

Ruddington Parish Council

VILLAGE NEWSLETTER

Ruddington Ice Star Shines!

There's been yet more skating success for Ruddington ice dancer **Penny Coomes**. Ruddington Village Newsletter's Graham Wright caught up with her

RVN: Along with partner Nick Buckland, who hails from Wilford, you've recently won your third GB Ice Dancing title in a row in Sheffield. What was that like?

PENNY: *Amazing! This season is so important with it being Olympic Season, so to win and earn our place at the Sochi Olympics is huge! We were very pleased and honoured to share the same trophy again as our idols Torvil and Dean.*

RVN: Was it actually a bit of a relief following Nick's heart operation?

PENNY: *Nick is such a strong person, I knew that no matter what he would be back to training as soon as he could and we would be working hard and winning our 3rd title. If anything, the surgery has been a huge relief for us. He is cured and we can concentrate on our training now without the worry of his health.*

RVN: You're both still only 24 - hopefully the best is yet to come?

PENNY: *Yes definitely. Nick and I plan to carry on to the next Games. We are hoping to prove ourselves this year as contenders for a medal in 2018.*



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RVN: I guess you're both training hard now for Sochi?

PENNY: *Yes, we have been working really hard!! But we have the European Championships in a couple of weeks before we are off to Sochi. We are really looking forward to the competition.*

RVN: How well do you think you can do in the Winter Olympics? Can you get into the medals?

PENNY: *Not this time, but we are hoping that we perform well, and who knows what will happen. We have surprised ourselves in the past with our results so I hope to continue to do that.*

RVN: You still have family, friends and lots of fans here in Ruddington. How often do you manage to see them?

PENNY: *We were actually just home for Christmas. We flew in on Christmas Eve and left Boxing Day, so it was quick, but we haven't been home for Christmas for the past 3 years so we made sure we could just take 2 days to come home this year! We manage to get home a few times a year as we compete in England, and across Europe. We spend June at home while we take time off and create our new programmes.*

Ruddington Youth and Community Centre (YCC)

The proposed closure of the YCC was considered by the Environment and Community Committee in December, a meeting that I chaired. Several members of the public, along with Councillors, attended and were given ample opportunity to express their views.

The meeting recognised that the building had historically not fulfilled its potential. Nevertheless, those present expressed the view that through partnership with the Parish Council and other local organisations current and additional services for youth and the wider community could be provided from the very accessible venue that is the YCC. The meeting also recognised that financial cuts imposed by central government would mean that the YCC simply remaining as it is would not be an option and that closure would follow.

It was agreed by Ruddington Council to campaign so that YCC was allowed time to address the financial difficulties, to forge partnerships with other Ruddington organisations, and to generate additional usage for the YCC. The overall aim is to ensure a sustainable future for the centre irrespective of central government actions. This may not be possible, but we will try.

I am happy to discuss any details with anyone interested. This is an opportunity for Ruddington if we approach it in the right way.

Cllr Nick Tegerdine

Tree down on Kirk Lane in the gales on 23rd December.
Picture by Ian Howard



IT'S UP AND RUNNING

The first meeting of a group of volunteers who want to compile a 'Ruddington Village Plan' took place in November and have identified subjects such as the environment, health, young people, planning (and more) to be tackled – this is not a small project and will take time to complete.



We will be looking for people to join sub-committees and help compile questions for the community consultation and to assist with supporting events which we hope to hold in the village in the future. The subsequent results of the questionnaires will enable a report or 'Village Plan' to be produced which can be used to support grant applications, planning proposals (and objections) and help organisations like the Parish, Borough and County Councils to clearly identify what our community wants - and doesn't want. ***This project is community led and we need you to get involved.***

For now, we need people to join our sub-committees. You may have a special interest in health issues or highways issues, or you may work with children or in the leisure industry – or you may just feel that you'd like to contribute and get

involved with this important project for our village.

Initially, our topics are: Business & Commerce, Environment, Health & Welfare, Housing & Planning, Leisure, Transport & Highways, Young & Old People and finally, Heritage and Tourism, although this list has not yet been finalised.

We anticipate that there will be evening meetings about once a month – so it can take up as little or as much of your time as you wish. If you would like to help with this project or want to know more, please get in touch. Our email address is: VillagePlan@RuddingtonParishCouncil.gov.uk.

'Consulting with the community to produce a plan which will present your views for Ruddington's future'

Linda Cooke – Steering Group Sec.

St Mary's Community Park

The Ruddington Christmas Market in aid of St. Mary's Community Park was a huge success and we raised £1100 towards the park project. Many thanks to all the businesses involved for their support and to the residents for turning up and making the event so successful.

The Community Park Project will have their first AGM on Tuesday 4 February 2014 at St Peter's Rooms at 7.30pm. Please come along to hear about our progress and to give your feedback on our proposed park designs.

If you would like to keep up to date in the meantime with our latest news please 'like' us on Facebook:

<https://www.facebook.com/StMarysCommunityParkProject> or contact us at newplayground@ymail.com.

Christmas 2014?

When the Fundraisers for the St Mary's Community Park Project came up with the idea of a Christmas Market in the village they definitely didn't anticipate the reaction it would cause. The numbers who supported the event were overwhelming and huge congratulations go to everyone involved be it the organisers, stall holders, local businesses or attendees.



Almost immediately after the event the question was raised "What is going to happen next year?"

Well, "next year" is here and something **will** happen provided the support is forthcoming.

Lots of enthusiastic suggestions, comments and ideas have already been voiced either verbally or by social network pages so there is a good basis to work from.

What is needed **NOW** is ideas and people who are prepared to make it happen. If you are interested please get in touch on

councillorbb@ntlworld.com or phone the Parish Council office on 914 6660.

By Barbara Breakwell

Recycle your Christmas Tree

Parish Council groundstaff will be on The Green on Wednesday 8th January from 8am – 3pm and will be able to take and chip your Christmas trees.



Sponsor-a-brick appeal

Ruddington residents have launched a campaign to raise £12,700 to build dormitories with 80 beds for a school in Uganda. The 'Sponsor- a-Brick for £5 Appeal' for the Ngora Parents' School has already raised over £500 since its launch on 8 November.

Led by members of St Peter's Church, the campaign is part of a wider commitment to helping the people of Teso, a remote region of north east Uganda. The work to build and equip the dormitories will be supervised by the Teso Development Trust, creating employment and jobs for local Ugandan businesses.

Honor Dixon said: "Young girls in rural Uganda can be vulnerable as they walk to school. This appeal for living accommodation is about giving them the choice to continue their learning and then move into a career. Every £5 donated will have a long term impact on someone's life."

To donate go to <http://www.justgiving.com/tesodevelopment> or call Clement Dixon, TDT Secretary 0115 921 1565.

Christmas Business Window Display Competition

A massive 'Thank You' to everyone who entered the first Christmas Business Window Display Competition. All of the hard work resulted in Ruddington looking very festive and welcoming.



First Place: Perkins

The team of independent judges was made up of Rev. Andrew Buchanan from St. Peter's Church, Mrs Julie Lazonby from the Baptist Church and Rev. Simon Rose from the Methodist Church.

A big thank you to all of them for taking on this role at what is one of their busiest times of the year.

Their task was not made easy as they liked all of the displays and they were of an extremely high standard. I think we would agree with that statement and I am sure I was not the only person who thoroughly enjoyed walking around the village looking at the wonderful designs the businesses had come up with,



Second Place: Post Office

Third Place: Bluebells



thinking everyone was a winner. Thankfully it was the judges who had to make the final decision!

Highly Commended:

The Children of St. Peter's School for the lovely artwork they produced for the Co-op window.



The presentations were carried out by the Chairman of the Parish Council, Cllr. Peter McGowan.
By Cllr. Marion Pell

Thanks to Marion Pell for organising this. Editor.

New reign at the Victoria Tavern

A new era began at the Victoria Tavern in November when former White Horse landlady, Lindsey Flint, moved in. The latest in a series of ownership/management changes amongst Ruddington pubs, it's hoped that the new tenancy at the Vic Tavern will help to transform its fortunes, which have been somewhat mixed in recent years.



'I'm focusing on a traditional, village pub offering,' says Lindsey. *'My aim is to provide quality real ales and wines at great prices, and a welcoming environment for Ruddington people to socialise with their friends. I'd like to offer something a bit different from the other six pubs and cater for what my target customers are looking for.'*

Lindsey has already implemented a couple of policy changes since taking over the Victoria Tavern, with no under 18s now allowed in the pub and dogs restricted to the bar side only. And she's relishing the opportunity to put her own plans in motion for the Vic, as she takes on the role of tenant rather than landlady for the first time.

A new food menu is on the cards for the New Year, featuring a range of home-cooked pub classics. Steak Night will return to the Tavern after several years' absence, along with a second themed food evening. In the meantime, customers can enjoy a selection of cobs and snacks, with mushy peas and mint sauce served on Friday and Saturday evenings.

However, with her target audience firmly in mind, Lindsey is especially keen to reinforce the Victoria Tavern's reputation as a quality real ale pub. Customers can expect to see more cask ales behind the bar in future, with plenty of guest beers to add variety. With the brewery's support, Lindsey is also hoping to take part in the 2014 Ruddington Beer Festival.

'It will be a challenge to get the Victoria Tavern back to its former glory,' says Lindsey. *'But I'm really enjoying getting stuck in. It's great to be working with Rob again (Lindsey's former Assistant Manager at the White Horse) and we were delighted to welcome Jade to the team a few weeks ago. I'd like to thank all my customers, past and present, for their support. Everything's going very well so far – long may it continue!'*

By Faye Stenson

Sponsoring the Village Newsletter

The Parish Council is always looking to reduce costs where possible. It has recently been agreed that the Village Newsletter should not take advertisements but that each edition may be sponsored by a Ruddington business. For more details please contact the Clerk on 0115 914 6660 or office@ruddingtonparishcouncil.gov.uk

“Hello, hello, hello!...”

“...what’s going on here, then?!” That’s the question villagers started to ask a couple of months’ ago when we saw our old police station being remodeled for another use – and NOW we have the answer!

As the boys and girls in blue are working out of St Peter’s Rooms nowadays, their old premises at the corner of Kirk Lane and High Street have become a new base for Westbrookes Estate Agents. As our village expands so does the demand to purchase and vend properties, hence the latest agency in Ruddington which opened on the 20th of December.



“it’s a good place to be” says property negotiator Alex Boyles *“as it’s still close enough to the city but allows us to specialise a little more in prestige & country homes. We want to be more intimate with our customers, and to be there for them with advice on both buying and selling houses”*.

Alex trained as an architectural designer, whilst colleague Sophie Holder (also pictured) studied rural land management, so both seemingly have the perfect backgrounds for this kind of job! Director Andrew Hare completes the trio at the new Ruddington branch.

“Westbrookes have sold hundreds of properties since opening up in Nottinghamshire in 2004. We’re now in an expansion programme to launch more offices in Nottingham and its local villages over the next few years - with the aim of becoming the largest independent estate agency in Nottingham!”

Meantime they welcome you to pop in and have a chat.

By Graham Wright

Policing

Our PCSO Vee says

“Happy New Year to all residents and businesses in Ruddington village. Let’s continue to work together to keep the village a nice and safe place to live and work over the forthcoming year by remaining vigilant of any suspicious incidents.”

Contact:

DIAL 101 for non emergencies
PCSO Vee White 07702 141 778
PCSO Jonny Wilkinson. 07525 226 593

In an emergency ring 999

2nd Ruddington Rainbow Guides

We are a lively group of 5-7 year olds looking for volunteers over 18 years old to help with our weekly meetings on a Wednesday from 4.45 - 5.45 p.m.

Two of our present helpers are retiring and for our group to continue we need more help.

Rainbow guides are the youngest section of girl guiding. For more information contact Lisa 0115 846 2936.

Con Club calls for new members

Ruddington's Conservative Club has issued an urgent plea for new members after a sharp fall in membership levels. The Club, which is located on the corner of Kempson Street and High Street, has been around for more than 50 years – but its future is now in jeopardy as member numbers have dropped from 700 to just 250.

Speaking to the Nottingham Post, Club committee members explained that they're now planning a series of events to raise awareness of the Club and what it has to offer, particularly for families and younger people. A Charity Fashion Show and Christmas Fair have already taken place and more events are planned for 2014.

If you'd like more information about the Conservative Club, please contact Managing Director Bob Groves on 0115 984 4650, or just call into the Club for a chat.

By Faye Stenson

Entertainment at the Framework Knitters' Museum

To raise funds for the "Links, Loops and Luddism" appeal for the purchase of Gunn Cottage at the end of Chapel Street, a series of five talks has been arranged in January and February.

Kathy Powis, a museum volunteer, explained "We hope there will be something to attract everyone in the variety of topics we are presenting, also we have listened to people who would prefer an afternoon event, especially during the winter months."

David Darby, a popular speaker and

actor, is the first with his "He's Behind You" performance - a very entertaining history of the pantomime which will have the audience in stitches. Later on in the series there's a talk about Pompeii and Herculaneum – a different time period for the Museum to be investigating!



All talks will take place in the old Primitive Methodist Chapel in Chapel Street and tickets will be available from the Museum or Kathy. Details of January's talks can be found on the diary page. Museum posters and leaflets will include the whole series.

For further details ring Kathy on 0115 9845375

"The next train from Ruddington is to Leicester....."

If you have been on our local Heritage railway, the Great Central Railway Nottingham (GCRN) from Ruddington you will be aware that the furthest you can ever travel on it is to just outside Loughborough.

There has been a long held ambition to reconnect our line to the other section of the Great Central Railway to create an

18 mile long heritage railway between Leicester and here. Unfortunately, the lack of a bridge over the Midland Main Line and the anticipated costs to build one has made it remain an aspiration for several years.

However, recent work at Reading station has rendered two bridge decks surplus to requirements and Network Rail have offered to run the project to install them over the Midland Main Line, close to Loughborough Railway Station.

The timelines are tight to raise the £1,000,000 that the installation will cost as it has to be built by 2015 before the Midland route to London is electrified. An appeal, "Bridge to the Future" was launched on June 1st, 2013 and by the end of November 2013 £280,000 had been raised. If you would like to help make this link move a step further any donations to this project would be welcomed. Further details are available at www.gcrailway.co.uk/unify or talk to the volunteers at the Heritage Railway Centre on the Country Park.

By Barbara Breakwell

Rudd Connection route section under threat

The bus link between the village centre and Ruddington Fields Business Park could be axed after Notts City Council announced that it may withdraw funding for this section of the Ruddington Connection route. The Council needs to shave £1.8 million off the £6 million it currently spends on subsidising bus services, and stopping the service from Ruddington Green to the Business Park is just one of the ways it could conserve funds.

A consultation process is running until 17 January 2014 so local residents can have their say on the proposed changes. For full details, please visit www.nottinghamshire.gov.uk/busconsultation, scroll to the bottom of the page and click on the Rushcliffe link. You'll find a link to an online survey so you can tell the Council what you think.



The main route section of the Ruddington Connection isn't affected by this consultation as it is run commercially by Trent Barton and isn't subsidised by the Council. Residents will also be pleased to know that Ruddington Lane is open to traffic again and buses are now running their normal route rather than being diverted through Compton Acres.

By Faye Stenson

Edith Joan Dring passed away on 23/11/2013.

It will always be a great comfort to know how well liked she was by the people of the village, who over the months have asked how she was doing during her stay in hospital and wishing her well.

Serena, I and the rest of family would like to thank everybody for their support, the cards of condolence, the flowers, and the donations to charity, as well as the attendance at the funeral and wake which was very much appreciated.

Thanks again
Jackie, Serena & family.

An Easy Guide To Your Parish Council - Council Tax

Over the next few months, I hope to give an **informal guide** to the work of the Parish Council, its officers, employees and councillors, and give you some ideas of how you can get involved. Part 1 of this series covers the financial aspect of the Parish Council and your Council Tax – an annoying bill that arrives in March to dampen the spring sunshine. The breakdown on your bill shows you how much is allocated to each authority and how much goes to Ruddington Parish Council – YOUR Parish Council – to spend/invest on your behalf on village facilities, services and supplies.

Do you know where that money goes or how the Parish Council decides how much money it needs?



The council actively seeks outside funding and grants to assist with projects and on the new play areas for example, a big proportion of the costs were met this way. However, maintenance, repairs, upkeep and safety checks of all the equipment, along with keeping the areas clean of litter, paths safe and grass cut is all council responsibility. What else? Well briefly, there is St. Peter's Rooms, the Village Hall, three playing fields, two sports pavilions, the War Memorial and grounds, the Green, Church Street car park, Churchill open space, two sets of allotments, Vicarage Lane Cemetery, Flawford Churchyard and St Peter's Churchyard - all maintained by the Parish Council and its staff.

Of course, hirers pay towards the costs but regular income from letting is not

guaranteed and does not cover the open spaces where trees need specialist pruning, bins need emptying and grass needs cutting. You will also know from your own bills that utility charges are not coming down and that failure to adequately maintain and heat premises simply costs more in the long run when they run in to disrepair and no-one wants to hire them. Money is also spent in promoting the village and 'keeping up appearances' - Christmas trees, bedding plants, planters and even the provision of dog poo bags all help to improve the look and feel of our village and bring in visitors and shoppers.

Each autumn, work starts on the budgets for the following year with final decisions being made in January/February at which point the Parish Council decides on the precept (what you will pay) for the following year. This is a very complicated process and a difficult time for our councillors who are also residents in the village and not only want the best facilities for the community but also need to take in to account the current economic climate. It is the council's job to ensure that every penny of your



council tax is spent with care and consideration and in the best interests of residents of the village.

If you have a question about what the Parish Council is responsible for, please contact the PC Office – understanding which authority is responsible for which services can be complicated and the Clerk and his staff are there to help and advise.

Linda Cooke

Next month - Parish Councillors

We're on the run again

If you fancy getting some exercise this New Year then how about entering the Rushcliffe 10K or Fun Run? Both events take place in Ruddington Country Park on Sunday 2nd March – but already places are booking up quickly!

Up to 850 runners can be accommodated in the 10K which is said to be suitable for all abilities, from novices to experienced runners aged 15 and over, and will be chip timed. The course involves two circuits of the country park and a medal will be given to everyone taking part - with prizes for the winners in various categories. It costs £14 per runner or just £12 if you're UKA affiliated, including the online booking fee.



Alternatively a 2km Fun Run is also organised on the day with participants running twice around the lake before heading over the finish line to receive a medal. This costs £10 for a family ticket or £3 each for children under £16.

The event is organised by Rushcliffe Borough Council in partnership with Rushcliffe Athletics Club and Cerebral Palsy Sport. CP Sport is the official race charity and receives £1 from every entry fee. This charity aims to help people with cerebral palsy fulfil their potential through sport – especially

children and young people. You can help them raise funds by requesting a sponsorship form - or just make a donation when completing the application online.

You can enter now via www.rushcliffe.gov.uk/10k but must do so by Friday the 14th February at the latest, subject to there still being spaces left.

By Graham Wright

Sybil Henson (1917-2013)

Last month, my mother, Sybil Henson (formally Downes / nee Handley) passed away at the Redcote Nursing home in Lea, Gainsborough, aged 95 years. She was born at 24 High St., Ruddington and lived in Ruddington for nearly 90 years, moving to Lea to be closer to her family.

Sybil was the youngest and last of 9 children of George & Hannah Handley, who had a painting & decorating business in Ruddington for many years in the early/middle of the 1900's and she was a regular worshipper at St. Peters Church for most of her life. We know that many Ruddington residents will remember my mother who leaves 2 sons, grandchildren and great grandchildren.

Doug Downes

If you would like something included in the Village newsletter please talk to the Clerk or Deputy Clerk. The copy deadline for the February edition is 17th January.

A large print copy of the Village Newsletter is available to read in the library

Ruddington Diary

January 2014

Wednesday 1st January

Ruddington Local History and Amenity Society - Social evening at 8pm in St. Peter's Rooms.

Sunday 5th January

Footpaths Walk - Ruddington Footpaths Preservation Group organised. University Park and Lake plus Millennium Garden. Meet on the Green at 2.15pm.

Tea, Coffee & Cakes - at the Education Room (near the lake), Rushcliffe Country Park from 10am to 3pm. In aid of FoRCP.

Wednesday 8th January

Ruddington W.I. - "Speed Crafting" including a display of members craft work. At 7.15pm at St. Peter's Rooms.

Thursday 9th January

Framework Knitters Museum - Mr David Darby presents "He's behind you! The story of the Pantomime". 2.30pm in the old chapel, Chapel St. Tickets £5. Contact the Museum or Kathy 984 5375.

Saturday 11th January

Parish Council Surgery. 10am to 12 noon at St. Peter's Rooms. This is your opportunity to speak with your Parish, Borough and County Councillors about local issues.

Sunday 12th January

Tea, Coffee & Cakes - at the Education Room (near the lake), Rushcliffe Country Park from 10am to 3pm. In aid of FoRCP.

Tuesday 14th January

Finance & Policy Committee - St. Peter's Rooms, 7.30 pm. All committee meetings are open to the public where you can raise your views on any item on the agenda.

Tuesday 14th January

Scrabble - In Ruddington Library 2pm to 4pm. All players welcomed.

Rattle, Rhyme and Roll - in the Ruddington Library. Have fun with your little ones for under 5's and meet other parents and make new friends. The sessions are free and no booking required. Call 0115 9212309 for more information.

Wednesday 15th January

Ruddington & District Probud Club - "Im Western etwas neu" at Ruddington Golf Club at 12noon.

Friday 17th January

Ruddington Business Partnership - meets at Philo's from 8am to 9am. Come along and meet other local businesses.

Sunday 19th January

Tea, Coffee & Cakes - at the Education Room (near the lake), Rushcliffe Country Park from 10am to 3pm. In aid of FoRCP.

Thursday 23rd January

Framework Knitters Museum - Mr Pete Davis presents " Robert Blincoe - the Terrible Prince of Lace". 2.30pm in the old chapel, Chapel Street. Tickets £5. Contact the Museum or Kathy on 0115 984 5375.

Tuesday 28th January

Parish Council Meeting - St. Peter's Rooms, 7.30 pm. All meetings are open to the public where you can raise your views on any items on the agenda.

Wednesday 29th January

Ruddington Gardeners' Association - Annual General Meeting. The Hermitage, 7pm for 7.30pm.

Thursday 30th January

Framework Knitters Museum - Ms Sera Baker presents "Pompeii & Herculaneum, a Roman Town" 7.30pm in the old chapel, Chapel St. Tickets £5. Contact the Museum or Kathy on 984 5375.

February 2014

Sunday 2nd February

Tea, Coffee & Cakes - at the Education Room (near the lake), Rushcliffe Country Park from 10am to 3pm. In aid of FoRCP.

Sunday 2nd February

Footpaths Walk - Ruddington Footpaths Preservation Group organised. Nine Stiles returning via Bridlepath. Meet on the Green at 2.15pm.

Wednesday 5th February

Ruddington Local History and Amenity Society - "The Rise and Fall of the Harpur Crewe Family of Calke Abbey" at 8pm in St. Peter's Rooms.