

THE RUDD

Happy New Year, Ruddington!

We're back in lockdown and there's still a long way to go before things get anywhere near back to normal. But we're now into a fresh new year and here's hoping that 2021 will ultimately bring better things.

Having said that, looking back over the last 12 issues of The Rudd – especially the editions published since the first lockdown began in March – it's amazing to see how much positivity, goodwill and cheer there was to be found in the village during the last year.

As we finally say “Goodbye” (or “Good Riddance”) to a year that will go down in history for all the wrong reasons, let's take a look at some of the better reasons to remember Ruddington in 2020.



Community spirit – and then some!

When COVID-19 changed our lives in spring 2020, communities around the country pulled together to support those who were shielding or otherwise vulnerable, lonely or isolated. Our village was no exception and the swiftly formed Ruddington Community Response Team sprung into action.



On hand to help with a range of activities from shopping, dog-walking and collecting prescriptions to staving off loneliness with a friendly chat, our team of volunteers went above and beyond to provide vital support where and when it was needed.

It says a lot about our village that when the UK-wide HelpMyStreet initiative was launched to bring community support groups together online, [Ruddington's version of the website](#) was the fastest to reach its target of 60 volunteers.

Tireless teachers – in school and out



Faced with the challenges of remote teaching, both our village schools and their hardworking teams rose to the occasion.

During the Easter holidays, local teachers teamed up with the Ruddington Community Response Team to deliver around 480 specially prepared learning packs to village

pupils, to support online teaching in the summer term.

When the schools reopened, things got even tougher for our teachers, with the pressures of coping with social distancing requirements and countless other COVID-19 regulations. Further challenges lie ahead in 2021, but our teachers and schools have our village's full support to overcome them.

Speaking of teachers, let's not forget all the Mums, Dads and carers in Ruddington who found themselves plunged into the world of home-schooling – a very tall order for many.

Our tenacious traders

With much of the High Street closed for much of the year, 2020 was nothing less than a nightmare for our many independent traders. Hardest-hit were our hospitality businesses, with takeaway food and drink still being their only source of income under the new lockdown, and our non-essential retailers and service-providers, who've once again been forced to close.

However, even when the chips were down, our traders were still ready and willing to help others when the need arose. Two big shout-outs go to Ruddington Fish Bar, who offered free meals to schoolchildren in the autumn half-term, and the 14 traders who clubbed together to create Christmas gift hampers for 9 local nurses.

Like the stalwarts they are, our local traders are determined to stick it out and come back fighting when the restrictions end. Check out their social media pages to read more - and please keep using them when they reopen.

...And there's more!

There isn't space in The Rudd to cover all the other fantastic things local people, groups, businesses and organisations got up to last year. Here's a quick round-up of a few more, to remind you of the good times we had despite the circumstances.

- Turning the village red, white and blue for the 75th anniversaries of VE Day and VJ Day, plus socially distanced street parties and a doorstep singalong



- Launching Incredible Edible, a new initiative to grow fruit, vegetables and herbs in underused green spaces around the village.

- Scooping two awards in the 2020 Celebrating Rushcliffe Awards – see separate article.

- “Random acts of kindness” – gifts of £100 donated to several village

residents by an anonymous benefactor over Christmas.

- A funding boost of £5,359 for the Ruddington Village Centre Partnership, which organises our Village Market.

- A 14th consecutive Green Flag for Rushcliffe Country Park.

- Celebrating Christmas with a fabulous light display, giant Advent Calendar, Christmas Lights and Nativity Trails, plus late-night shopping.

- Planting a new willow to replace the one on The Green damaged by Storm Ciara in February.

- Our village Co-op's Local Community Fund coming up trumps for local charities, raising £11,458.25 during 2020. The funds were split between the NG11 Foodbank – more in demand than ever since the pandemic – Ruddington District Girl Guiding and Together@Clifton.

- Countless online and socially distanced events and initiatives to keep people in touch; tackle loneliness; provide advice, services and support; and raise funds for local causes.

All that's left to say is a massive “Thank you” to everyone in Ruddington for pulling together to make our village what it is today. You've done us proud and given our community the strength and resources to welcome 2021, whatever it might bring.

Ruddington back in lockdown

As of Tuesday 5th January 2021, Ruddington has joined the rest of the country in a new national lockdown to help fight the growing number of COVID-19 infections and hospitalised cases.

The latest rules can be summed up as “Stay at Home”, with residents told to restrict their movements to essential activities such as going to work, food shopping, caring for others and collecting medicines.

You can't meet up with other people indoors unless you live with them or they're part of your support bubble. Outdoor meetings with people outside your household or bubble aren't allowed, although you can meet up with one other person on your own to take exercise.

In terms of Parish Council equipment, ball courts and outdoor gym equipment should not be used and notices will be placed on the equipment.

Parents can continue existing arrangements for contact between parents and children where they live apart. This includes childcare bubbles.

All primary and secondary schools and colleges are now closed except for vulnerable children and the children of support workers. All other children will learn remotely until February half term.

Early Years settings remain open. Higher Education provision will remain online until mid February for all except future critical worker courses.

The new lockdown brings further gloom to local businesses already reeling from the non-stop and ever changing restrictions they've been subject to since March 2020. Hospitality outlets such as pubs and cafes can still offer takeaway and delivery only - but non-essential shops and many other service providers have had to close altogether once again.

Leader of Rushcliffe Borough Council Councillor Simon Robinson said: “We know these are yet more significant changes for everyone's everyday life in Rushcliffe but it is absolutely necessary we follow these rules and stay at home, protect the NHS and save lives.

“The impact on residents, businesses, parents and individuals we understand is exceptional, but we must do all we can to play our parts to fight this pandemic and ensure we help keep hospital admissions here in the county as low as possible.

“Thank you for your huge sacrifices to date and please keep visiting www.rushcliffe.gov.uk/coronavirus for the latest information.

“We'll outline any further support for businesses as soon as possible.”

COVID-19 vaccine rollout

Nottingham University Hospitals NHS Trust and Sherwood Forest Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust are now delivering COVID-19 vaccines through their roles as local Hospital Hubs.

They're initially focusing on patients aged over 80 and care home staff, alongside hospital, wider NHS and social care colleagues.



It's their intention over the coming weeks to open both Vaccination Centres - sites such as leisure centres or social facilities outside of the hospitals with good transport links - and also smaller Local Vaccination Services, predominantly based in GP surgeries.

The delivery of vaccinations is going well, with good feedback from staff and citizens.

However, the phased roll-out of the vaccine means it will take many weeks for all the eligible groups to be vaccinated. You'll be contacted and provided with all the relevant information when it's your turn.

Please note that you can't book in for a vaccination by calling your GP or turning up at a hospital without an appointment.

To find out more, please visit www.nottscg.nhs.uk/covid-19.

Have your say on planning enforcement policy

Rushcliffe Borough Council is reviewing and amending its Planning Enforcement Policy. This allows the Council to intervene if a breach of planning control takes place and assess any harm that's been caused.

Have your say on how the Council should apply this policy by visiting <https://www.rushcliffe.gov.uk/planningandgrowth/enforcement/> by Friday 29th January 2021.

Census 2021 job roles

This year will see the Census 2021 take place and there's set to be lots of temporary job roles available for residents at <http://censusjobs.co.uk>.



Application windows are already open for Census Area Managers, team leaders and officers amongst others, with many more going live in January.

Ruddington scores a double at Celebrating Rushcliffe Awards

The strong entrepreneurial spirit that prevails in Ruddington has been recognised in the annual Celebrating Rushcliffe Awards, with village business ventures picking up two of the 10 awards.

Ruddington Village Market, organised by the Ruddington Village Centre Partnership, was honoured with the coveted “Business of the Year” gong whilst High Street retailer, The Bottle Top, was awarded “Food and Drink Establishment of the Year”. The awards were sponsored by Handelsbanken and GNG Club respectively.



Whilst the usual awards ceremony had to be cancelled, the winners and shortlisted nominees all took place in a virtual showcase organised by the awards’ media partner, West Bridgford Wire, on YouTube in early December.

Award organisers Rushcliffe Borough Council were full of praise for winners and nominees, with the Cabinet Portfolio Holder for Community and The Environment, Cllr Abby Brennan, saying:

“Congratulations to our winners and to all those who were shortlisted and nominated.



“Whether volunteer, business owner or community hero, they are all making a difference to people’s lives and are hugely deserving of this recognition.

“Thank you to everyone who nominated a group or individual, it was wonderful to celebrate their achievements.”

Patrick Gamble from West Bridgford Wire added: “This year has really stuck out as being one to reflect on what people have done for their communities in such hard times and all the winners and nominees are so worthy of recognition.

“There have been countless outstanding and inspirational stories in Rushcliffe since COVID, and people have responded so positively whether volunteering or soldiering on safely in their industry or field. Well done to all.”

Needless to say, our two village winners were delighted with their awards, which were well-deserved after a long and difficult year. Well done to you both!

Christmas Window winners

A massive “THANK YOU” to everyone for putting on such wonderful window displays in what has been a difficult year. All Ruddington businesses were automatically entered into the 2020 Christmas Window Competition, and the judges’ decision was:

1st – Phoenix Flowers



2nd – Jaspers



3rd Perkins Hardware



The socially distanced presentations were carried out by the Vice-Chairman of Ruddington Parish Council, Cllr. Ken Piggott.

Cllr. Marion Pell

Crime figures for Ruddington

For November 2020, these were as follows:

- 1 x theft of fuel
- 4 x theft from shop
- 13 x thefts and attempted thefts from vehicles and houses
- 1 x theft of vehicle.

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

Ruddington Diary

With Ruddington now back in lockdown, there is no diary for this month.

For all events and activities, we suggest you contact organisers and venues, or check social media pages.

The [Ruddington Mums Facebook page](#) and RUDDINGTON.info are two useful sources of information.

We urge residents to follow Government rules by following social distancing guidelines and wearing face coverings where required, such as in shops and when using public transport.

Gotham-Clifton road to close for 6 weeks

Nottingham Road between Gotham and Clifton will be closed for 6 weeks in January and February. This is to allow for a new junction to be built as part of enabling works for the £800 million Fairham development and forms part of the longer term ambitions for traffic calming in the area.

The closure will take place from Monday 18th January to Sunday 28th February, to enable the safe construction of a new staggered road junction to create access to the new development either side of the existing road.

vehicles, cyclists and pedestrians. These will consist of signed diversions for cars, a designated cycle route, and pedestrian access via the existing public right of way through the fields between Clifton and Gotham.

All motorised traffic will be re-routed via the A453 at the Gotham / Thrumpton junction coming from the south, east and west, and via the A453 at Crusader Island coming from the north.

Nottingham City Transport Bus Service 1 will be diverted during these works. All diversion plans are available to view and download at www.fairhamlife.co.uk.

Christmas tree shredding reminder

If you've asked the Parish Council to collect and shred your Christmas tree, we may not now be able to collect it on the original day, due to lockdown.

Please still leave your tree out by 9am on Tuesday 12th or Wednesday 13th January, but don't worry if it isn't collected straightaway. If your tree still hasn't been picked up by Monday 18th January, please contact us (please don't contact us before this date). We apologise for the delay.

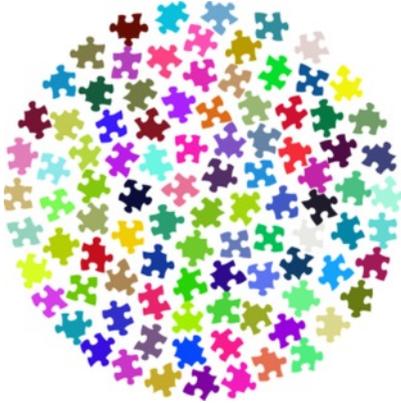
If you've forgotten to book a collection, you can take your tree to be recycled at West Bridgford Recycling Centre on Rugby Road.



There'll be diversions in place for Nottingham Road from Gotham in the south and Clifton in the north for all

Jigsaw Circle

Do you enjoy doing jigsaws? If so, a Jigsaw Circle has been started.



The idea is to share jigsaws so that once you've finished one, you can pass it on to someone else to enjoy. By doing this lots of people can get the pleasure of having access to different puzzles, at no cost.

If you'd like to loan a puzzle, I'm co-ordinating the initiative so just let me know you're interested. You can take as long as you need to complete the chosen puzzle, then swap it for another one.

Also, if you have any jigsaws that you're prepared to gift, that would be great as well.

Barbara Breakwell, ruddingtonfun@virginmedia.com.

Over 6,000 free trees planted!

Thank you to all the Ruddington residents who applied to Rushcliffe

Borough Council for free trees for their gardens or communities earlier this year – it now means over 6,000 have been given away in the last two years!

Residents, town and parish councils and groups will now be collecting the trees in the coming weeks to make their properties and communities even greener.

The trees distributed since the start of the campaign in 2018 are now growing well in many parts of the Borough.

It's part of a strategy to provide sustainable environments in line with the local significant housing and employment growth in the next decade.

Cabinet Portfolio Holder for Community and The Environment, Cllr Abby Brennan, said:

"We are delighted to have run this scheme for a third year after a great response from residents and groups.

"They have shown wonderful enthusiasm in collecting and planting thousands of these free trees and we thank them for their continued support in making Rushcliffe a great and greener place to live.

"We hope that by increasing the number of trees in the Borough, our green environments will grow alongside our communities, improving the quality of life for both current and future residents."

Ruddington candidates confirmed for County elections

The selection of candidates who'll battle it out in the Nottinghamshire County Council elections has already begun.

The vote will be taking place on 6th May 2021, with current Ruddington representative Reg Adair standing again for the Conservative Party. However, with Andrew Brown standing down after two decades due to retirement, Mr Adair's new Conservative running mate has been announced as Matt Barney.

44 year-old Matt says: "I am truly honoured to have the opportunity to stand for my local community in next year's election. I believe that local politics is about local people and I would be honoured to be elected as your local voice at the County Council."



Meantime, Rushcliffe Borough Councillors, Mike Gaunt and Jennifer Walker, pictured above, have been chosen as the Labour Party candidates to stand against them.

The Ruddington based duo say they are "...very excited to have been selected by the members of Leake & Ruddington for next year's County Council election in May 2021." Mike is also a current Ruddington Parish Councillor.

Altogether, there'll be 66 Council seats up for grabs across Nottinghamshire. Currently, 36 of those are held by the Conservatives, 22 by Labour, 6 by Ashfield Independents, 1 by a Liberal Democrat and 1 an Independent.

Nottinghamshire County Council provides more than 400 services which are utilised by people living, visiting and working in Nottinghamshire.

It courted controversy in September 2020 by launching another public consultation on creating a unitary authority for the County. If approved, this proposal is likely to mean disbanding many other local authorities, such as Rushcliffe Borough Council, with its roles and responsibilities absorbed into an even larger combined authority.

The results of this consultation, which finished on October 19th, have yet to be revealed by the County Council. Meanwhile, polling cards for all villagers who will be eligible to vote should be dropping through letterboxes early in the new year.

Graham Wright via RUDDINGTON.info

Nottingham Road Closure

Between Clifton and Gotham
18 January – 28 February 2021



Throughout the works, diversions will be in place for all vehicles, cyclists and pedestrians. **Please plan your journey.**

More info at
fairhamlife.co.uk

COVID Digital Recovery Grant

Rushcliffe Borough Council is giving eligible high street businesses or established business groups another boost with a COVID Digital Recovery Grant that can further help them adapt and improve their online presence or sales.

Small to medium size retail, hospitality, personal care, leisure, tourism and other enterprises in the Borough can now access up to £1,000 over and above existing central government grant support by



visiting <https://www.rushcliffe.gov.uk/business/coronavirus-businesssupport/fundingforbusinesses/>.

Part of the Council's recovery plan for the pandemic, the funds allow businesses to create or improve a website, seek advice and support on improving their social media presence, or create greater online transactional capability.

It can also aid local retail groups or traders' associations by supporting or enhancing the development of, for example, an online marketplace for their town or village.

Applicants must be a High Street business which pays business rates to the Council, or receives small business rate relief, with between 1.5 and 30 employees. All appropriate licences and permissions must be also in place. You can read the full criteria for the grants and apply online at the website.

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