



# The Woodland Walk and Sculpture Trail



The following pages will guide you through our woodland walk and sculpture trail. Along the way are boards which provide more information. Equipment for taking rubbings, clipboards, etc can be provided if required.

The sculptures on our trail were carved by local artists; you may see one of them, Andrew Frost, carving in his outdoor studio here at Crich as you enter the woods. What tools do you think he uses?

Most of his work is done with a chainsaw, carving a basic shape from a tree trunk and then working on the detail.

Follow the signs from the village (up the steps) or the bandstand (along the road) and make your way past the outdoor play area towards the Woodland Walk.

On the top of the cliff is Crich Stand, a memorial to soldiers who died in the First World War, and a beacon, one of a series of national beacons that are lit on special occasions. What sort of occasions do you think the national beacons are lit for?

### **The Leaf Track**

These two sculptures represent the seeds of the ash tree – 'ash keys'- and mark the entrance and exit to the leaf track. Whose initials are on the keys? Can you see any ash keys around you?

Along the track are a series of plaques showing many of the different trees and shrubs growing in the wood. Rubbings can be taken of these plaques to help with your study.

There are many different plants and animals to be seen throughout the woods varying depending on the time of year; look for birds, butterflies, snails and insects. In spring and early summer you can smell the wild garlic, hunt for wild mint and watch the roses come into flower. In late summer there are blackberries ripening and the teasels lose their purple petals. See how many plants and animals you can identify.



## The Labyrinth

As you leave the leaf track you will see the stone labyrinth opposite you. The limestone rocks were donated by the quarry and if you look carefully it's possible to see fossils in some of them. The tall stone pillars flanking the entrance to the labyrinth have acrylic panels in them depicting the Derwent valley which you can see in the distance.

Do you know the difference between a labyrinth and a maze? They can both be any shape or size and look similar but they are not. Look at the shapes below and try and guess which is a maze and which is a labyrinth.



**A**

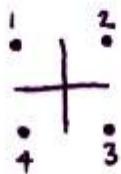


**B**

B is the labyrinth. A maze has dead ends and paths crossing giving a choice of direction and the possibility of getting lost. A labyrinth, no matter how confusing it looks, has only one twisting path that weaves its way to the centre and back out again. The labyrinth is associated with the story of the Minotaur, the half-man half-bull monster that dwelt in a labyrinth on the island of Crete. Theseus found his way to the centre of the labyrinth, slew the Minotaur and found his way out again by following the thread he had unwound on the way in. This story has caused confusion ever since, because clearly the Minotaur's lair was a maze not a labyrinth. See if you can find out more about this story.

## How to draw a labyrinth

1. Start by drawing a cross and four dots.



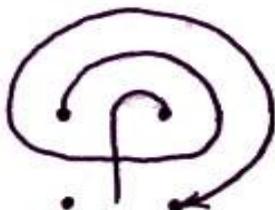
2. Draw a curving line from the top of the cross to the top right dot.



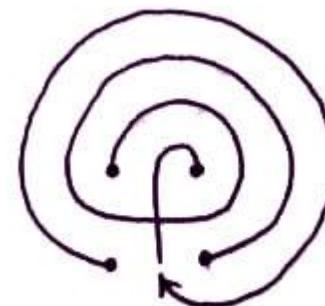
3. Draw a curving line from the top left dot to the right arm of the cross.



4. Draw a curving line from the left arm of the cross to the bottom right hand dot.



5. Finally draw another curving line from the bottom left hand dot to the bottom of the cross.



## Derwent View

Walk across the grass to have a look at the view over the valley. What can you see? There is usually a lot of activity in the valley. Where do you think the river is? This is a good spot to have a picnic or just sit and enjoy the view.



## The Fairy Ring and Willow Tunnel

Walk across the grass to the fairy ring. How many toadstools are there? How many rocks protect the ring? What is in the centre?

Walk through the willow tunnel. This is a living sculpture so is bare of leaves early and late in the year, but green and completely covered during the summer. As you walk through look at how the willow is growing, how it is bound and what it is bound with. See if you can see any creatures – there are usually plenty of snails.



## Winstan the Wizard

As you exit the Willow Tunnel there is a path leading to the left which leads Winstan the Wizard. He is our newest sculpture and a very special addition.

He is sculpted from the trunk of a cedar tree which stood in the garden of Winstan Bond, who was a volunteer at the Museum for more than forty years. Winstan walked through the woods almost every day and was a keen supporter for the development of the Woodland Walk. We wanted to remember him in a special way, and this is the result.



## Storyteller's Chair

To the left of the main path is a spur which leads down to the storyteller's chair. Here children are told stories in the woodland setting. Can you spot the books and any small creatures? What type of leaves are on the seats in front of the chair?

## Spirits of the Forest

In the past the British Isles were covered with more forests than today. These forests supplied the people with wood for building, heating and cooking as well as food such as fruits, nuts, deer and rabbits. People believed the forest was looked after by spirits and took great care not to upset them for fear of losing their source of food and fuel. Take a good look at our woodland spirits. How many are there? Do you think they are looking after our wood? See if you can find any stories about woodland spirits.



## Trample the Troll

As you enter the wood you will spot a wooden walkway leading through the trees. Follow this until you come to the bridge and be sure to keep as quiet as possible as Trample the Troll lies in wait for the unwary, especially Billy Goats! Although he looks fierce, he is harmless as long as no one upsets him. The word troll comes from Sweden and is used to describe a mythical human like creature who can be fierce or helpful depending on his mood, although you would be wise not to cross them. They are usually described as ugly and, if you use your brains, easy to trick out of their gold and jewels.





## The Green Man

Look at the Green man's face – what can you see? What are his hair and beard made from? Why do you think his eyes are closed? Some stories about the Green Man say that he closes his eyes at the end of autumn to sleep through the winter to wake again as the warmth of spring brings new life to the woods.

The origins of the green man are lost in time and the folklore surrounding him goes back thousands of years. His foliate face peers down from buildings throughout the world and he has been the subject of much research. He is known by countless different names: Jack in the Green, Robin Hood, the King of the May, John Barleycorn and many others to many people all over the world.

Throughout history, by whichever name he is called, the Green Man represents the cycle of death to the birth of new life, the death of winter and the coming of spring; he is the caretaker of nature.

The Green Man could be described as the male equivalent or partner to the female Mother Nature; the protector of the earth, the fertility of spring. It is only through his death in winter that there can be rebirth in the summer.

He can be seen in many different guises, usually in churches. See how many you can find in your home town. Do these faces look friendly or frightening?

Try drawing your own green man; you could stick on leaves, twigs and seeds. Write a poem or story about him, think about the way he looks, what you think he does through the year and how he works with Mother Nature.

## The Giant Ant and Ants Nest

Thankfully real ants are not quite as big as this! This ant is designed to be climbed on, so take a ride. Behind the ant is a sculpture of a nest with carved eggs in front of it.

If you look carefully, you should be able to see real ants scurrying about carrying food and building materials to their nest. Do not touch the ants or the nest as they bite.

Ants live in colonies with one queen, winged male ants that die once they have mated with the queen, and wingless female worker ants, which are the majority.



The Wood Ant is the largest British ant; it builds nests of twigs, leaves and pine needles. These can be up to two metres across and one metre in depth and can contain up to 300,000 ants. The queen lays eggs throughout the summer, so that at any time there are larvae at all stages of development. The worker ants are most active on warm, dull, humid days, although they forage day and night. They collect food, build, clean and repair the nest, and defend the nest against predators and rival ants.

The workers put considerable effort into keeping the nest at the correct temperature. If the mound is in danger of becoming too cool, they 'sunbathe' on top and then go inside to release the heat stored in their bodies; if the mound is likely to get too warm, they open up vents on the surface to allow in cool air. When the nest is disturbed, the workers swarm out to confront the intruder, biting with their strong mouth parts and rearing up to spray formic acid from their rears. Their fierce aggression and sheer numbers, make them formidable opponents for most other woodland inhabitants.

## Wakebridge

Make your way along the path to the tram stop at Wakebridge. Climb up the steps for another view over the valley, investigate the substation and explore the mining exhibition.

The toilet here at Wakebridge is a worm composting toilet. All the waste from the toilet goes into a special chamber where the worms break it down into compost that can be recycled into the woods.

From here you can catch the tram up to Glory Mine or back to the Village.



## Nothing lasts forever

Over the years, the elements have taken their toll on some of our sculptures. Trample the Troll returned to the soil but has been reborn. The Miners Totem pole was blown over in a gale, its base having been weakened by badgers clawing at the wood to get at grubs. The Quarryman had to be removed as it had developed large splits and was growing some impressive fungus. The Bagot Goat also developed splits and was too dangerous to leave in place, but we hope he too will be reborn.

