enable them to rest, then suddenly sprouting to give us a lovely spring display of colour. Spring flowering bulbs are starting to show themselves at this time of year, especially along Cinder Bank, with crocuses the first to bloom; we ask drivers not to park up on the grass verge, when visiting the post office, as there is a lot starting to come through there at the moment. The snowdrops are set a little further



back, as are the daffodils, but the crocuses are quite near to the kerb. Flower beds elsewhere around the village still look quite bare; there are some snowdrops and other spring flowering bulbs showing, but generally they are yet to start turning green. The beds on Parkside need some attention, as vehicles park there and sometimes catch the stone edging, dislodging it. We have some work to do there this year. Rainwater also brings a lot of soil with it, as it runs down Monument Lane, leaving it, along with some that is washed out of the flower bed, making quite a muddy mess. We will need to clear it before we can access the bed behind. We made the decision last year, to reduce the number of areas that we can support, as we are really short of resources. We are all getting older and some ill-health is getting in the way. The recent weather also stopped us from getting out, when we really could be tidying up beds while nothing has started growing; when it does start, it happens fast.

Come and join us for an enjoyable few hours on a Tuesday; its great, relatively gentle exercise and is very sociable. We do need to do some more planting for summer colour; we have received donations of plants in the past, but could always use more. We do have a limited fund, which enables us to make small purchases, including the tools we need.



“TOOTSIES” FOOTCARE - AFFORDABLE FOOTCARE

Age UK Derby and Derbyshire and NHS Derbyshire County are working together to offer an affordable, long-term footcare solution for people aged 50+.

In Ironville Church Hall, Casson St. on:

Wednesday 9th April 2024 and Wednesday 21st May

To book an appointment please call 01773 766922
(More dates follow on - every 6 weeks approx.)



Autumn and winter months herald the arrival of flocks of redwing and fieldfare, twittering redpoll and siskin, and the honks of migrating geese. The changing soundscape marks the start of our autumn/winter seasonal work.

We look after the section of canal owned by Derbyshire Wildlife Trust, an important wildlife corridor for nature, connecting with the Reservoir, Erewash Meadows and the Forge site. Our group of committed and hardworking volunteers make sure the area is free from litter, empty the bins and ensure the towpath is accessible year-round.

This season's work focuses on managing the water levels within the canal. It is important to maintain areas of deep water, shallow stretches and slow flowing and faster flowing zones, providing the variety of habitats needed for the diverse wildlife we find along the canal. This time of year, when disturbance to wildlife is minimal, we can start the endless task of cutting swathes into the reeds and chopping into the grassy reed, encouraging the water into drier areas to create pools and ponds. It is hard manual work; you will often see us pulling out reeds from the towpath with long poles and a hook. We have also been into the canal, donning our waders to winch out some of the willow trees and their strong roots; left unchecked these would dry out the canal. The cut branches and the root ball are used to build buffer strips on the side of the canal, to prevent the paths flooding and to create ideal habitat for water voles and bank voles.

We witnessed immediate results from removing a small group of willows from the canal. It encouraged the water to flow into that area very quickly, creating a lovely pond area. Damming areas further downstream also helped the water to back up and maintain wetter areas of the canal. If we can prevent key areas of the canal drying out, then the vegetation that thrives on damp ground will eventually decrease and move out to the margins. We tend to only tackle a small area at a time, then observe the impact of our work on the water levels further down the canal.



Using a winch to drag the strong roots of the willows from the middle of the canal.



Creating a water channel in the reeds



Immediate results of removing a group of willow trees, creating a pond area where previously it had been dry.

Despite the heavy rainfall this year, the paths have remained relatively intact and flooding has been minimal. We have received a large delivery of stone courtesy of Longcliffe Quarries, which will be used for path repair if required over the winter months and to renew the towpath next spring. We have created some channels to direct the water from the towpath and onto the scrape. This is an area of wet meadow habitat important for Egrets, Lapwing, Snipe, Meadow Pipits and for winter ducks and geese. Conservation grazing on the scrape has seen the cattle create varied swards of wet grassland habitat and lovely muddy edges around the ponds for the wading birds to pick over for their food. We are looking for solutions with Derbyshire Wildlife Trust on how to maintain some water in the ponds on the scrape as they are drying out very quickly, even after heavy rainfall.



Water Rail

We are regularly seeing Kingfishers along the canal, particularly on cold frosty mornings when other water sources are frozen over. There are a couple of Water Rails, often tricky to see skulking in the reed, but their loud pig-like squeal is a give-away that they are close by.

Photo by Andy Moon

This year, we have been involved in the Water Vole Recovery Project; an exciting venture run by Nottinghamshire Wildlife Trust. The project is focussed on water vole recovery across the county. Our site was chosen, amongst others in Nottinghamshire, as a collection site for water vole droppings. Six small rafts were placed in various locations along the canal. Water voles, when marking their territory like to poo on areas that protrude out of the water, usually rocks or muddy banks but obligingly left their droppings on each one of the rafts. These droppings were then collected and sent off for genetic testing in a laboratory. Our site is well known for having a thriving population of water voles and it will be interesting to understand the genetic diversity and relatedness of our local water voles. As part of the project, we have been monitoring for American Mink. Mink are an invasive species and very successful predators, and could decimate the water vole population very quickly. So far, no evidence of mink, we have however seen otters along the river Erewash and found otter spraint and footprints along the canal and under humpy bridge. Although otter and mink do use the same territories, mink tend to be less prevalent if there are otters about.

Following on from the bird ringing event on the Forge in the summer, members of the South Notts Ringing Group, captured and ringed the 5 cygnets and the 2 adult swans at the Reservoir. The swans, tamed by locals regularly feeding them, were easily caught and appeared to be very chilled about it. The ring information will be logged with the British Trust for Ornithology and we could get data on where the cygnets eventually move on to and when and where they have young of their own. Thank you to the South Notts Ringing group and to the members of the Codnor Park Reservoir Fishery who helped out on the day. *A photograph featuring the ringing event can be found on the front page.*



Don't forget to check out the QR posts dotted along the canal. Scan the QR code to access information and pictures detailing the industrial history of the canal. Since installation the QR codes have been scanned almost 2000 times, providing an interesting and educational addition to the area.



The group is saying a sad farewell to Mike and Angie Sheard and Marie Brown, key members of the core committee who have put in years of hard work and dedication to make the group the success it is today. Thank you for everything you have done and achieved, you will be greatly missed.

For further information or to volunteer please contact us via our Facebook page or by email. The new address is: cromfordcanalgroup@gmail.com



Find us on:
facebook®

CODNOR PARK FISHERY

by Steve Scudder

During the last twelve months of 2024 with the help of volunteers we have managed to carry out some of the work on our to-do list.

Our priority was to improve the drainage on the field side of the reservoir and at the same time replacing some of the old fishing platforms and installing new ones, including an easy -access platform for wheelchair users .

With plenty of help, we managed to dig and lay drainage pipes along the very worst parts of the path and replace fourteen platforms. The volunteers then moved two hundred and forty barrows of stone from the car park to the field of the reservoir is no mean feat believe me. Although the path is much less muddy now than previous years, there is still more work to be done on the path in 2025.

The car park is also on our list of work to be done. We have laid twelve tonnes of stone onto the car park surface during 2024 but it is as bad today as it ever has been. This year we need to find some serious funding to get it sorted out once and for all, hopefully.

In the early part of February this year, we ordered some new bird boxes, an owl box, and a large bat box to install around the reservoir. If they are successful we will purchase more at the end of this year.

The fishing at the Park has been really busy during the last twelve months with some great match returns. On average we have had twenty anglers per match which has given us the funding for all



of the improvement and maintenance work that is being carried out.

We are always looking for volunteers. There is plenty of work to be carried out during the spring and summer, mowing, strimming, wood cutting / pruning and litter picking, also removing Himalayan balsam and that is a thankless task ,but it has to be done. So, if you have a couple of hours to spare come on down and get your hands dirty and have a free tea, coffee and a bacon cob.

We will list working party dates on the noticeboard in the car park.

Thanks to all of the anglers and the collection tin at the Waters Edge Burger Cabin; plus a raffle run by Steph and Tara, we were able to gift £1050 to the Air Ambulance, our chosen charity.

Steve, Tony and Angela



Clowns Children's Centre

In January the children enjoyed exploring the shaving foam. They used the activity to develop their sensory skills by talking about how the foam felt and what it smelt like. It was an excellent activity to promote our describing words, share and take turns and play cooperatively with our friends.



If you would like to find out more about the activities we do and are interested in a place for your child please contact the nursery on clownsnursery4@yahoo.co.uk

We would be happy to tell you more and help you to understand how much fun the children have learning through play. We offer places for children who are eligible for 2 year funding and for all 3 and 4 year olds.



Nic's FITNESS CREW

So who are Nic's Fitness Crew?

We are YOU!

A team forged from friendship and love of exercise, to bring a variety of fitness classes to the community. Every class is different, but are all full of easy to follow steps and routines to great music. All classes aim to improve not just your physical well-being and fitness levels but also your mental health and they all make you feel a lot happier.

We know the hardest part is walking through the door, but once you do.

you'd be welcomed with open arms, zero judgment, and you'd be part of the Crew who are all different ages, sizes, fitness levels and backgrounds, but who come together to fulfil their goals whilst enjoying themselves and having a laugh.



Walk to the Beat Fitness class

Low impact fitness
That will
keep you moving.
Easy to follow
steps.
Combined with
a mix of
music from the
60s, 70s & 80s

Location at Ironville
Church Hall

Thur mornings
At 10am

£3 a class



**FOR INFO OR BOOKINGS
CONTACT NICOLA ON
07810898868**

NIC'S FITNESS CREW

Mon- Beatz Fitness

Tue- Rockbox Fitness

Wed- Dance & Tone Fitness

Thur- Step Class

Suitable for all fitness abilities's
Everyone is welcome...

For more info you
Can join our
Facebook page
Or contact
Nicola Hogg
☎ 07810898868

Four classes Mon-Thur
5-45 -6-45pm



Location @ Ironville Church Hall
Carson street,
Ironville
Nt16 5NN
**Thurs walking class
10am**



All our classes are low cost. with memberships available to make costs even lower to less than £2 per class? So what are you waiting for ? Join our Facebook page (Nic's Fitness Crew) for more information or contact Nic on 07810 898868. You won't regret it!

TAEKWONDO

Taekwondo classes have been held in Ironville for over thirty years now. The classes are in the military style/ self-defence/ unarmed combat. They are for ALL the Family, both Juniors & Seniors. (Contact Dave on 01773 609626). Thursdays in the Church Hall - 7pm - 8pm.



Crossings Club Monument Lane

☎ 01773 606657

Monday - open 6 - 10 pm

Tuesday open 6pm to 12am

Skittle Matches

Wed. open 5pm - 12am

Food served from 5.30 - 7.30pm

Darts & Dominoes matches

Thursday - open 6pm - 11pm

Friday open 4pm - 1am

Various Bands & Entertainments

Oscari Pantry every two weeks

Saturday open 8.30-1am

Breakfast Served 8.30 - noon

Sunday open 12pm to 10pm

Free Bar Nibbles

Meat Draw - Sunday 3pm

The Club can cater for ALL occasions, also free room hire. Please contact the club for more information.



Wed. Mornings 10am - 12pm in the Anvil Club

☎ Pam 01773 689414 for further details



All you crafters come and join us for a morning of crafting of your own choice . . . or why not learn a new one. We enjoy helping each other. We do anything from felting, quilting, crochet, knitting and any other craft that we can think up! Then there's tea and biscuits and conversation too.





A warm welcome awaits you at the pop up community pantry at the Crossings club in Ironville.

We aim to provide the local community with an affordable shop, providing cupboard staples and the basics to help make good quality and nutritious filling food.

Fresh fruits and vegetables are available in an unlimited amount, ensuring our customers are able to benefit from healthy foods.

The cost is set out to make it affordable for all people with an initial cost to sign up of just £5.00 then £7.50 per shop after that. (we have had to increase the shopping fee from £5 to £7.50 due to the increase in the cost to us to shop).

An example of your basic shop is shown in the photos below.

We chose to open at the crossings club in Ironville as it's a lovely relaxed environment for people to shop in with ample parking space.

We also welcome people who just want to come along and have a cup of tea or coffee or a chat.

We have recently got Sexual health Derbyshire on board and they will be visiting once a month to help with any concerns you may have and to offer free condoms and contraception advice.

The pantry is open from 1pm till 3pm once a fortnight at the Crossings Club.



Always a warm welcome for all and a friendly service too.

You can contact us using all the methods detailed to the right

CONTACT DETAILS FOR OSCARI:

[WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/OSCARISOCIAL](https://www.facebook.com/OSCARISOCIAL)

WHATSAPP: 07570307195

EMAIL: OSCARISOCIAL@GMAIL.COM

SAFER NEIGHBOURHOOD NEWS



Your local Safer Neighbourhood Team has continued to be out and about in the community – with regular catch ups at the Community Centre and popping into the Railway Carriage Youth Club in Ironville.

Below, PCSO Shale and PCSO Gray are pictured with local MP Linsey Farnsworth at the Carriage Youth Club. Safe and welcoming spaces like this are so important for the community, and crime prevention talks with the team are being planned for the future.

Getting out and speaking with young adults and children is a key part of our role, we often hear parents warn their children that the police will come and get them if they misbehave, it's important that they know we're here to listen and support as well.

Young people seem to be growing up faster than ever. Safer Internet Day in February served as a reminder of the technology they can have access to and how this can have an impact. It's more important than ever that children and teenagers feel they can talk to someone they trust if they see something online that upsets or worries them. The UK Safer Internet Centre website has more information on how to protect yourself and your family online.



As spring brings much anticipated lighter evenings and hopefully warmer weather, it's a popular time to start tidying up the garden and other outside spaces. It's also a good opportunity to consider how secure your home and garden is, making sure you've tidied away items such as ladders or tools to keep your home safe.

Elsewhere in the county, we've also had incidents of dogs escaping gardens and unfortunately chasing and attacking nearby livestock. So, whilst you're enjoying the spring sunshine, take a moment to look at your boundary to make sure it's secure. If you're heading out to enjoy the countryside with your pet, keep it on a lead or under close control to protect your dog and protect livestock.

To get more updates from your local police team, make sure to follow us on Facebook, [Alfreton Police SNT](#), and sign up to our Derbyshire Alert system. Derbyshire Alert allows us to send you emails about crime prevention, local incidents and more. To sign up, visit: www.derbyshirealert.co.uk.

HALLOWEEN

In Ironville 2024



Down at the Carriage - Deepdale, Ironville



Sessions on Thursdays & Fridays, 6.00pm to 8pm

Our local Railway Carriage Youth Club during last autumn achieved an almost £20,000 award from the National Lottery Community Fund.

The Ironville & Codnor Park Community Association, who manage the club submitted an application last summer for funding to the National Lottery Community Fund. Funding was urgently needed to keep this now thriving Club going into the future.

The Youth Club faced several problems which threatened to bring over 20 years of community youth service in Ironville to an end. The governing committee was ageing, with initially very few people coming forward to take their place and there has been a substantial rise in running costs. Previous fundraising activity had also fallen away. Funding was urgently needed: to deliver our existing youth services; increase marketing; enable the new committee to develop; investigate the possibility of external youth organisations to run the club; develop a program of fundraising activities; allow us to take advantage of exciting new opportunities. The now newly formed committee plan to introduce fundraising to sustain the club and recognise the earning potential of the carriage as a venue during time when the youth club is not running.

As well as benefitting young people with careers advice, CV writing, increased self-confidence, activities increasing health and wellbeing, specific advice for young women, residents of the village benefit from reduced anti-social behaviour and vandalism.

A little more background: This is a thriving village youth club, unique in that it functions (for some 25 years) in an appropriately adapted/ heated railway carriage. There is a kitchen/ refreshment area, storage cupboards, toilet facilities, specially chosen furniture, pool table, television screen and we are licensed for music. Adjacent to the carriage is a floodlit Multi Use Games Area. (Thank you to Supporting Communities for helping to utilise this area to the full).

STOP PRESS: LATEST NEWS FROM THE “BLEND YOUTH PROJECT”

Established in 2007, Blend Youth Project works across both Derbyshire and Nottinghamshire to provide a range of youth work activities, support services and education provision for young people in their local communities, with the purpose of creating safe spaces for young people to build new friendships, gain new skills, and to access valuable signposting and support services. This often means that we are supporting some of the most disadvantaged and marginalised young people. However, we believe passionately in positively affecting the life paths of these young people, working with them to promote their well-being, and enhance their life chances. Working across various locations in Derbyshire and Nottinghamshire, we deliver community-based youth provision in areas of Amber Valley, Chesterfield, High Peak and North East Derbyshire, adopting a mixed delivery model of centre-based, street-based and project-based delivery. This includes the use of our own integrated youth hubs in Ripley, Heanor, and in Chesterfield town centre. We currently engage with over 650 young people each week, delivering 23 sessions of youth provision in 18 locations. This breadth of youth work delivery is a combination of both standalone provision as well as commissioned work from Public Health, County, District, Borough, Town and Parish Councils. A lot of the Blend team have lived and worked in neighbouring communities and were aware of the excellent work that the committee had done to continue the services provided from the Carriage. The whole team is extremely excited about the opportunity to work with young people in the Ironville and Codnor Park community and to be a part of the continuation of youth work delivered from the Carriage, an iconic space for youth services for generations.

Adam Cope

Christ Church

Rev Mark Taylor ☎ 01773 833280

Warden: David Fearn ☎ 01773 605447

Services: Sunday at 11.15am

(Every Two weeks—please check)

For more news and information -

Please see the CHRIST CHURCH IRONVILLE Facebook page. This includes the Church monthly Newsletter, which is available also via email or as a paper copy.



Ironville Post Office

We are very lucky to have in Ironville our own Post Office and General Store at the heart of our community. The store not only provides a top class postal service, but also newspapers, magazines and most general household needs.

Mon - Sat : Open 7am - 8 pm

Sun: Open 8 am - 2.30pm ☎ 01773 605472



CODNOR PARK RESERVOIR

Fishing in well stocked water

☎ Steve Scudder
07946 683417
Tony Baxter
07870909071



WATERS EDGE BURGER BAR

Drinks, hot and cold food available.

Open Wed - Sun
7.30am - 1 pm

Steph: ☎ 07800 978153

Tara: ☎ 075140 98133



There was a very poignant and very well attended act of remembrance on Sunday 10th November at our local War Memorial. The Minister was the Rev Anette Love and Selston Marine Cadets were on parade. The Exhortation was recited by Bob Guest. The Last Post and Reveille were sounded at the appropriate moments. The Two Minutes Silence was observed.



"A Massive thankyou to David Wadsworth & the Futures team for putting up our Tommies around Ironville and to our Parish Council for installing so many poppies around our village." Thanks are also due to other local organisations and individuals who have put up some very special displays too, including Clownes Childrens Centre. (Their Display is pictured left).

NEWS FROM PHILIP ROSE

☎ 077301771794 e-mail: Philip.rose@derbyshire.gov.uk



Hurray! Winter is on its way out and by the time you read this it will be March.

While we have managed to fill the odd pot hole, I have asked DCC Highways to cut back foliage and remove encroaching soil and vegetation on both sides of Coach Road and, that the road be considered for complete re-surfacing as part of the 2025 plan. While nothing is guaranteed I have found that given time and resources this work will be done at some point now it is on the list.

Unfortunately, Council Tax bills are going up again. I note that we have seen less 'bang' for our buck while unwanted and very significant changes to local government continue apace. I warned against the un-democratic combined authority model and now we must endure the move to unitary authorities, replacing the Boroughs, Districts and County Councils.

While the potential reduction in councillors may on the face of it seem like money saving option, in my view, the reality will be less democracy, distant authority, more difficulty in speaking with your 'representative' and more unaccountable bureaucracy.

Hopefully you will already be aware that I, along with my Reform UK elected colleagues in Amber Valley and other local activists recently resigned from the Party, due largely to a lack of support of the 'grassroots and a top-down culture of total control. Please do call or e-mail me if you want to know more.

We call ourselves 'Amber Valley Independents' and believe being independent allows us to follow our conscience and work with others as we see fit. We are independent of mind, always have been and always will be. After all, what's in a name? We are the same people. We are perhaps the highest profile group of Reformers who have resigned though there are many more around the Country.

I am pleased to say the Youth Club is going from strength to strength. I was able to call in my Reform colleagues to remove and properly dispose of some old Youth Club furniture (see photo) to aid improvements inside. Again, thanks to Andy, fellow trustees and other supporters for cementing the future of the Club with a further grant approved by the Police & Crime Commissioner and one from Amber Valley CVS for a special art project inside the Carriage, (see page 42). I am very much looking forward to the development of the garden area at the rear of the Carriage over the coming months and years.



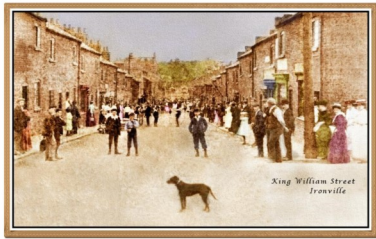
Best wishes for 2025

HISTORIC MODEL VILLAGE with MEDIEVAL CASTLE

WELCOME TO CODNOR PARK & IRONVILLE
 a development due to the opening of the Cromford Canal
 & the formation of the Butterley Company 200 years ago,
 (although the area has had inhabitants for centuries)



1086: Codnor Castle was mentioned in the Domesday Book. Codnor Park was a deer park.
 1342: King Edward II visited Codnor Castle.
 1400s: the De Grey family mined coal in the area. Codnor Castle was the home and powerbase for the family for 300 years.
 21st century: Codnor Castle is one of only two medieval castles in Derbyshire retaining its medieval architecture. Channel 4's Time Team excavations found the remains of a massive round tower and a Gold Noble coin dated back to the time of Henry V and the Battle of Agincourt. Presenter Tony Robinson said the coin was one of the most valuable single items ever found on Time Team.



Where today in the twenty first century, the old and the new blend together nicely.



The village is set within beautiful countryside, with many wonderful signposted walks.

A Nostalgic soundtrack from the past.



Duchess of Sutherland passes through Ironville & Codnor park. Many historic trains can also be seen at Swanwick Junction.



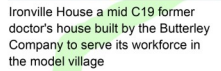
Parsons Cottage



1923: The Memorial engraved as a Runic cross and installed by ex-Service man, Mr. E. Cope, of Riddings, was unveiled and dedicated to World War I.



The Mechanics Institute, now known as Butterley Court, was designed by Henry Isaac Stephens in 1846 probably Derbyshire's most prolific and accomplished architect at the time.



Ironville House a mid C19 former doctor's house built by the Butterley Company to serve its workforce in the model village



A rare picture of a loaded canal boat in Ironville, circa 1930s



Building that once housed Codnor Park Pottery
 The Canal & River Trust is working with local communities to care for 2000 miles of historic waterways. This section of the Cromford Canal has been adopted by the Friends of the Cromford Canal. Derbyshire Wildlife Trust cares for the section of canal to the south of the village supported by local volunteers: The Cromford Canal and Codnor Park Reservoir Group.



Kingfisher

Wild life is thriving in this section of the canal. Water voles nest in the canal banks. Listen for the distinctive plop as one drops into the water or even spot them swimming. White clawed crayfish and water voles are protected species. This section of the Cromford Canal is a refuge for these scarce animals.



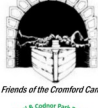
White Clawed Crayfish



Water Vole



The Canal & River Trust



Friends of the Cromford Canal



Cromford Canal & Codnor Park Reservoir Group

Environment, Conservation, Education



Crossings Club



The reservoir also provides excellent fishing facilities including match fishing. You will also find hot & cold food and other refreshments at the burger bar in the car park.



The heart of the community where many activities happen



Christ Church



Ironville & Codnor Park Primary School



OAP Community Centre



Codnor Park Ironworks 1936

1790s: Initially as the Benjamin Outram and Company, and the opening of the Cromford Canal, Codnor Park Forge had 4 lime kilns, then 2 blast furnace and a puddling forge.

1807: Company became Butterley Company and began developing Ironville and Codnor Park. Ironville, possibly Derbyshire's best example of a mid-nineteenth century model village, was built to house its iron workers, and was celebrated nationally.

1834 - 1860: Workers walked miles, even from Wales, to get to work and housing, or they hitched a ride on canal boats passing along the canal system. Codnor Park Iron Works made cannonballs for Waterloo. They supplied special 'Butterley Bulb' iron deck beams for several iron-hulled warships such as HMS Warrior (1860) on display at Portsmouth Historic Dockyard. During WW2 stems for 57 'Loch' class frigates, 51 large bridges, tracks for tanks and more were manufactured at the works.



HMS Warrior 1860 is today a museum ship in Portsmouth Historic Dockyard.



1862: seven furnaces at Butterley and Codnor Park were producing one-fifth of the total output of iron in Derbyshire; a major force in the iron industry involved in the expansion of railways, manufacturing track and wagons, bridges and the famous arches at London's St Pancras Station.
 Codnor Park Forge Closed - 9th July 1965. Demolished by June 1966.



Railway Carriage Youth Club



1854: The Codnor Park monument raised by Public subscription, was built in memory of William Jessop Jr. 1784-1852. Son of one of the founders, he was an active partner in the Butterley Company for many years. Mr Francis Wright, of Osmaston Manor, laid the first stone.



The former site of the Codnor Park Ironworks is today owned by the Friends of Belper Parks Ltd. This area now a registered Wildlife site. A haven for wild life especially butterflies with lots of wonderful walks.

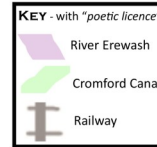


Lime Kiln Row.

1802: First houses built as Measham Row (later Lime Kiln Row) for workers at the newly built Lime Works. The physical and spiritual welfare was important: a rural setting and spacious layout, houses with large gardens, a church, gas and water-works, swimming baths and a Mechanics Institute with artisans library.



Forge Row built from iron slag stone (known locally as Rodneys), still lived in after over 200 years.



SCAN ME

Scan this bar code to see the latest village newsletters, find out more about the history of our village and to discover lots of wonderful local walks.



Friends of Cromford Canal (FCC) Update

Registered Charity number 1164608



Work Party Report by John Guyler - Autumn / Winter 24-25

In 2024 the FCC work parties, working over the length of the Cromford Canal, gave a total of 3371 volunteer hours with 532 travel hours, giving a total of 3903 volunteer hours.

At the Lock Keepers Garden, Lock 4, Ironville, Shirley and her sister Carol have worked very hard to get the Lock Keepers Garden ready for this year. All the beds have been turned over and the grass verges have been trimmed, there are some vegetables planted to over winter and seedlings are on their way for early planting. A great deal of effort has been put in on this area and they have their own allotment to work on as well, so they have got all on.

At Blacks Bridge: the Friends of Cromford Canal (FCC) working for the Friends of the Forge, designed, built and fitted the second flight of steps into place to complete a circular route around the Forge site.

A mixed group from FCC and Friends of the Forge worked over two visits to establish a good sound footpath at the location where the steps were be sited, which involved shifting some very large flat stone slabs, which were used to make a very durable and flat footpath. A small group of volunteers built the wooden steps in FCC Trustee John Bouchers workshop, to his design and then a week later took them on site and securely fitted them into the bank. Hand rails have since been fitted by the Friends of the Forge.

In November, a tree was blown down by the high wind and was leaning over the path, a combined group of Friends of the Forge and FCC work party members cut the tree down and disposed of the wood.

Blacks Bridge, Blacksbridge or Blackbridge, I have spoken to several people which is correct and I am still none the wiser.

At Ironville, Jack Brown, one of the FCC Trustees reported a dead dog in the canal channel under one of the road bridges. On investigation by a team of three FCC volunteers, it was the remains of a deer which had been butchered. It was placed into suitable bags and removed from site to disposal.

Another group cleared the channel at Lock 3 and the Pottery building of saplings and thick vegetation. The fencing had to be repaired between Lock two and the site of the former Lock one, the lower rail in several places had been smashed.

On Tuesday 10th December at Sawmills, John Barker and Malc Chisnall installed a memorial seat for Gill Hirst at the Gauging Narrows. The seat was in memory of Gill's husband



One of the flat stone slabs, moved to make a level footpath at Blacks Bridge.



The new steps before the lower hand rail was fitted.



Making a level footpath at Blacks Bridge.

David, who was a great supporter of the Cromford Canal, a friend to the FCC and the Chair of the community action group at Bullbridge. A plaque to him, was placed on the seat.

At Pinxton wharf in November, it was required for the removal of a fallen tree which proved to be a long job due to the size of the tree. Not only was the size a problem, the angle the tree fell caused difficulties pulling the sawn lengths and branches out of the canal channel.

Also, in January at Pinxton weir, sixteen volunteers cleared a large amount of wood from fallen trees which we had chopped up. There were a number of trees that had come down in the wind over the last couple of months, so we set to and started to clear those. The Boat Inn received a large amount of the wood for their wood burner. The area was looking much more open when we left and there are a number of dead trees that will either fall in high winds or will need taking down in the near future. Blanket weed was also cleared from the channel and two large bags of litter were picked from the whole length of the in-water section.

Beggarlee, Langley Mill: at the beginning of November, two volunteers, using our new digger, installed a drainage pipe at one end of the flood plain extension, this has had an immediate effect on clearing water that had built up in the flood plain extension. A second pipe is to be installed when the weather allows, at the other end of the extension. The pipes used for this job were recovered when the flood plain extension was dug out, they are spun concrete pipes, in a good enough condition for this purpose and would only go to infill if not used. When both pipes are in, it will allow a path to be created all the way around the flood plain extension.

The volunteers have also cleared some trees to allow the start of moving top soil to the landscaped bank of the flood plain extension. The following week, they levelled the path along the top edge and started moving the top soil to the landscaped edge. The weather has not been kind to them so this exercise will have to be recommenced in the spring.

In January, three volunteers with the FCC digger and the dumper placed stone (called riff-raff for some reason) in the outfall of the new headwalls, erosion around the 900mm outfall had been noticed and there had been concern expressed about the depth of water at the outfall. Some reduction on the level of this stone will be done when they next have the digger out to work on profiling the steep banks around the headwalls.

From September, the main job at Beggarlee, has been the clearance of vegetation and self-sown saplings from the end of the in-water section at the Great Northern Basin, by the main FCC work party. An extension of the in-water canal of 50m up to what will be the start of the proposed double lock is the next step. The area had to be cleared of the thick brambles, shrubs and general scrub, for surveyors to get on the site, which had not previously been surveyed. From early September to the middle of January, groups which varied in size from three volunteers to eighteen volunteers worked on this large area. In the compound area owned by the Erewash Canal Preservation & Development Association (ECP&DA) we had a large amount of work to do, but access for a time was stopped because of an unsafe bridge.



The clearance of vegetation at the in-water section at Beggarlee.

In December, a combined group from both FCC and ECP&DA rebuilt the 3m long bridge with new timbers, which allowed our group to access the area safely. The main job now is to pull the tree roots out ready for the Waterways Recovery Group (a national group of canal volunteers) to come on site sometime in the Summer. The FCC has a welfare unit on site and this came in useful on some very wet days, it is surprising what a large number of people talk about when cramped into a small space.

If you fancy joining our regular work parties contact:

work@cromfordcanal.org.uk

We have a growing number of volunteers who have trained on various machines and to do skilled jobs within the restoration framework. Why not come and join us, train up and you never know what it might lead to.



The rebuilt bridge

The Life of A Parish Warden *by John Watson*

Hello everyone,

I would like to start by saying what an excellent job Derbyshire County Council highways have done in repairing large areas of Station Road and New Road which were reported 18 months ago.

All pot holes are reported on a regular basis some are acted on quicker than others.

At present all potholes on Vicarage Lane, Arthur's View & Forge Row have been reported and hopefully large areas as above will be reported.

On to the recreation ground where Amber Valley Borough Council have been busy removing all the thick bushes and vegetation at the top. This area has always had litter and small fly tips which could not be retrieved. Now there is lots of space.

On to my own work, continually trying to keep the village tidy, removing litter, small fly tips, & reporting large fly tips to the relevant authorities.

Jobs in the village allotment have been pruning the fruit trees and other overhanging trees, plus maintenance.

Projects coming up this year are the refurbishment of the bus shelters on Victoria Street, which will be a repaint to bring them up to a good standard.

One other project is to brighten up Nottingham Lane Triangle with two or three planters along the roadside section already approximately 70 daffodils bulbs have been planted so should be blooming in the very near future, possibly they may be in flower by the time you read this article.

A new notice board has been fitted outside the Post Office where you can find Parish Council meetings and other important information.

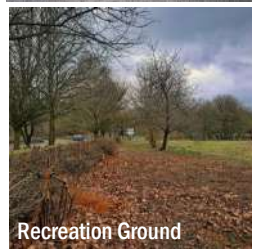
Kind regards, *John*



Station Road



New Road



Recreation Ground



Nottingham Lane Triangle

WE ARE MAKE/SHIFT by Lizzie Bourke (Creative Community Builder)

Last autumn we had the pleasure of working with some incredible young people from The Railway Carriage Youth Club in Ironville and the marvellous Alastair Flindall of *Neck Of The Wood Studio* to create a brand-new piece of art!

Members of the youth group initially worked with Make/Shift's Rebecca Morris-Buck to select an artist. They were drawn to Alastair's bright style and loved that he'd once included trainers in his work! Alastair ran a series of workshops to get to know the young people and generate ideas for the mural design based on their interests... toast, tea, gossip, sport. He also taught everyone some spray-painting skills, which was great fun. The youth club had the final say on the designs provided, and over the frosty and damp October weeks that followed they gradually saw their ideas come to life on a BIG scale. John Felix helped us to document the process along the way.

There is something very special about the community in Ironville, a real sense of togetherness and respect for the Youth Workers that have made the youth club feel like such a safe and fun family space over the years. The young people chose to have Shane and Helen included in the mural design, and a special evening was held to show appreciation for their dedication and hard work. Shane was even presented with the first ever Mayor's Award from Paul Loble, the Mayor of Amber Valley.

We also held a community celebration in October half term to showcase the finished mural and thank all those involved. Alastair and Grace provided art workshops for everyone, and plenty of toasties were eaten! Thank you to Natasha Taylor and Maria McCormack for providing local knowledge and chairs.

There are several challenges and changes ahead for the youth club, but it is heartening to see the dedication and hard work of all those involved including Andy Cadman and the Ironville Community Association, David Walsh and the youth worker team at Supporting Communities, and the fabulous energy and community spirit of the youth club members. We hope to keep in touch and link in other creative opportunities as they arise.

Find out more and watch John Felix's fantastic film here: <https://mediazilla.com/R3kR7ZA0Cn>



Presentation Ceremony



Filming in progress

OUR RAILWAY CARRIAGE MURAL



THE BLANK CANVAS



Above: Alistair demonstrates and then the members follow with their own practice creations.
Below: Members put on an undercoat followed by mapping out the final design and then . . .



WOW! Can you interpret the final design?
Why not go down to Deepdale and take a look and view ALL four sides.



Customers, children and Futures colleagues created their own community garden in Ironville in October last year.

Raspberries, spring onions and parsnips were just some of the fruit and vegetables planted on a large open green space on King William Street, Ironville. Four raised planters were built and filled with fruit and vegetable seeds, as well as paths and bushes cleared, and new flowers and shrubs planted.

It's thanks to the local communities' feedback that the idea for the garden sprouted. Hannah Albrighton, Communities Housing Officer at Futures said: *"Over last summer I spoke to customers who live in the area to find out what they'd like to happen with the space and see how we could help. They told me they were keen for a community garden to be made, so I started organising a day for us all to work together and transform the area."*

Grounds maintenance colleagues chatted with children about the plants, and many young ones also picked up a paintbrush to join in the half-term fun, as five benches around the green space got a fresh lick of paint and a new coat on the wooden planters too.

Rhys Evans, a Futures customer said: *"I think it's good for us all to have something we can do. It's improved the look of the space, and I think it'll improve the community spirit as well if everybody gets involved. I grow my own vegetables anyway, but hopefully we can grow vegetables together and people can eat their own grown food."* Hannah added: *"It's been brilliant! Everyone worked so hard and it's amazing to see what can be done in the space of a day. I'm looking forward to seeing all the tasty home-grown food the community can make in the future."*

Being more visible in our communities and getting them involved in community projects is one of ten customer pledges we set as part of our customer engagement strategy. The strategy clearly sets out how and why we'll do more to take account of customer views. We'd love to hear your thoughts about Ironville and we want to know what's going well and what could be improved. If you'd like to have your say and share ideas for projects in your community, please go to futureshg.co.uk/walkabout-feedback.



Church & Church Hall
November 30th 2024



CHRISTMAS FAYRE

There was lots to see and do . . .



A View from the Borough by Kieron Cox

Email me on kieron.cox@ambervalley.gov.uk or phone 07746 603204.

Hi All,

National and International Politics has become a very strange world recently, but for me, I try to stay out of debates on National Issues, Party Politics and things I can't really control and prefer to focus on what's going on locally; the things that directly affect Ironville and Riddings, and doing my best to ensure I follow through on the things I was elected to do. There's plenty of that to keep me busy!

I mentioned in the last edition that myself and the fellow trustees of the youth club were working towards ensuring the survival of the club for the long term. Well a lot has happened in the meantime. Andy led efforts to secure National Lottery Funding - which was successful; giving the Carriage an excellent spring board to build from and ensures the continuation of provision in the short to medium term. I then opened conversations with a local charity called Blend, which runs numerous other Youth Clubs across the County, to discuss the potential of a partnership that will secure the long term future of the club. I'm very excited to announce the trustees managed to agree a path forward with Blend to take over the day to day running, giving the Carriage and young people stability and longevity for years to come, (see page 18). The Carriage itself has also had a very striking lick of paint which the young people are very happy with and reflects the creativity and vibrancy of the young people that attend. Our MP Linsey Farnsworth also paid us a visit last month. It's great to see new life being breathed into the Carriage.

In other news, I've been working on casework in Ironville with issues from damp rented accommodation to school parking problems, but with the state of our roads being highest on the agenda. As I'm sure you know, roads aren't something I'm directly responsible for as they come under Derbyshire County Council rather than Amber Valley Borough Council, but lots of queries do come my way and I always do my best to help when residents have been unable to get progress through other channels. I honestly believe that the potholes in Ironville and Riddings are some of the worst in the county - which in turn has some of the worst roads in the country. I hope that the coming elections in May will allow us to elect someone who will give us a real voice at County Hall. Our Labour Party candidate James Butler has been out and about knocking on doors and speaking to residents in Ironville and has already been working hard to deal with issues raised. It would be great to see him elected and carry on this work with the added influence that comes along with being a Councillor.

Speaking of the May elections, the way we elect our County Councillor has changed this year. In previous elections we've elected two councillors to represent the whole of Alfreton, Swanwick, Somercotes, Ironville and Riddings. What's traditionally and unofficially happened is that one councillor has looked after Alfreton and Swanwick and the other the rest. This has been turned on its head a bit, we can now only select one and they represent Swanwick, Ironville and Riddings. The Conservatives in charge of Derbyshire County Council since 2017 have overseen the current state of the roads and potholes and the removal of funding for the Children's Centre in Ironville, as well as the revelation they failed to spend millions of pounds allocated to SEN services for children, closures to Care Homes and selling off of more youth clubs in the county. It's more important than ever to use your vote to protect our public services. I strongly believe, especially at local elections, you should have a proper look at the candidates, what they stand for, and what's important to you. Who do you expect to work hardest and fight for the things that are important to you? That's what makes the difference at a local level.

That's it from me. As ever, please feel free to get in touch with me if there's anything I can help with, it's really important you speak up, that's what I'm here for. I'll always do my best!

Here's to the lighter evenings. *Kieron*



Kieron on a recent visit to the Local Youth Club

Nicolle Ndiweni-Roberts - Derbyshire Police & Crime Commissioner

As Derbyshire's Police and Crime Commissioner, I'm determined to protect our communities in the way local people want and I recognise how important it is to address the dangers our communities face from anti-social behaviour (ASB).

The force and our partners across Derbyshire have been carrying out additional enforcement patrols across 20 'hotspot' areas since July 2023, and the latest figures show that ASB is down by 22% since its launch – and has fallen by 11% in just the last month alone.

Our 'Immediate Justice' (IJ) programme also ensures that offenders repay the communities they have harmed. Since its roll out, there have been nearly 17,000 hours of patrols carried out whilst over 1,000 referrals have been made to the IJ programme.

More than seven in ten of referrals (73%) have not reoffended, further highlighting our approach to tackling and preventing anti-social behaviour is working.

Locally, your policing team are working closely to increase targeted engagement in Ironville, particularly with young people to build better and more long-term relationships to deter them from engaging in ant-social behaviour and wider criminality.

Officers from Ironville's Safer Neighbourhood Team have been regularly attending the Ironville Railway Carriage Youth Club. This engagement is helping increase visibility but also to focus on improving partnership working with community groups to help reduce crime and improve community safety.

More widely in Amber Valley, I took the opportunity to meet with councillors from across the district, at the council's Annual Crime and Disorder Meeting.

It was a chance for me to take questions from councillors on issues that matter to local residents, including how I am working with the Force to increase recruitment and improve our 101 service, where we have seen consistent reductions in waiting times over the past six months. Amber Valley Inspector Mat Winterbottom provided an operational update on the key priorities of local Safer Neighbourhood Teams, including how they are tackling anti-social behaviour through working with the local authority to issue Public Spaces Protection Orders.

I am committed to working with all residents, councillors and organisations to make our county as safe as possible. Please do get in touch with me and my office to raise any concerns and I will be keen to help wherever I can.

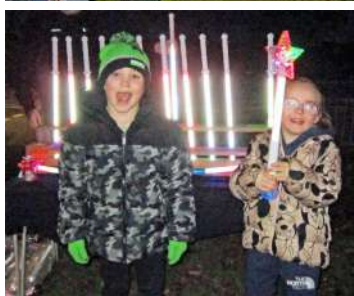


Above: Nicolle meeting Amber Valley Borough Councillors at the Annual Crime & Disorder Meeting



Above: Nicolle meeting with retailers in Ripley to discuss anti-social behaviour and retail crime.

IRONVILLE'S
**CHRISTMAS
LIGHTS
SWITCH-ON**



Ironville & Pye Hill United Free Reform Methodist Chapel by Ken Brockway



A commemorative trowel presented to J.W. Nuttall Esq. on the occasion of his laying the foundation stone of a new Chapel in connection with the U.M.F.C (United Methodist Free Church) Churches Ironville March 10th 1873.

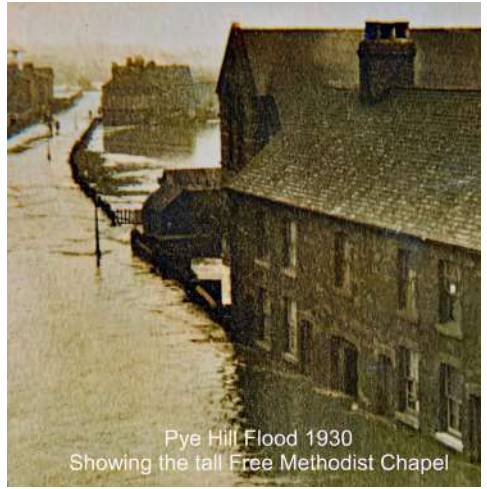
The building was located where now stands 83 & 85 Pye Hill Road, Jacksdale close to the railway bridge. The Butterley Company would not allow Methodist and non conformist chapels and churches in Ironville, but clearly accommodated its workers beliefs by building chapels on Pye Hill Road, as close as it was possible to be to Ironville. (See map at the bottom of this page). Work progressed quickly and the first baptism took place in 1874.

The laying of the foundation stone was reported in the Alfreton Journal on Friday 14th March 1873 "The foundation stone of a chapel for Ironville, Codnor Park, and Pye-hill, was laid on Monday last, near to the Railway, Ironville, by J. W. Nuttall, Esq., of Ripley". (More on JWN later.)

Maps show the building as a rectangular block and the one poor photograph seen shows a tall building. Records confirm a school room which suggests it was built to a common pattern of school room below and chapel on the first floor. The school room was in demand with a request to use it for football changing and the Pye Hill and District Choral Society practised there before moving to their current venue at the Dale club.



The chapel was given permission to close on 16th June 1958 but the demise took far longer than construction. In 1965 an offer of £1,500 was made for the main building, excluding the schools room, (this brings into doubt the assumption above). This was subject to planning approval for industrial use, that approval was not obtained. Further formal closure and consent to sell was again confirmed in October 1967.



Pye Hill Flood 1930
Showing the tall Free Methodist Chapel

Earlier in 1967 Basford Rural District Council had been required to purchase the chapel described as a difficult structure which was incapable of beneficial use. Negotiations started with the District Valuer on a price. In April 1970 the price was agreed acknowledging that Basford RDC would be responsible for demolition. (As an aside a chapel in Golden Valley was demolished at a cost of £75 in 1966, this stood on Newlands Road just north of Newlands Inn on the opposite side.)

In July 1970 J.W. Warwick Estate Agents, Surveyor and Valuer wrote to the Trustees "This has been, possibly, one of the most complicated issues technically which we have had to deal with, but we feel justified in the eventual outcome, although naturally, we would like to have received more on the valuation, but as your Trustees did vote unanimously to accept the £400, we trust the matter will now proceed to its final conclusion." Correspondence indicates that demolition took place very soon after Basford RDC took ownership.

Joseph Wilson Nuttall, son of William and Mary Nuttall, was baptised at Arnold Parish Church, Nottingham on 23rd April 1809. In adult life he was a member of the United Methodist Free Church and a trustee of several chapels. He was proprietor of a successful drapery business Nuttall and Son in Ripley Market Square. In October 1857 he became a new subscriber to the Derbyshire General Infirmary contributing £2/2/0 (Two Guineas). He moved (retired) to 8, Clarendon Crescent, Leamington Spa where he lived with his wife Elizabeth, daughter Agnes and two servants. He died there on 1st March 1883 aged seventy five. His second son William continued the business in Ripley.

EYES DOWN FOR BINGO AT THE OAP COMMUNITY CENTRE (SEE BACK PAGE FOR DAYS & TIMES)



Nature Bingo

We're so lucky here in Ironville and Codnor Park because we're surrounded by some amazing wildlife, habitats and protected nature areas. Below are nine species I've spotted recently around the village. How many of them can you find? Why not try and get a photo of them that you can share with others.

CAN YOU GET A NATURE 'FULL HOUSE'?

Remember, the three golden rules when out exploring nature: take nothing but photographs, leave nothing but footsteps and always stay safe.

1. Fungi – in the UK, there are over 15,000 difference species of fungus. Some can be really poisonous so don't touch them when you're taking your photo.

2. Swans – I always heard that all swans belong to the King. That's actually not true, but he does have rights over half the swans on the river Thames.

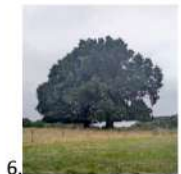
3. Hedgehogs – Hedgehog is a new name for these little mammals. They used to be called urchins and sea urchins are named after them.

5. Cobnuts/ Hazelnuts – These are some of squirrels' favourite foods, so you don't often see them ripe on the tree. Remember to look under the leaves when you're trying to spot them.

4. Robin's Pincushion – these form when a gall wasp lays an egg in a bud of a wild rose plant. The growing larvae releases chemicals that trigger the plant to grow this protective structure to keep the grub safe from predators.



7. Mallard ducks – Only the female will make the familiar 'quacking' sound. Male ducks (called drakes) make a softer noise.



6. Oak tree – oak trees have been found to support over 2,300 other species of wildlife. That's one of the reasons why its so important for us to look after them.

8. Robin – Each robin has a different chest pattern so with a keen eye you can tell each individual bird apart.




9. Rosehips – these are the seed pods/ fruit of wild rose plants. They're a great food source for all sorts of wildlife and used to be used to make itching powder.

I hope this has inspired you to do something to look after our local wildlife and natural places. If it has why not get involved with/ arrange a litter pick, volunteer with a nature group or take part in a wildlife citizen science survey?

About the author: Hi! I'm Nic and I'm a Parish Councillor in the village. I'm really passionate about nature and wildlife. I'm hoping we can do more for biodiversity in our village and learn how cool nature can be. If you have any ideas of how we can support wildlife in our village, let me know - cllrfarthing@ironvilleparishcouncil.gov.uk. If you want to see more of how my nature gardening is coming along, you can follow me on Instagram:

@little.yellow.raincoat

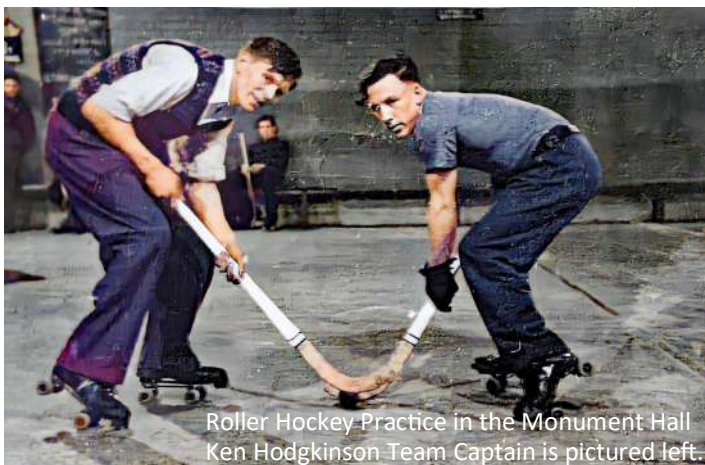
WHO DOES WHAT IN AMBER VALLEY ?

Amber Valley Borough Council ☎ 01773 570222 enquiry@ambervalley.gov.uk www.ambervalley.gov.uk/	Derbyshire County Council ☎ 01629 533190 Derbyshire County Council form: Contact Form Home - Derbyshire County Council
Bin collections	Abandoned vehicles
Blocked drains & sewers	Benefits
Bulky waste collection	Blue Badge
Dead animal removal	Bus stops
Derelict properties	Bus passes
Dog wardens & dog waste control	Car Parking permits
Drainage	Dropped kerbs
Dumped rubbish	Education
Elections	Gritting
Fly Tipping	Highways
Graffiti Removal	Libraries
Pest control	Meals on Wheels <i>(delivered by private organisations)</i>
Planning	Obstructed pavements
Road cleaning	Parking enforcement
Road signs	Parking fines & penalties
Street names	Potholes
Tree preservation	Public Transport
Syringe disposal	Road Maintenance
	Road obstructions
	Speed limits
	Street furniture - bus stops etc
	Street lighting
	Truancy
Ironville Parish Council - ☎ 075955151554 Ironville Parish Council Website	 <p style="text-align: center;">OAP Community Centre, Ironville</p>
Allotments	
Christmas displays and events	
Community events	
Defibrillators	
Filling Grit Bins	
Floral Displays	
Litter Picking	
Village Planters	

**This page was produced by Kath Gruber on behalf of our Parish council.*

Roller Skating was Great Fun in the Monument Hall

During the post WW2 period there could be as many as 100 people skating in the Hall on a Friday night. Mr Hill & Mr Hart ran the sessions. John Clark regularly took trips to Skegness for the local team to take part in competitions at Butlins. The photographs and press clippings below tell the story. Entrance fees helped to raise funds towards our present day Church Hall.



Roller Hockey Practice in the Monument Hall
Ken Hodgkinson Team Captain is pictured left.

Roller Hockey team members



In the Monument Hall

Codnor Park & Ironville Roller Skating Club at Butlin's, Skegness



October 1947

**CODNOR PARK AND
IRONVILLE VILLAGE HALL.**

Roller Skating

In the
**Monument Hall, Codnor Park,
MONDAYS, WEDNESDAYS, and
FRIDAYS,**
Commencing Monday, Oct. 20th.
7 p.m. until 10 p.m.

ADMISSION—6d., Onlookers; 1s.,
using own skates; 2s., skates supplied.

No Steel Wheels Allowed.

June 1955

ROLLER HOCKEY AT SKEGNESS

Last Sunday 37 members and friends of Codnor Park and Ironville Roller Skating Club made the journey to Skegness by bus.

Representing the Club, A. Ratcliffe, A. Hall, K. Hodgkinson, B. Cliff, D. Anthony and T. King played the home side, and after an exciting game the visitors were defeated 10—0. Goal-scorers for Codnor Park were B. Cliff 3, K. Hodgkinson 3, and D. Anthony 3.

The arrangements were made by Messrs. W. T. C. Hart, K. Hodgkinson, and B. Cliff.

March 1949

Dancing on Roller Skates at Codnor

The Codnor Park Monument Hall was the scene during the week-end of roller dancing, when Mrs. Gladys Frost, Chadeston, Derby, representative of the Derbyshire and Nottinghamshire National Skating Association, and Mr. Stanley Shynn, Derby, gave exhibitions. Roller dancing classes are to be held in the hall every Wednesday in aid of the Codnor Park and Ironville Village Hall fund.

There was lighting in the Monument Hall but no heating! At one time there were sessions on Saturdays for Children. Team Captain Ken Hodgkinson was born on Casson Street. He often collected the fee to get in to Hall.

The hall was marked out for a full size doubles tennis court, and used to play tennis matches when there was no roller skating.

Thank you to Jen Andrews Stanway for the photographs & for Jack Brown's help.

Julian's Column



Julian resigned his post as associate priest across our local parishes in February. He is therefore no longer involved with Ironville. As a result there is no column from him in this issue or in future issues. He and his columns will be greatly missed.



Crooked Line Club Line Dancing *Every Thursday in Ironville Church Hall - 7.30pm - 9.30pm*

By way of introduction I'm Darren from the Crooked Line Club, a group of people of all ages who get together weekly for a chin wag and a dance. The dance was formed well over 20 years ago with my mum and dad, Steve and Roz who took over from Mick and Carol. The dance is now under my remit, with my technical advisor being my dad who buys all the new music tracks and prints off all the latest dances. Mum is chief flag folder and run-around, and without them, it wouldn't be the friendly 'club' it is today.



So what do we do??

Raised into dancing by my dad's ethos which is to make sure we have good music, and the dances are nice. This combination makes for a truly enjoyable night. We tend to start with the easier dances, so literally anyone can join in. There is no pressure, no judgment, and we all help each other. Nobody goes wrong more than me, and I'm the instructor, so remember that! We mainly do easier dances, broke down into beginner, high beginner, improver and high improver which are mainly 32 count dances which means there are 32 steps in the dance to remember. It could be a two wall, which means that during the dance there will be turns that end up facing the back, then front again for example, and 4 wall respectively. There are 64 count dances which we do, but we tend to steer clear of advanced as I don't fancy having an injury!

Our music is probably 70% country, and the rest "pop" music. Using the word pop loosely as there are some great up to date chart tracks, Post Malone, Beyoncé etc. etc. The country we play is more of the modern country that perhaps not all have heard of, so no Willie Nelson all night!

Everyone is welcome but smaller children must be accompanied by an adult. It's fun, friendly, and the first night is free and then £4.50 after that. We have free door prizes every week which are usually chocolates and wine. Interested now? Over the years, the use of hats and boot straps have disappeared, so now dress code is come casual but leather or suede soled shoes are better. Best thing I ever did was to have a go, 16 years later and I'll be dancing until my knees permit me!



FACTOIDS RELATING TO IRONVILLE AND CODNOR PARK

taken mainly from Newspaper clippings circa 1852 onwards

The school was heated by hot water on the principle adopted at Osmaston Manor and this hot water was also conveyed across the road to the Church.

Infant School 60 feet and 24 feet wide to be used as a lecture and concert room.

Boy's School: 42 feet x 24 feet wide. Number of scholars was 142

** To convert feet to metres
multiply the unit by 0.304.*

Girl's School 35 feet x 24 feet wide. Number of pupils 80

The Church is a very substantial building, partly formed out of the old school-room, built about 10 years ago, and will be opened by the Bishop on Easter Monday. It was a cruciform building, but it is now very materially modified, the plans being furnished by H J Stevens Esq' of Derby, the architect of this building, as well as the schools.

A beautiful chancel is erected at the east end, near which is the house of Mr Welch, the school master. The tower is a very neat and beautiful structure, though we should have liked to have seen it a little higher we would have rather seen the clock in a more conspicuous part of the tower, but inconvenience will be obviated in a great measure by its striking the hours. Mr Whitehurst of Derby is engaged in fixing the works. We cannot help noticing a very serious defect in the tower. We allude to the absence of the bells there being only one instead of six which, someday we hope to have.

The interior presents a spacious area, 80 feet x 40 feet exclusive of chancel and tower, and contains 41 pews, with 190 sittings, which will be let, and number of pews with 500 free sittings. The Organ is by Mr Sweetland of Bath.

There is a Sunday School of 383 scholars, with a clothing club attached, £110 being collected in the previous year. To this amount an addition of one sixth is made at the years end by F Wright and G. Jessop, Esqrs. A cemetery has been enclosed under the superintendence of G. Jessop Esq. one of the Church Wardens

It would have given an increased satisfaction had he, whose untiring energy and perseverance has in a great degree contributed to this happy state of things, been permitted to share in the general satisfaction. "We allude to W. Jessop, Esq. whose continued illness is the source of universal regret in the locality. He died April 26th 1852 aged 68".

It is the intention of the company, to light the Works, and Ironville and the Church, with gas next winter.

Christ Church, Ironville, was consecrated on Easter Wednesday, 1852' by the Lord Bishop of Lichfield. Mr Trinal of Chesterfield presided at the Organ. After the Service, the beautiful cemetery was consecrated. Lunch was served by Mr H. Williams, in the Infants school-room. F. Wright Esq. proposed the Bishops s health.



The Wrens have been busy bees this term!

By Karl Judge (Ironville and Codnor Park primary School)

We've embarked on thrilling adventures, celebrated a vibrant culture, and learned important life skills.

Blast Off to Space!

Our classroom has transformed into a galactic wonderland as we've explored the wonders of space. We've learned about famous astronauts like Tim Peake, watched rocket launches, and even built our own rockets! Drawing Club has been a blast, with stories like "Whatever Next!" inspiring us to create incredible space ships and imagine life on other planets.



Celebrating Chinese New Year

We celebrated the vibrant colours and traditions of Chinese New Year. We learned about the Year of the Snake and even designed our own slithering creations using colourful paper plates. In Drawing Club, we watched a fascinating video that brought the magic of Chinese New Year to life.



Keeping Safe Online

Safer Internet Day taught us valuable lessons about online safety. We learned how to protect ourselves from scams and what to do if we encounter something suspicious online.



Shining Smiles

Sheryl from Smile for Life visited our classroom to teach us the importance of good oral hygiene. We helped Suzie Sparkle make healthy choices for her teeth and learned how to keep our own smiles sparkling bright.

We've had a fantastic term filled with learning, laughter, and exciting adventures. Keep an eye out for more updates on our classroom adventures soon!



New Art Installation inside the Railway Carriage Youth Club

A huge thank you to Alistair Flindall of Neck of the Wood Studio who has just completed an amazing artwork installation inside the Railway Carriage Youth Club with the members support. It's such a vivid and punchy design. Very poignant.



* Thank you to the Anvil Club for providing the three settees that appear in this photograph, and to Steve Bullock for fixing the window.



Note from the Artist: "I was thrilled to work with the young people at Ironville Railway Carriage Youth Club again, this time to transform the interior space of the carriage. We explored music culture for the theme and decided on 'Backbone'- not only a banger of a song, but also a word that transcends community."

Special thanks here are due to Amber Valley CVS without whose help, advice and support this project would never have taken place. Big thanks are due to them too in many other areas of fund raising - over the past two years their support has helped to enable the youth club not only to survive but thrive. Similar thanks are also due to Supporting Communities too, who have supported the club immensely over the past eighteen months. (Not forgetting the Trustees!).



**DERBYSHIRE
COMMUNITY
TRANSPORT**



Sadly Derbyshire Community Transport (DCT) who operated bus and on-demand services across the county, from shopper buses to individual transport to days out has ceased trading. Derbyshire Community Transport Ltd ('the charity') was placed into creditors' voluntary liquidation on 31st October 2024.

The public transport network has really suffered with the pandemic, and smaller private operators like DCT have felt that in a much bigger way.

On 29 October 2024 Derbyshire County Council Cabinet Member for Highways Assets and Transport, Councillor Charlotte Cupit, said:

"We were very sorry to hear the news that DCT were winding up but we have now found operators to take on all the services they ran on our behalf. Many thanks to our public transport team at the council for their work on this and as they continue to make the transfer of these services as streamlined as possible."



"Working with the trustees of the Ironville Railway Carriage Youth Club has been a fantastic experience. Supporting Communities is proud to part of such an impactful initiative, helping to create a safe and inspiring space for young people. The dedication of everyone involved is truly making a difference, strengthening the community and providing opportunities for young people to thrive." - David - Director of Operations

**Supporting
COMMUNITIES**

What's on at the Church Hall?

Mon - Nic's Fitness Crew ☎07810898868

Beatz Fitness 5.45pm - 6.45 (See page 12)

Tues - Nic's Fitness Crew ☎07810898868

Rockbox Workout 5.45pm - 6.45pm See page 12)

Tues - Crooked Line Club - 7.30- 9.30pm

Dancing with Daz just for fun - free door prizes

☎Daz 07967760065 or Steve 007548856386



Wed am - Crafty Crafters (See page 14)

10am - 12pm ☎ Pam 01773 689414



Wed - Nic's Fitness Crew ☎ 07810898868

Dance Toning 5.45 - 6.45 (See page 12)

Thurs - Nic's Fitness Walking Class - 10am - 11am

Thurs - Nics Fitness Crew Step - Class 5.45-6.45pm

Thurs - Taekwondo - 7 to 8.00 pm (See page 13)

For all the family - adults and children.

☎Dave Gregory 01773 609626 (see page 13)



What's on at the Anvil Club? (See page 5)

Monday 5-10 Free Pool

Tuesday 5-10 Free Juke box- Free Pool

Wednesday 5-11 Bingo Sticky 13 Play Your

Cards Right Open the Box on Bingo nights

Raffle Number Card Hot & Cold food

Thursday 5-11 Pool night - Pool Team

Friday 5-12 Meat Draw 9pm

Saturday open 2pm-12am

The Friends of the Cromford Canal Talks:

Most talks start at 7.30 pm in Ironville Church Hall

March 17th - Bess of Hardwick

April 14th - FCC AGM followed by Titanic

May 19th - Cromford & High Peak Railway

See the FCC website: www.cromfordcanal.info

to find out more about forthcoming talks.

☎ **MARIA MCCORMACK**

07816-439881

FOR BOOKINGS



IRONVILLE CHURCH HALL

IRONVILLE PARISH COUNCIL

Clerk: kathgruber@icloud.com ☎ 07595515154

All meetings take place at The Community Room,
Victoria Crescent, Ironville, starting at 7.00 pm .

(See website: ironvilleparishcouncil.co.uk)

Every meeting includes a period for Public Participation at which local residents are invited to attend - a time allocation of 15 minutes at the beginning of the meeting. (Also see page 2 & 3)

Next Meeting : Monday 17 March 2024

We look forward to seeing you there.



Cllr. Liz Holgate (Chair)

Railway Carriage Youth Club, Deepdale.

The Youth Club offers a wide range of activities that young people have planned and organised with youth workers. These include arts, sports, music and a space to chill out with friends. Opportunity is available to try new activities and seek advice & information on most teenage topics.



Sessions on Thurs & Fridays, 6.00pm to 8pm

To find out more why not "pop" in and have a chat with the youth workers.

OAP Community Centre Activities

Victoria Crescent- Bookings ☎ Pam Cope 01773 606454

Mon: Coffee Morning & Bingo

11am - 12pm



Tues: Money Bingo 7.30pm - 9pm

Friday - Prize Bingo 7.30p.m. - 9.00pm

Do come along and join in with these community events



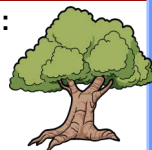
Ideas and local information, news or events please e-mail:

Andy: acadman175@yahoo.com

This Newsletter has been supported by the D.C.C. Community Leadership Scheme

via Councillor Philip Rose

The next issue is: TBC - Deadline: TBC



The views expressed in this Newsletter are not necessarily those of the Newsletter Editorial Team.

We also make it clear that we reserve the right to refuse or edit items that are sent in.