

THE RUDD

Ruddington loyalty card launched!

An exciting new initiative to encourage more residents and visitors to use our village centre shops, pubs, cafés, restaurants, takeaways and other traders will launch at the start of October. The Ruddington Loyalty Scheme comes as high street retailers everywhere are facing



more challenging trading conditions in these increasingly internet-dominated times.

The introduction of the village loyalty card was on the agenda at a special meeting for local businesses on Tuesday 18th September, organised by the recently formed Ruddington Village Centre Partnership (RVCP). It was hosted by Julie Smith from The Black Cat Café, Ruddington Postmaster Soham Patel, Sally Beards of Phoenix Flowers and Parish Councillor Mark Pinks.

The gathering was to tell village retailers more about the new card – but also to get feedback on other proposed RVCP initiatives to increase footfall on High Street and Church Street. Continued inside

The Village Newsletter is sponsored this month by:

Ruddington Grange Golf Club

0115 921 4139

ruddingtongrange.com

Ideas include occasional late night opening, a regular market on The Green and freeing up more daytime parking spaces for shoppers.

The launch of the Loyalty Scheme and its promotion have been funded initially by Ruddington Parish Council, with the dedicated card designed by Ruddington-based creative agency, WigWag, and based on their popular Village Gateway signs.



Supported by:   

This card will be FREE to pick up by anyone who shops, drinks, eats or uses services here. It will then be useable at the retailers in Ruddington who have agreed to join the scheme by promising to have monthly #RUDDYGOODOFFERS for their customers – in the form of a discount or other loyalty bonus.

RVCP Chair Mike Ader said: “The Loyalty Card is the first initiative by the Ruddington Village Centre Partnership and I’m delighted that over two dozen Ruddington businesses have already signed up. I would like to think that Ruddington residents will want to

actively support these businesses, and thereby the village, by using their loyalty card regularly!”

The Ruddington Loyalty Scheme is set to run for an initial trial period of three months up to Christmas. If it proves successful then it’s hoped funding can be found to keep it running indefinitely.

Look out for details of all the participating traders and their monthly offers coming soon to the RUDDINGTON.info and Ruddington Parish Council websites.

Graham Wright via RUDDINGTON.info

Ruddington Christmas Fayre

Ruddington’s Christmas Fayre will make a welcome return to our village on Saturday 1st December, between 12 noon and 5pm.

The High Street will be closed from Easthorpe Street to The Frame Breakers pub to make room for stall holders. There’ll also be stalls in St Peter’s Church, St Peter’s Rooms and the White Horse. Santa’s Grotto will be in St Peter’s Rooms and he will hopefully be riding around the village on his sleigh later.

There’ll be a raffle to raise funds for our designated charity, Bloomin’ Dementia, and – new for 2018! – a “Find the Snowman” trail to entertain the kids.

In addition, we're hoping to have choirs singing in the church and the ever-popular "Picture in a Manger" activity in front of the church. The Christmas lights in the churchyard will also be switched on during the Fayre.

The Methodist Church and the Framework Knitters Museum will be having their own Christmas Fayres on Saturday 1st December, so it's set to be a fun and busy day for our village!

Like a stall at Ruddington Christmas Fayre?

If you'd like a stall, you can take advantage of an Early Bird Discount if you book before Thursday 1st November.

Please email office@ruddingtonparishcouncil.gov.uk for pricing information and bookings. For the latest information on the Fayre, you can search for "Ruddington Events" on Facebook and Twitter and Like or Follow the pages.

The Events Team

Votes for women!

This year marks the centenary of the first British general election in which women (but not all women) were allowed to vote. The women's suffrage movement, beginning in the 1860s and ending in 1928, culminated in women at last gaining full enfranchisement.

The campaign was passionately fought in Nottinghamshire. Leading figures including Emmeline Pankhurst (pictured below) and Millicent Fawcett were regular speakers at meetings held at the Forest Recreation Ground between 1907 and 1914, attracting crowds of up to 4,000 people.



Val Wood of Nottingham Women's History Group is coming to the Framework Knitters Museum on Thursday 18th October to present her talk, "Women's struggle for the vote in Nottinghamshire," at 2:30pm.

We shall hear about the local suffragists and suffragettes who bravely campaigned for women's rights in our county.

Tickets cost £5, including refreshments, and are available from the museum on Chapel Street during opening hours. Or, you can call Kathy on 0115 984 5375.

Kathy Powis

Ruddington Village Show 2018

Another very successful horticultural show was organised by Ruddington Gardeners' Association (RGA) on Saturday 15th September 2018. This year, the show attracted 210 entries from 52 exhibitors.

In spite of the difficult growing conditions this summer, there was an amazing display of high quality fruit, vegetables and flowers in St Peter's Rooms. A wide range of home-made produce showed off the skills of local bakers and cooks.



A new addition to the 2018 show was an exhibition of craft work illustrating the many talents of local residents.

A demonstration of spinning, a display of apples from the Community Orchard at Rushcliffe Country Park and a hive of bees from a local beekeeper also attracted considerable interest.

Many thanks to everyone who made the show such a success, including members of Ruddington WI who

provided much appreciated refreshments throughout the day.

The only disappointment was the limited number of entries from children. They are the potential gardeners of the future and we very much look forward to their future participation. The long summer holidays are an excellent time for families to prepare their exhibits for the show.

Hopefully, next year parents will encourage their children to take part in the show which will be held on Saturday 14th September 2019. There'll be something for everyone to enjoy, so please keep this date in your diaries!

Mike Davey

The White Horse Inn car park

The Parish Council are renting part of the White Horse Inn car park for public parking.

Parking is only permitted on the left hand side as you drive in, from Monday to Saturday between 9am and 5pm. The right hand side is only for patrons using the pub.

Please can you ensure that you observe these restrictions and do not park on the right hand side unless you are using the pub.

Ruddington Parish Council

Crime figures for Ruddington

For August, these were as follow:

- 4 x drive-offs from the petrol station
- 1 x refusal to pay at the petrol station, with aggressive behaviour
- 1 x theft from Sainsbury's
- 1 x attempted break-in to Sainsbury's
- 1 x attempted break-in to a garage
- 1 x criminal damage to a window, possibly by a pellet gun
- 1 x distraction robbery where a purse was taken
- 1 x theft of car by unknown means

For crime prevention advice, please visit www.nottinghamshire.police/advice.

New-style Café Church starts

On the first Sunday every month from 7th October, a new-style Café Church will be held at St Peter's Church. The Café Church will run from 9.30am to 10.50am, followed by Holy Communion for those wishing to stay.

We aim to provide something for everyone: from preschool through primary school, teens, students, families, parents, grandparents. In short, all ages and backgrounds!

For those wanting activities on a Sunday morning, there'll be drama, music, art, crafts, and discussion groups. Also, a quieter area for

reflection – space to think, pray or even be prayed for.

So if you're alone, lonely, or at a loose end on a Sunday morning, come and join us and meet others in a similar position. Or if you're new to the village, come along and meet people from the local community, find out about our church and the things we do. Or if you're a busy professional or someone who's simply curious with questions, then check us out and join a discussion.



Central to Café Church is a short talk on a Bible-related topic incorporating film clips or sketches, plus time for discussion and to ask questions. You can find out how God and the Bible can help us in our everyday lives and discover that God is someone we can meet, and the Bible is a book we can learn from and even integrate into our daily lives.

Come and enjoy all this alongside coffee, Danish pastries and good company within the informal atmosphere of Café Church!

Debra King

Have I shrunk?

If you've been in our local Co-op store lately you may think so! But rest assured, you haven't.

The store has simply installed a top shelf to their merchandising units so they can carry extra stock of certain popular products. These items are purely for re-stocking purposes, but apparently some customers have tried reaching them – please don't!

If you see something you need on the top shelf, just ask a Co-op team member to help.

Barbara Breakwell

5p Challenge results



During the recent school summer holidays, the third inter-school fundraising 5p Challenge was held. Pupils at James Peacock and St Peter's Schools were encouraged to collect 5p coins, with the school collecting the most coins winning the 5p Challenge Trophy.

Local businesses kindly offered to host collection points for their customers to

also donate coins, with these being split between the two schools.

Both schools would like to thank The Black Cat Café, Evans Pharmacy, Grange News & Bakery, Jasper's Café, Perkins Hardware and Ruddington Village Butchers.

Numerous coins flooded in and the total donated was £364.40 – that's 7,288 coins! James Peacock won the trophy this year, collecting £260.50 versus St Peter's £103.90. All the 5p donations will enable the Friends groups of each school to enhance the resources and activities at their respective schools.

We'd like to say a huge "Thanks!" to everyone who took part.

Barbara Breakwell, Treasurer, Friends of James Peacock

Parking update

The August 2018 traffic patrol stats for the village were:

- 311 visits
- 614 observations
- 19 penalty charge notices

"August is usually a quieter month with it being the main holiday period. The reduced figures are proportional with the enforcement statistics for the whole of the Rushcliffe area generally for the month."

Parking Services

Neighbourhood Plan update

It's been a couple of months since our last Neighbourhood Plan update, but the team have been beavering away in the background to move the plan forward.

Back in July, the team ran a village-wide consultation on topics ranging from housing and transport to amenities and the village centre. Over 900 people completed the survey, giving the team a wealth of evidence on which to base the plan.

Planning partners Urban Imprint crunched the numbers to produce a Consultation Report, and the team attended a workshop in August to draw out the objectives of the plan based on the survey results and various technical baselines and planning studies.

After a brief pause for the summer holidays, the project is now back in full swing, with the team working hard on a set of "emerging" policy outlines to meet these objectives.

The next stage of the process will be a second consultation in November 2018 to gather the village's views on these policy outlines, before moving on to flesh out the plan early next year, ready for statutory consultation, independent examination and a public referendum. Keep an eye on "ruddingtonnp" on Facebook and

Twitter, or the project website at www.ruddingtonnp.org.uk, and expect an announcement about the second consultation soon.

Councillor Mark Pinks

We will remember them

WW1 Casualties this month

100 years ago

13th OCTOBER 1918

Private **George Wilford** 2nd
Lincolnshires

Buried: Beaulencourt British
Cemetery, Ligny-Thillooy

21st OCTOBER 1918

Private **Frederick Peet**, aged 18, 7th
Leicestershire POW

Son of Leonard and Mary Peet, The
Leys, Ruddington

Buried: Berlin South-Western
Cemetery, Germany

25th OCTOBER 1918

Private **Leonard Bosworth**, aged 28,
3rd Leicestershire

Son of John and Ellen Bosworth,
Ruddington

Buried: Ruddington Old Cemetery

31st OCTOBER 1918

Private **Walter Dexter**, aged 29, 1st
Somerset Light Infantry

Grandson of William Dexter, Kirk Lane,
Ruddington

Buried: St Sever Cemetery Extension,
Rouen, France

Ruddington Diary

Monday 1st October

Ruddington Craft Group – Stone Painting. St Peter's Rooms 10.00am – 12.00pm. £3.50 – tuition, materials and refreshments are included in the cost. Newcomers are welcome to come and learn a craft, experience or expertise are not essential.

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

Tuesday 2nd October

Methodist Church Women's Fellowship – Terry Rogers – Guide Dog. 2.30pm. All are welcome.

Saturday 6th October

Victorian Steampunk Day at the Framework Knitters Museum – 11am to 5pm. Stalls, Tea Duelling and Facial Hair Competitions. Reduced entrance fee (£3.50) for adult visitors in Steampunk outfits. Full details are at the museum's website: www.frameworkknittersmuseum.org.uk.

Sunday 7th October

Ruddington Footpath Preservation Group – Bunny and Bradmore circular. Meet on The Green at 2.15pm.

Tuesday 9th October

Rattle, Rhyme & Roll – Ruddington Library 11am – 11.30am Free half hour fun session for babies & toddlers.

Scrabble – Ruddington Library. 2pm – 4pm All abilities welcome.

Planning Committee Meeting – at St Peter's Rooms commencing at 7.30pm. All meetings are open to the public, you can share your views on any agenda item.

Wednesday 10th October

W.I Meeting – “Our Federation History – 100 Years” at St Peter's Room, commencing 7.15pm.

Saturday 13th October

Wildlife Watch Group (8 to 13 year olds) at Rushcliffe Country Park – 11am to 1pm. “An Apple a Day”. Press an apple, add a taste of honey and come up with something special. Meet at the Education Room. Members and non-members welcome. Suggested donation: £2. Please come dressed for the weather! Kids under 8 welcome but must be accompanied by an adult. For info, contact Geoff East on 07804 297 041 or at rushcliffewatch@nottswt.co.uk, or visit www.wildlifewatch.org.uk.

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

Monday 15th October

Ruddington Craft Group – Stepper Cards. St Peter's Rooms 10.00am – 12.00pm. £3.50 – tuition, materials and refreshments are included in the cost. Newcomers are welcome to come and learn a craft, experience or expertise are not essential.

Tuesday 16th October

Methodist Church Women's Fellowship

– Irene Starkey – Entertainment.
2.30pm. All are welcome.

Thursday 18th October

The 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 & 12.30pm. No appointment required.

“Women's struggle for the vote in Nottinghamshire” – a talk by Val Wood of Nottingham Women's History Group. 2:30pm at the Framework Knitters Museum. Tickets cost £5, including refreshments, and are available from the museum during opening hours. Or, you can call Kathy on 0115 984 5375.

Ruddington Folk & Blues Night – 8pm at The Country Cottage Hotel. Come and beat those autumn blues. We have all sorts of music and song to entertain you.

Friday 19th October

Ruddington Business Partnership – FREE networking today and every 3rd Friday of the month, at The Ruddington Arms, 8am to 9am. No booking required.

Saturday 20th October

Vintage & Collectable Sale – in the Chapel Art Gallery at the Framework Knitters Museum. 11am to 3pm. Free admission, normal entry fees apply to main museum. Refreshments available.

Email [helen.brownnett@](mailto:helen.brownnett@frameworkknittersmuseum.org.uk)

frameworkknittersmuseum.org.uk or call the museum on 0115 984 6914 for details.

Rushcliffe Memory Walk at Rushcliffe

Country Park – gates open 12:30pm, walk starts 2pm. A charity walk to raise awareness of those living with dementia. Choose between a 2km and 5km walk (suitable for wheelchairs). Tea, coffee and cakes will be available with all proceeds going to The Alzheimer's Society. For information/register, contact Lisa Harrold on 0115 883 7816. Completed forms can be handed into your GP surgery. Or, register online at Eventbrite. Registration is free.

Nottingham Concert Band presents Gathering Places, in aid of Tesco Development Trust & The Mustard Seed Project. 7.30pm St Peter's Church. Tickets £10 (concessions £8, free for under 16's) interval refreshments included. Tickets available from T: 0115 9211565

Email: music@nottinghamconcertband.org or from Perkins Hardware

Wednesday 24th October

Amenities Committee Meeting – at St Peter's Rooms commencing at 7.30pm. All meetings are open to the public, you can share your views on any agenda item.

Wednesday 31st October

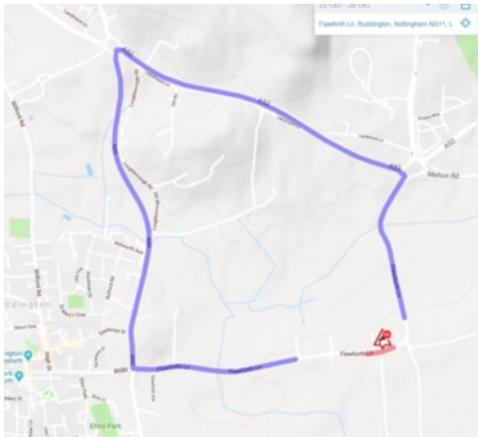
Ruddington Gardeners' Association – “All I Ever Wanted To Do Was To Grow Plants” with Stella Exley at The Hermitage. 7pm for 7.30pm.

Every Sunday

Spiritual Light Centre at Framework Knitters Museum Chapel. 6.30pm – 8.00pm. Divine Service with a visiting Medium. Healing during service. Refreshments afterwards.

Flawforth Lane road closure

Part of Flawforth Lane will be closed from 8am on Monday 22nd October until 5pm on Friday 26th October. The closed section will start 1,250m from the junction with Loughborough Road and run for 2,000m. This is the area just before Flawford Churchyard (as you travel from Ruddington) and includes the entrance to Barn Farm, as marked in red on the map.



The closure is taking place to enable Severn Trent to install a new water connection under the road. Motorists will need to use the A52 and A60 to access the parts of Flawforth Lane on either side of the closed area, as shown in blue on the map.

The road will also be closed to cyclists and pedestrians, although Severn Trent may reopen the footpaths for

residents living in the area if they think it's safe to do so.

If you have any enquiries about the closure, you can contact Beverley Elkington at Severn Trent on 0330 123 4911. In case of emergency, please call the Customer Operations and Services Centre on 0800 600 3372.

Ruddington portraits project

Saul Isaac Photography has been Ruddington's local photography studio for the past 12 years. In that time, we've seen some big changes in the village – with the biggest being how much it's grown.

As village residents as well as owners of Saul Isaac Photography, we've experienced these changes on a personal level.

When we first moved to the village 18 years ago, we were made to feel so welcome and quickly got to know many of the other villagers, enjoying everything Ruddington life had to offer.

We've always loved the fact that Ruddington has such a friendly feel to it. Over the years, as the village has grown, we still see many familiar faces, but there are so many more that we don't know.

For us, the best part of living in a village was seeing these faces – but it

feels like we're now losing a little of that as Ruddington grows.

As photographers, we're first and foremost people-oriented and we're always interested in the stories they have to tell. And for us, stories are best told through images.

As a community project, we'd like to invite the residents of Ruddington to come into our studio on Charles Street to have a headshot taken and tell us their story.

By doing this, we hope to bring a little of the familiarity back to the village, and also to recognise more people as we walk down the High Street and around Ruddington.

The whole community will benefit from this project as all the headshots will be put on a new website for the whole village to see – a great way of getting to know the stories that will be told.

Our aim is to bring the village closer together and share the stories that will never be forgotten in an archive of the people who've passed through here. So if you do see us out and about taking images, please say hello!

We'll be providing more details over the coming months on our Facebook, page (www.facebook.com/saulisaacphotography/), along with dates when the people of Ruddington can come into the studio for their portrait.

We hope everybody will join us in making the new website something interesting and fun to be a part of. In the meantime, please like our Facebook page and look out for further updates at www.facebook.com/saulisaacphotography/.

Carl at Saul Isaac Photography

Time to get your flu vaccine?

It's getting to the time of year where some Ruddington residents might be thinking about getting the flu vaccine. You can get these from your GP, or Evans Pharmacy in the village also offers the service at a time to suit you.

Flu is a viral respiratory infection that's easily spread from person to person. Anyone can catch it and pass it on to others, so getting a flu jab is a good way to protect yourself and those around you.

If you're over 65 or an adult with a long-term health condition (such as asthma), you can get your vaccine on the NHS. If you're not in one of the "at risk" groups but would still like to have the vaccination, that's fine. You can be treated at the pharmacy on a private basis.

Visit www.evanspharmacy.com and find Ruddington in the drop-down "Pharmacies" menu if you'd like to book your vaccination appointment online, or call in to the pharmacy.

Emma Anderson, Evans Pharmacy

Meet the... local building society The Nottingham on High Street, Ruddington

Who: Lesley Harper, Branch Manager.

What: The Nottingham is a building society that's owned by its members. They provide an "all-under-one-roof" service for savings, mortgages, estate agency and financial planning.

For some months now, we've been having a lot of fun with the "Meet the..." articles. It's been a wonderful way to find out more about the colourful people behind our local independent shops.

So when a mutual building society, The Nottingham, approached us, I was a little unsure of what to quiz them on. What could we ask them?

Arranging an interview date with the branch manager on the phone, it occurred to me that I knew who I was speaking to. I'd heard that warm friendly voice before. I could put a face to that voice and now a name to the face. I was speaking to Lesley Harper. Not just any old branch manager. I could relax.

Every morning without fail, a smartly dressed Lesley sits across the road from her branch, drinking a cup of tea and eating two pieces of toast at her favourite café, Philo's. She's having a

warm and friendly chat with the people around her and the "Good morning" vibes she brings with her are impossible not to notice.

Having met up with Lesley in her branch, it was clear she brings her personal touch to work too. Even the famous village cat Wilbur enjoys a visit to The Nottingham. And despite this being a far cry from the dreary banks I've experienced before, it's clear they still know how to do business. The difference is they're passionate about it and they know your name.

Q: The Nottingham is very visible on our High Street. What do you do exactly?

A: Everything you need from birth onwards! We have it all under one roof and it's right in the heart of the village. We help people save, buy houses...we help with all life's milestones. We've been doing so since 1849.

Q: Can I pay my cash into an account or withdraw it?

A: Yes. You can pop into the branch and see either myself, Lisa or Hayley. You can even have a little passbook. If you have young children opening up an account it's a great way for them to see their money build up. As they save, they receive hand-painted "Robin Hood and Friends" money boxes that are painted by the last

father/son company in Stoke. Our Member Rewards initiative offers potential rewards for all qualifying members.



Q: You've had a branch in Ruddington for many years. Other banks seem to be shutting down branches but you're opening more. How is that?

A: Our ethos is personal service; we want to meet our customers face to face. It works for everyone. The chief exec (who lives close to Ruddington) recently spoke about how it's very important for our offering that we have branches visible on the high street. We like to visit relevant community groups too. Recently I did a talk for the elderly to educate them on plastic money. We also like to do talks educating people about how to manage money.

Q: Does money make you happy?

A: Well we can't live without it. But working at The Nottingham, I do

understand the importance of saving so I can treat my grandson.

Q: Apart from Philo's, what else do you like about Ruddington?

A: I do love Philo's. I like to watch the village wake up over my cuppa. But also I love working in the heart of the village. Ruddington people look out for each other, they even look out for the cat. Whenever we do charity work, the response we get is uniquely and overwhelmingly supportive. I also love The Frame Breakers pub. One reason is because they're dog friendly and one of the charities we've supported in the past is Guide Dogs for the Blind.

Q: What other local charities do you support?

A: We support quite a few, like the local football team. The Ruddington Christmas market was a brilliant time for us as the Guide Dogs received a lovely donation after our lucky dip stall proved to be a hit. And we recently donated an oak tree to James Peacock School, to celebrate their 50th anniversary. I spent a lot of time researching the best one. I like the idea it will grow for another 50 years. It's a bit like watching the generations of families coming through here and watching them grow too.

Thanks Lesley! It's been a blast.

Councillor Sarah Godfrey

Yellow Fever hits Ruddington

The long awaited Ovo Tour of Britain cycle race finally hit the streets of Ruddington on Saturday 8th September – and what a spectacle it was! The first sighting of the 120 riders was at Grange Court, then on past Sellors' Field along Wilford Road, the High Street, Kirk Lane and Loughborough Road. The streets were lined with enthusiastic, noisy, cheering and clapping villagers who turned out in their hundreds to watch this international sporting event.



The speed of the race was something to behold. The streets were awash with yellow, from the smiley-faced flags, through to the bunting, shop window displays, balloons, decorated bikes and much more. The Nara Belly Dancers looked magnificent in their new yellow costumes, as did the huge 550 foot scarf created at the Framework Knitters Museum to mark the occasion.

But the most noticeable aspect of the day was the wonderful atmosphere which was generated. Everyone was in a great mood and the whole morning passed with smiles on every single face. Well done to everyone who took part, in any way. You did Ruddington proud!

Councillor Paul Reedman

Rushcliffe Memory Walk

Rushcliffe Clinical Commissioning Group, PartnersHealth (Rushcliffe GP Practices) and Rushcliffe Borough Council have partnered with The Alzheimer's Society to organise a charity walk to raise awareness of those living with dementia. The walk will take place at Rushcliffe Country Park at 2pm on Saturday 20th October. Gates open at 12:30pm.

You can choose between a 2km and a 5km walk (both suitable for wheelchairs), supported by friendly staff and stewards. There'll be tea, coffee and cakes available, with all proceeds going to The Alzheimer's Society.

For information or to register, contact Lisa Harrold on 0115 883 7816. Completed forms can be handed into your GP surgery. Or, register online at Eventbrite. Registration is free.

Can you help?

The organisers are looking for cake donations from any willing bakers who'd like to help support the event.

There's also the option to enter your cake into the Memory Walk Bake Off if you wish.

If you'd like to bake and donate a cake, please contact Lisa Harrold on the above number or email lisa.harrold@nhs.net.

Record year for wildlife volunteering in Rushcliffe

According to the 2017 Nature in Rushcliffe Report, a record 10,200 hours of volunteer time (valued at £192,000) were recorded last year.

This represents a phenomenal donation of time! The chances of ever being able to fund anything even close to that level of activity makes you realize how important volunteers are to maintaining the valuable habitats that support our local populations of wildflowers, insects, birds and mammals. An invaluable resource, indeed.

What's more, this figure doesn't even take into account the people who spend their time going out recording our wildlife, or the equally valuable backroom folk who run committees, fundraise, lead wildlife walks and publicise wildlife issues.

Whilst Rushcliffe Borough Council does fund some activity and staff from charities like Notts Wildlife Trust carry out work locally, most of the effort is provided by people like you giving a bit

of their time – perhaps a couple of hours a month – on a regular basis.

But we can still do more. Our Reserve Work Parties, which include Bingham Linear Park, Lily Ponds in Radcliffe on Trent, Meadow Park at East Leake, Sharpill Wood, Skylarks, Wilwell Cutting and Wilford Claypits would always welcome additional help with a range of conservation tasks. These include coppicing, grassland management, fence and path work, pond maintenance and more.



As a reward, the work provides you with the opportunity of fresh air and exercise, and the chance to meet and work with a grand group of folk as well. So do your bit for wildlife and get in touch. If you'd like more information about how you can help, please contact Gordon Dyne at gordon.dyne@gmail.com or on 0115 878 4842. Or, you can visit www.southnottswildlife.org.uk for a full list and details of all our Reserve Work Parties.

Gordon Dyne

Drama group for adults with learning disabilities

Are you, or do you care for, an adult with learning disabilities? Then you might be interested to know that Mencap Me Time Notts runs a drama group every Thursday at All Hallows Church in Lady Bay. The group, which aims to give adults with learning disabilities greater self-confidence and improved well-being, has gone from strength to strength since it was set up 10 years ago.

The weekly sessions usually include games and workshops covering acting, dance, mime and comedy performances. Group attendees produce and perform annual plays to the public at the church, which included a performance of The Lion King last year. They're now branching out into



film production and hope to organise a film festival to showcase their productions. Most people who attend the group receive funding from Nottinghamshire County Council to do so. The drama group is part of a wider set of Council-funded initiatives which include a service promoting independence, a gaming group and Mencap's "Gig Buddies" scheme, which helps people get together for events such as cinema visits and concerts.

To find out more, please visit www.nottinghamshire.gov.uk/care/adult-social-care/help-living-at-home/learning-disability.

With thanks to West Bridgford Wire

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