

Ruddington Parish Council

VILLAGE NEWSLETTER

Local dancers to represent England.

On Charles Street you will find the Freedom Dance and Performance School. Established 4 years ago it specialises in all aspects of the performing arts for almost 150 students. They recently were honoured to receive the news that 28 of their dancers have been selected to represent Team England at the prestigious **Dance World Cup** which is being held in Jersey this summer.

Last year Team England won the competition and our local talented young people could help them repeat that achievement.

Team England places are self funded and it will cost around £1,000 for each child to take part in the competition in terms of kit, travel and accommodation costs.



The “Freedom Family”, as the school members call themselves, has begun organising their own events and activities to help raise funds. They extend their thanks to the local businesses, organisations and individuals who have already offered support.

If you can help by sponsoring, fundraising or donating they would be delighted to hear from you. Contact them at 7 Charles Street, Ruddington or email staceygaunt@hotmail.co.uk.

Barbara Breakwell

Would you like to sponsor the Village Newsletter?

Contact the Ruddington Parish Council office, St. Peter's Rooms, Church Street, Ruddington, Nottingham NG11 6HA. Tel: 0115 914 6660

Email: office@RuddingtonParishCouncil.gov.uk

Pedestrian and cyclist road safety in Ruddington

Following recent correspondence and reports of incidents involving cyclists and pedestrians, the Parish Council's Environment and Policy Committee discussed the issues of cycling safety and courtesy on the congested village streets. We noted that almost half of the responses to the Traffic and Transport survey question "is cycling on the pavement a problem?" said "yes". There is a recent report of an elderly person being knocked over.

Ruddington Parish Council wishes to promote cycling as an activity with benefits. We seek further and better cycle tracks for example. However, there appears to be a view that cycling on the footway (pavement) is not an offence. It is, and the police can use Fixed Penalty Notices against offenders. Common sense informs us that a small child riding slowly is not an issue, and some cyclists seeking the sanctuary of the footway from the cars and lorries in the centre of the village do respect the pedestrian. A few don't unfortunately.

The police are supporting us so whilst we hope that enforcement action will not be necessary, it will be used where deemed necessary.

Nick Tegerdine

The following letter has been received and is reproduced in full.

"I wish to respond to Sue Powdrill's article in Issue No.73 of February 2016, concerning her perspective of the relationship between cyclists and pedestrians.

While I can understand her frustrations in relation to pedestrians not being aware of cyclists when crossing the road, I would like to express my concerns about cyclists riding on the pavement.

I regularly witness cyclists riding on the pavements around Ruddington. In particular, I am getting very frustrated at a number of cyclists who insist on riding along the pavement on Wilford Road. The County Council spent a considerable amount of tax payers' money on providing a cycle track to the West side of Wilford Road as far as Sellors Field. The cycle track then crosses over to the golf course side of Wilford Road as far as Wilford. Some cyclists however persist in cycling on the opposite pavement to the risk of pedestrians, in particular young children.

These cyclists are adults riding at considerable speed with little or no respect for pedestrians. When

approached they tend to become very hostile.

In response to Sue Powdrill's article, the Editor rightly made the point that cyclists should be aware of pedestrians and follow the Highway Code. I would go further and remind the cycling community that it is not only dangerous to cycle on the pavement but also illegal. Please refer to the Highways Act for confirmation.

Martin Auckland

Any further correspondence on this issue will be shown on the Parish Council's Facebook page and not in the newsletter. Editor

Planning applications

People are often concerned about planning applications, especially if they are near where they live. The decision on any application is made by Rushcliffe Borough Council. The Parish Council gets a chance to comment on them. They are considered at Parish Council meetings and comments are made to the Borough Council.

The Parish Council puts the applications it is to consider on the notice board at St. Peter's Rooms with the agendas. They are also on the Parish Council website. However, the deadlines set by Government often mean there is not long between the Parish Council being

told about them and the deadline for submitting comments.

If you want to find out more about what planning applications are current you can visit the Rushcliffe Borough Council website <https://planningonline.rushcliffe.gov.uk/online-applications/>

Book sale

A book sale is being held all day on **Friday March 18th** at the Nottingham Building Society & Estate Agency, at 3-5 High Street, Ruddington.



There will be complimentary refreshments and a book reading from local West Bridgford thriller author, Michael Smedley.

You are welcome to donate an unwanted book for the sale and/ or suggest a charity/cause of your choice for the funds raised to be donated to.

Sheetal, Dan and the team look forward to seeing you on the day.

Barbara Breakwell

Easter fun in the village

Two Easter events that have become something of a village tradition will be making a welcome return to Ruddington for 2016. On Sunday 27 and Monday 28 March, our local heritage railway, GCRN, will be running its ever-popular Easter 'Egg-spress' specials, where kids can meet the Easter Bunny on the train and each receive a chocolatey gift.



There'll also be an Easter Egg Hunt with the chance to win free tickets on heritage train services and other great prizes. Trains depart at 11am, 1pm and 3pm on both days, with all services hauled by steam locomotives. For information and tickets, visit www.gcrn.co.uk or call 0115 940 5705.

Good Friday will see a second Easter Egg Hunt taking place at the Framework Knitters Museum – but one with a difference, as kids will be searching for a selection of naughty knitted bunnies hidden around the museum! Every child who finds where all the bunnies are will be rewarded with an Easter Egg.

Other attractions taking place include Hot Cross Bun toasting on the cottage range, Guess the Weight of the Cake, knitting demonstrations and other fun activities for the kids to try. The event takes place from 11am to 4pm, with free admission for all children wearing an Easter bonnet or bringing along a bunny. Find out more at www.frameworkknittersmuseum.org.uk or call 0115 984 6914.

Faye Stenson

Housing site consultation – next steps

Hundreds of people came to the Rushcliffe Borough Council consultation event on possible housing sites (and more) at St. Peter's Rooms on 11th February. If you haven't yet responded and would like to you have until 24th March. You can see the consultation document and comment at www.rushcliffe.gov.uk/planningpolicy. There are paper copies of the response form at the Parish Council offices.

Ruddington Parish Council will be considering if and what to submit in response to the consultation at a special meeting on 15th March, 7.30 at St. Peter's Rooms.

Congratulations

Congratulations to local ice skater Penny Coomes and her partner Nick Buckland on winning the Senior Ice Dance, Free Dance at the Bavarian Open in Oberstdorf Germany.

Historic pictures of Ruddington 1945 – 1977

Do you remember Robin Starch Row? East Street? The Anchor Club?

Over the Easter weekend, an exhibition of historic photographs will be held at St Peter's Rooms exploring how Ruddington changed in the post-war period.

The three decades following WWII saw Ruddington transformed or, in some people's eyes, destroyed by new housing estates, schools and the redevelopment of the village centre. Equally dramatic were the social changes, as wartime austerity gave way to the optimism of the 60s and 70s.



The exhibition, organised by Ruddington Local History & Amenity Society, provides a fascinating glimpse of Ruddington and its residents during three turbulent decades.

Opening Times

Sunday 27th and Monday 28th March
11.00am to 4.00pm

Admission: Free

Light refreshments available

Folk and Blues acoustic night

Almost sixty people attended the first Ruddington Folk and Blues acoustic music night which was held at the Country Cottage Hotel on Easthorpe Street on the 18th February. It was a very successful and a really enjoyable night which came as a great relief to Ron McSweeney who planned and organised the event.



There was a total of nineteen different acts made up of 24 performers who entertained with a variety of styles and genres of music including English and American folk, pop, 60's, blues, mainstream, and some performed their own compositions. There were guitars, ukulele, banjo, concertina, harmonica and bodhran. Something for everyone in fact - more than 30 musical items - and it was all free (except the raffle)!

If you missed it, don't worry, it's going to become a regular feature in the village calendar - the third Thursday in each month. The next Ruddington Folk and Blues night will be on 17th March at 8.30pm at the Country Cottage Hotel. Make a note in your diary so that you don't miss it. Bring a friend; it's free entry for all. See you there!

KEEP IN TOUCH. For e-mail news send your email address to:

ruddifolkandblues@talktalk.net

Mob: 07850 770477 or Tel: 0115 921 6933

Rudd a great place to live

Last month we ran an article about English Women's Cricket –The Ruddington Connection and Anna Warren who lives in Ruddington was asked to give her perspective on living here, what is good or not so good and the potential for women's cricket.

What's good about living in Ruddington?

For me Ruddington is a great place to live. The village always has a good buzz around it and a good mix of people live here.

I really enjoy the surrounding countryside as this gives me a good opportunity to get out on my bike or to go running – I always feel really lucky that we have this on our doorstep. I also really like the old buildings in the village and think they add real character to the place.

What's not so good (and what would you do, if anything, to improve it)?

I think we should continue to work hard to preserve the green spaces in our village and where possible enhance them, and ensure there is still enough suitable habitats for wildlife. We currently have a family of hedgehogs in our back garden and it makes you realize how important it is to ensure you leave space for wildlife such as hedgehogs that are in decline!

Good places to eat in the village seems to have grown over the past 5 years however I still think there is space for

shops and cafes selling quality, local produce. A farmers market from time to time would also be good.

I know people go on about the traffic but from my point of view, I'm not often here to see it!



Anything else you want to say (within the laws of the land)!

Come and watch some women's cricket this summer and support the England Women during their T20 world cup campaign this March over in India!

Since the first article about Anna appeared in the last edition, we were contacted by Glynis Boon. Glynis has pointed out that she was the physiotherapist for Nottinghamshire County Cricket Club, based at Trent Bridge, between 1970 and 1979. She remembers local heroes like Derek Randall, and worked at the Test match at Trent Bridge in 1977.

We'll perhaps hear more from Glynis in a future Newsletter.

Nick Tegerdine

W I Spring Fair

Saturday 12th March 10 – 1 pm

at St. Peter's Rooms .

Come and try your hand at various crafts on offer e.g. lace making, French knitting + knitting, crocheting, braiding and others.

We will also have a variety of stalls and a raffle. Tea/Coffee/Biscuits. £2 entry.

Marie Curie Cancer Care

Be ready! Marie Curie Cancer Care collection days are here again in Ruddington on Friday 18th and Saturday 19th March 2016.

Marie Curie provide nursing care at home. The care is completely FREE to all patients and families. The nurses give hands on care to help terminally ill patients remain in their home.

The Marie Curie nurse will spend a whole shift – usually at night with the ill person so that the family can have some rest and help.

The money which we collect provides these services for patients and families. Marie Curie nurses can be accessed by family doctors and community nurses.

Your donations are vital for this service to continue to help those in need of extra care. Last year Ruddington collected over £500, can we achieve this again or improve the total?

Barbara Venes

Council Budget 2016-17 Parish Council Keeps Costs Down

The Parish Council has kept the increase in the Precept (their part of the Council Tax) to 2%. For most people this will mean an increase of under £2 for the year.

This year the Parish Council has lost income of £15,900 because Rushcliffe Borough Council stopped the transition grant relating to the Council Tax Reduction Scheme. This would have meant a 6% increase in the precept even before inflation.

Parish Council Chairman, Allen Wood said "The Parish Council has done really well to keep the increase low, especially with the loss of income from Rushcliffe. We have brought the budget back into balance with only a minimal effect on services.

"This has been possible largely because of the efficiency savings that have been made over the past few years by cutting costs in gas, electricity, banking, photocopying and rates.

"I must congratulate the staff who have put in a lot of work to make these savings."

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

Ruddington Diary

March 2016

Tuesday 3rd March

Methodist Church Women's Fellowship - "Remembering the 1950's" by JR Whitfield, at 2.30pm in the Methodist Church.

Wednesday 2nd March

History Society Meeting - "AGM". 8pm in St. Peter's Rooms.

Saturday 5th March

Ruddington Methodist Church - Table Top Sale, 10am to 12 noon, proceeds go towards church funds.

Sunday 6th March

Footpaths Walk - Ruddington Footpaths Preservation Group. "East Leake Circular". Meet on the Green at 2.15pm.

Tuesday 8th March

Rattle, Rhyme and Roll - Have fun with your little ones. 11am at the Library, FOC.

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

Parish Council Meeting - at St. Peter's Rooms commencing at 7.30pm.

All meetings are open to the public where you can raise your views on any agenda items.

Wednesday 9th March

Ruddington W.I. - "Indian Culture" by Surinder Kaur Samra, exhibition: an ornamental elephant. 7.15pm at St. Peter's Rooms.

Saturday 12th March

Ruddington W.I. Spring Fair - Try various crafts on offer, variety of stalls and a raffle. Tea, coffee and biscuits. In St. Peter's Rooms £2 entry.

Sunday 13th March

Food Fair - James Peacock School - 10am till 2pm. Admission Adults £1, children free.

You can often find more details of the events on the Parish Council website: www.ruddingtonparishcouncil.gov.uk on the diary page.
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Tuesday 15th March

Methodist Church Women's Fellowship - "Malt Cross" by Rebecca Wood, at 2.30pm in the Methodist Church.

Parish Council Meeting: Response to Consultation on Local Plan Part 2 - at St. Peter's Rooms commencing at 7.30pm. Open to the public to raise your views on any agenda items.

April 2016

Friday 1st April

The Country Cottage Hotel-Ladies Lunch, 11.30am for 12 noon sit down, all lunches support charities with funds raised.

Sunday 3rd April

Footpaths Walk - Ruddington Footpaths Preservation Group. "Flawford Churchyard and Mill Lane to Bradmore" Meet on the Green at 2.15pm.

Thursday 17th March

Ear Foundation - Do you wear an NHS hearing aid? Come to our FREE walk-in hearing aid clinic. In St. Peter's Rooms between 11.30am to 12.30pm. No appointment required.

Ruddington Folk & Blues - enjoy all styles of live acoustic music for free at The Country Cottage Hotel commencing at 8.30pm.

Friday 18th March

Ruddington Business Partnership - FREE networking today and every 3rd Friday of the month, at The Ruddington Arms, 8am to 9am. Come along and meet other local businesses. No booking required.

Wednesday 23rd March

Amenities Committee Meeting - at St. Peter's Rooms commencing at 7.30pm. All meetings are open to the public where you can raise your views on any agenda items.

Wednesday 30th March

Ruddington Gardeners' Association - "Tibet - Plant Hunting on the Roof of the World" by Peter and Jackie Murray, at the Hermitage 7pm for 7.30pm.

If you would like something included in the Village newsletter please talk to the Clerk or Deputy Clerk.

The copy deadline for the next edition is 15th of the month.

Tuesday 12th April

Rattle, Rhyme and Roll - Have fun with your little ones. 11am at the Library, FOC.

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

Wednesday 13th April

Ruddington W.I. - Annual Meeting, choose the team to run your WI, followed by a Beetle Drive. 7.15pm in St. Peter's Rooms.

Can you help Ruddington?

Are you interested in contributing to the development of a Neighbourhood Plan for Ruddington?

Ruddington Parish Council has decided to develop a Neighbourhood Plan and is looking for volunteers to help.

A Neighbourhood Plan can influence what type of housing is built as well as influencing other areas like:

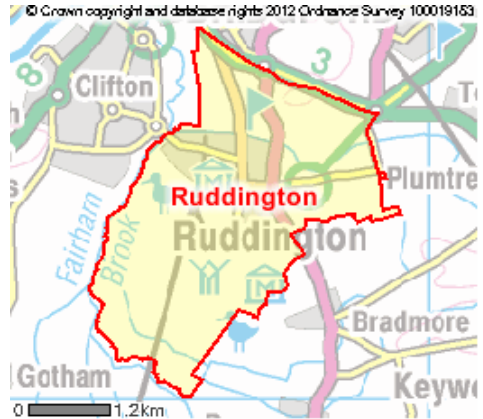
- Enhancing the Village Core,
- Promoting Tourism,
- Improving Transport and Leisure,
- Creating opportunities for Employment,
- Celebrating Design and Heritage, and
- Protecting the Environment.

A Neighbourhood Plan is statutory which means that it has to be taken into account when decisions are made by Borough and County. It also means that it is bureaucratic to produce – it has to go through the right legal processes.

Because Rushcliffe Borough Council are already going through a process of deciding on the best sites for new housing, employment land etc. this will not be part of what the Neighbourhood Plan looks at.

A Neighbourhood Plan Project Group (NPPG) would be required to oversee the development of the Neighbourhood Plan.

National guidance suggests that it is best practice for the proposed membership the NPPG to have representatives of different groups in the community.



Based on this guidance, the NPPG will have a minimum of 12 members. It will include: 3 parish councillors, 2 business reps, 1 from local school and/or community organisation, community representatives to include: 1 parent of school-age children under 12, 1 parent of older children 12-18, 1 young adult aged 20-30, 1 retired person, 1 registered disabled.

If you are interested in helping, or just want to find out more please contact the Parish Council.

If more people are interested than there is room for the Parish Council will make a choice. The deadline for putting your name forward to the Parish Council, with background information about yourself, is 28th March.

Thefts from vans on the rise

You may have seen media reports about a recent spate of thefts from vans in the Rushcliffe area, apparently including vehicles on Wilford Road and The Green in Ruddington. Most of the incidents have occurred overnight, with the thieves aiming to steal tools and other equipment left in the vans.

Unfortunately, many van insurance policies don't cover tools left in the vehicle overnight – so if your van is broken into, you could end up having to replace everything at your own cost. On the other hand, it's not always practical to take everything out of the van at the end of every working day, especially if you don't have much storage space at home.



However, you can still take steps to protect your tools if you do need to leave them in your vehicle overnight. One of these is to invest in a vehicle toolbox such as a Van Vault, which offers secure, lockable storage for your tools. It might cost a couple of hundred pounds to buy and install – but that's probably a lot less than you'd pay to replace your tools.

Of course, your van could still get broken into even if you empty it every night. Consider displaying a sign stating that no tools are left in the vehicle overnight, which might deter less persistent thieves. You could also protect your van by installing a CCTV system that covers your driveway or other area where your van is parked – just take care that your cameras don't point at anyone else's property when you install them.

Like to know more?

Ask your insurance company for further information and advice on how to protect your van and potentially reduce your premiums.

Faye Stenson

Vacancy in Manor Ward

Due to the resignation of Cllr Martin Walsh, there is a vacancy on Ruddington Parish Council in Manor Ward. The vacancy is being advertised on the Notice Boards at St. Peter's Rooms. If an election is called it will take place not later than 19 May, 2016, otherwise the vacancy will be filled by co-option.

If you are interested in being a parish councillor contact the Parish Council office to find out what it involves.

Cllr Walsh submitted his resignation as his work situation meant he felt he is unable to dedicate the amount of time he feels necessary to being a parish councillor.

“All aboard for Leicester”

A few weeks ago work started to reunify the two halves of the Great Central Railway to create an 18 mile heritage line between Leicester and Ruddington.

What had seemed like a vision is now a step closer to becoming a reality.



For 3 years planning and fundraising have been taking place to “Bridge the Gap” e.g rebuild the bridge that was removed when the original Great Central line closed in the 1960’s. The new bridge will carry a single track over the four tracks of the main line between Derby and London St Pancras.

Trains that currently run from the the Great Central Railway –Nottingham, based in the Country Park, now have to stop just outside Loughborough, as the line ends.

This project will ultimately enable trains to continue to the southern terminus at Leicester North, where a new Heritage Lottery funded railway museum is being developed. Passengers will also be able to come from Leicester to Ruddington.

Timescales vary about when the completed railway will be open but hopefully within 5 years.

Barbara Breakwell

What a difference a decade makes

If like me you know that “the village has changed” but can’t actually pinpoint how, you should take a look at a website created 10 years ago by local resident, Howard Greville-Giddings.

In 2006 Howard went all over the village capturing the images. He wanted to create a time-capsule of photos about Ruddington with the majority of images being of streets, buildings and houses. Apparently the lack of social images was because at that time everyone in Ruddington was camera shy!

Looking through the collection you see the things that are still there and the ones that have changed and of course the ones that have disappeared.

Howard is hoping, during this 10th anniversary year, to re-shoot some of the key venues and is planning to update the website accordingly.

The website is <http://ruddingtonphotos.co.uk> and is well worth a look.

Barbara Breakwell

Newsletter by e-mail?

Would you like to get a copy of the Village Newsletter sent to you by e-mail? Just e-mail to office@ruddingtonparishcouncil.gov.uk and we will make sure you are sent a copy each month.

Gary Long, Editor.

'Green Hearts' for the WI

The green hearts were made by member Sally Bryers in support of the National Federation of WIs project to raise awareness about climate change and the impact it will have on all the things we love. Each heart crocheted by Sally depicted just one of the things we could lose as a result of climate change e.g. Bees, chocolate, turtles, wine, beaches etc., etc.



The WI is a founder member of The Climate Coalition (TCC) and is therefore, one of over 100 organisations and over 15 million people working for action on climate change. One of the TCC core campaigns is focused around Valentine's Day and is called 'For the Love Of...', hence the hearts! It is hoped that WI members in Ruddington will wear their green hearts when out and about to engage the interest and activity of others and so raise awareness about climate change.

Linda Davey

Ruddington Baptist Church

Ruddington Baptist Church has recently changed venue and is now meeting at St Peter's Rooms every Sunday morning from 10:30AM.

We love to welcome new people to join us, so come along anytime. We would like to invite the community of Ruddington to join us on Sunday 17th April 2016, 10:30am at St Peter's Rooms for an opening celebration of our new meeting place. More details will follow in the April Village newsletter.

Sam Hackett

Correction

There was an error in the article entitled 'Half term activities' in the February issue of the newsletter.

Further to the article being submitted, the Framework Knitters Museum changed its winter opening times from Wednesday to Friday, 11am to 2pm, to Thursday to Saturday, 11am to 2pm.

There was also only one showing of the interactive film, *Breaking the Frame*, during half term week and not two as printed.

Many apologies to anyone affected by this error. The museum resumes its normal opening days and times on Good Friday, 25 March. These are Wednesday to Saturday, 11am to 4:30pm and Sunday, 1:30pm to 4:30pm.

Faye Stenson

Fundraising fun at Vic Tavern

The Victoria Tavern on Wilford Road has held a successful fundraising evening in aid of Great Central Railway Nottingham (GCRN), with around £250 raised for our local heritage railway. The Tavern took part in the World's Biggest Pub Quiz, which saw over 1,000 pubs across the UK holding a simultaneous quiz from 7:30pm on Sunday 7 February.

Lindsey Flint, landlady at the Victoria Tavern, explains: *'Many of the staff and volunteers at GCRN are customers at the Tavern and we wanted to do something to help their fundraising efforts to link up with their GCR counterparts at Leicester. We don't normally hold pub quizzes, so the night offered something different for our regular customers and we ended up with a good turnout for a Sunday night.'*

Lindsey's brother, Nick Adcock, took on the role of quiz master for the evening, putting the 40-odd participants through their paces in six themed sections totalling 60 questions. Each venue taking part in the World's Biggest Pub Quiz followed the same format, with themes including Pubs & Beer, Music & Lyrics, Food & Drink and General Knowledge.

Competition was tough, but customer Paul Hyam eventually came out on top with 41 correct answers out of 60 to win two gallons of the beer of his choice. However, he wasn't the only winner as Lindsey had also been running her

popular 'Pick a Square' Cash Draw in the run-up to the event. The cash draw netted £150 for overall winner Danny, with runners-up Wayne, Bob and Matt receiving £75, £50 and £25 respectively.

Adds Lindsey: *'It was a really fun evening and everyone had a very enjoyable time, all in aid of a great, local cause. I'd like to thank the GCRN directors – especially Phil and Lloyd – staff and volunteers for helping me organise the event and for showing us so much support on the night. A big thank you should go to everyone who took part in the quiz and supported GCRN by entering the Cash Draw.'*

Faye Stenson

And in other pub news...



Congratulations to Andy Hunt and Abbie Clifton at The White Horse, who took home the Regional Winner 2015 award at the Punch Regional Publican Awards in February. Keep up the good work!

Faye Stenson

Youth Project launch

On **Wednesday the 20th April at 7pm** the new Youth Project will be launched at the Body Centre on the Green.

The 2 hour weekly session will be aimed at 9 to 14 year olds and each subsequent session will cost £1. Ryan and his team will offer a range of activities for the young people of our community.

The spacious, refurbished centre now houses a gym and hosts fitness classes for all abilities including Youth Gym sessions, 3 times a week.

Other facilities include an all weather sports area and a cosily furnished Portakabin.

All 9-14 year olds are invited to “save the date” and come along on the 20th April. Parents/ carers are also welcome to see what is on offer.

Volunteer helpers and additional resources are always welcomed to support this new venture.

Check their Facebook page **Ruddington Youth Project** to find out more.

Barbara Breakwell

Support for Hermitage Preschool

Staff at the Ruddington branch of The Nottingham Building Society are raising money and collecting donations for The Hermitage Preschool in Ruddington.

On the 11th February Dan Spendlow, Senior Customer Adviser and Victoria Taylor Estate Agency Manager visited the school with a collection of goodies donated from staff and local residents.

“We are thrilled to be working with The Hermitage Preschool. We love to help and support local causes” Dan Senior Adviser.

“They are the only charity run Pre School in the area, the service and the work the staff does is brilliant.” Victoria Taylor

The Ruddington Branch will be taking part in the schools Easter celebrations in March and will be helping them with their garden project in summer.

The team also hope to raise £100 to pay for the schools next trip to the cinema.



From left
Dan Spendlow Senior Customer Adviser, Teres Gough Supervisor, Tracy Jukes Deputy, Di Hennessy Co Chair, Jenny Kent Chair

Dan Spendlow

“Don’t panic!”

We are all aware of the TV series and recent film “Dad’s Army” but did you know that Ruddington had its own Home Guard unit during the Second World War?

The majority of these defence organisations, that operated between 1940 and 1944, were based in coastal areas for obvious defence reasons. However, it was deemed that Ruddington warranted one due to the important munitions depot which was based on what is now the Rushcliffe Country Park.

When the RUDD published this photo in 2000 subsequent letters identified several members within our own “Dad’s Army”



James Astle, Jack Baggley, Les Butler, Mr Blood, Mr Bradwell, Mr Buttery, Col Crockford, John Crockford, Arthur Gillespie, Joe Horspool, Horace Marshall, John North, Mr Outlaw, John Parker, Ernest Salton and Bob Sutton.

While Home Guards are well known, after being immortalised in the TV Series, not so well remembered are Invasion Committees. Ruddington had to have one of those as well, due once again to the presence of the munitions depot.

The police sergeant, the Parish Council Chairman, the vicar, Rev Frank Potts and his wife all reported to Captain John Ashworth who was the committee chairman. Part of their role was to store equipment for civilians’ welfare. In June 1942 records show that the list included 19 washing up bowls, 4 tea pots, 4 shoe brushes and polish and 300 aspirins!

Barbara Breakwell

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