Women’s Cycle Tour 2018 Comes to RUSHDEN!

Stage Two, Thursday 14 June, Rushden to Daventry, 145km

The OVO Energy Women’s Tour will return to Northamptonshire this June, with a stage from Rushden to Daventry on Thursday 14 June. It will mark the fifth year that the world’s top cyclists have returned to the county, which hosted the first ever stage of the race in May 2014.

Following the success of last year’s opening stage, Daventry will host a finish for the first time with the stage also including a spectator friendly finishing circuit for the first time, while Rushden makes its debut on the route of the UCI Women’s World Tour event.

The route from Rushden will take the world’s top cyclists, potentially including Northamptonshire sisters Hannah and Alice Barnes of the Canyon//SRAM team, on a new route to the south of the county, passing through Wollaston, Salcey Forest, Silverstone and Weedon Bec.

Riders will tackle the one-kilometre climb of Newnham Hill, which averages 7%, twice either side of passing through Daventry, the second time with just over three kilometres of the race remaining in what is sure to set up a thrilling finale.

Steven North, Leader of East Northamptonshire Council, said: “We’re so pleased and honoured to welcome the tour once again to East Northamptonshire which we hope will once more bring a real economic boost to our businesses as well as inspiring more people to take up cycling and get active.”

Sarah Peacock, of Rushden Town Council, added: “This is a fabulous opportunity to enjoy a world-class sporting event on our doorstep, so please turn out on 14 June and let’s really show our support for these elite cyclists and make the most of this wonderful event. There’ll be lots going on in the town in the run up to the race so keep a look out for details in the local press and on our website.”
Update on Council Projects

Cllr. Sarah Peacock
Chairman of Policy & Resources Committee

The Policy & Resources Committee continue to oversee the policies and spending of the council budgets. We are now into the final quarter of a very busy year.

We have continued to support local groups with community grants and our most recent recipients have been Serve, Mind, Rushden Hall Pensioners Parliament and Rushden & Higham Rugby Club.

Shop Front grants have also been awarded to TJ’s Alternative Gifts. This is a grant that we use to help the businesses in the town to improve their appearance and advertise their products. This helps to improve the street scene and the overall shopping experience. With High Streets all over the country struggling, we help where we can and are continually looking to support local business. The Neighbourhood Plan highlights our concerns and hopefully once the Inspector has found it sound we can move our plans forward.

The Women’s tour arriving in town will enable us to showcase our town and give businesses a chance to showcase their wares.

Recently, Osborne’s Toys created quite a stir with the Lego shop front, which was superb. It brought visitors in from far and wide and stirred many memories with the local community. Let’s hope we can create the same memories and encourage people to support the High Street once again. We still have plenty to offer.

At our Policy and Resources meeting in January a number of options were discussed to safeguard the services we currently provide and other services we may be asked to provide in the future. We therefore unanimously agreed an increase of £8.15 for the year, or 16p per week. The Town Council is allocated around 4p in every pound of the total Council Tax collected, with the rest of the money going to Northamptonshire County Council, Northamptonshire Police and Crime Commissioner and East Northamptonshire Council. The 4% of that collected goes to Rushden Town Council to run the facilities and services we provide. This includes the maintenance of the parks and open spaces within the town, grass cutting, Rushden Hall and the Cemetery.

We continue to manage our budget as effectively as possible and invest in our assets and communities.

We have many projects still to complete and many of you will see new play equipment in our parks and open spaces. Rose Avenue, Spencer Park and Fosse Green, to name a few. We have been able to improve these areas due to Section 106 monies received from new developments in the town and councillor empowerment monies from district and county councillors. If you know of an area that needs improving please contact the clerk and we will discuss it at a future meeting.

Neighbourhood Plan

Our Neighbourhood Plan has now undergone public consultation with East Northamptonshire Council (our Local Planning Authority). East Northamptonshire Council have now considered all the representations received during the public consultation and studied the plan for it’s soundness. East Northamptonshire Council are happy with the content of our Neighbourhood Plan and have now submitted it for inspection.

An independent Planning Inspector has been appointed by East Northants Council and they will carry out an inspection to determine the viability and soundness of the proposed plan and that it meets statutory legal requirements. Once the inspection has been undertaken the plan will be considered for the following options:-

- Referred to be suitable for referendum
- Subject to modifications
- Refused

If the Neighbourhood Plan passes the inspection we are looking at a referendum in May 2018.

The submitted Neighbourhood Plan can be viewed in www.east-northamptonshire.gov.uk/info/200187/neighbourhood_plan

If you have any comments regarding the Neighbourhood Plan they need to be addressed to East Northamptonshire Council at the above address.

Disabled Toilets

We are very disappointed to report that the new disabled toilets at Spencer Park have been vandalised. We installed a disabled toilet at the changing pavillion and this is accessible with a radar key. Unfortunately somebody had accessed these toilets and stolen the extractor fan. How can anyone be so mean spirited as to steal facilities from a disabled toilet? As a Council we are continually trying to improve our public facilities and this kind of behaviour is very disheartening and will give us an additional expense to put right.

A Message from your local Neighbourhood Policing Team

We, Northamptonshire Police have a free message alert system, to help people living and working in Northamptonshire be better informed about crime and police activity in their local area.

The messaging service, called Northamptonshire Neighbourhood Alert allows our frontline officers to send alert messages direct from their mobile devices to thousands of local people in real-time, whilst out and about policing the county.

The alert service is free and simple to activate by registering at www.northamptonshireneighbourhoodalert.co.uk and is available to anyone living or working in Northamptonshire. When setting up an account people will be given the option to customise what they want to receive alerts about and how often. People will then receive regular alerts from Northamptonshire Police, Neighbourhood Watch and other partner organisations. Alerts are received either by email, text message or voice message – whichever suits.

Our communities play a crucial part in helping us prevent and detect crime and anti-social behaviour. Police officers and PCSOs will be regularly sending out message alerts via Northamptonshire Neighbourhood Alert, appealing for help, highlighting suspicious activity, offering crime prevention advice, and keeping people up to date about general police work and safety events. If for example there has been a spate of distraction burglaries in a particular district or an increase in vehicle crime, we can tell people immediately via the alert system. So they can better protect themselves and be more aware of any potential threats and risks. We can also very quickly share descriptions of suspects or appeal for witnesses – giving us a greater chance of arrest.

We encourage you to sign up to the alert system and spread the word with friends, family and the public to get more people registered. The more people we have registered the wider and more effective our alerts will be.

www.northamptonshireneighbourhoodalert.co.uk
NEWS FROM THE MAYOR
Cllr Barbara Jenney

Never let it be said that “nothing happens in Rushden”.

As I approach the end of my mayoral year, I have been reflecting on some of the momentous events over the year. On a personal basis, the Concert by the HM Band of the Civic Service and my Carol Concert. But these are exciting times for Rushden and the last twelve months have brought other significant moments that I have been delighted to be part of.

Rushden Lakes opened during the summer – already a fantastic success, and more phases on their way to completion.

Osborne’s Toy and Sports Shop in Rushden was chosen as the only place in the UK to commemorate Lego’s 60th anniversary.

Nene Valley Scouts commemorated their 50th year anniversary with an even more spectacular bonfire night and fireworks.

All the great annual events throughout the year - Armed Forces Weekend, Party Week, the Soap Box Derby and Party in the Park, Proms in the Park, Bark in the Park, Rushden Feast (the largest fair in the whole of Northamptonshire), the Royal British Legion Remembrance Day Parade and Concert and, of course, the Christmas Lights Switch On when it seemed that the whole town turned out to officially launch Christmas in Rushden.

Still to come, in May, the Rushden Historical Transport Society celebrate the 40th anniversary of their Cavalcade Weekend.

All these events, along with the many other superb concerts, fun days, sports events, awards evenings, talks, church events, bring the community together. They would not happen without the passion and commitment of those who freely give of their time and energy. Thank you for all you do.

Now we have the fantastic news that Rushden will host Stage Two of the OVO Energy Women’s Cycle Race in June. This will be fantastic for Rushden. Look out for all the events that will surround the Race – all part of ‘Celebrate Rushden’ week.

It has been a privilege to serve a second term as Mayor of Rushden and a real honour to meet and talk with so many of you. David and I have many memories from the year which will remain very special to us. We have a great community. Thank you for making Rushden such a special place to live.

Barbara

Town Manager’s Report
Julie Thorneycroft

Plans to introduce new events and activities involving local businesses are forging ahead. Many Rushden based businesses and community groups have already taken up new opportunities to promote themselves to a wider audience at Rushden Lakes. Events so far have been organised within the House of Fraser store at the Lakes and have included a Desk to Dance floor, an Artisan Christmas Market, a leisure and fitness weekend and a recent Wedding Fayre. Local businesses have seized the chance to get involved. The Rushden based bridal shop (Jewkes Bridal) attended the recent wedding fayre and handed out over 60 business cards to potential new customers – 60 additional people now know about her business on the High Street that didn’t before. Local artists were delighted to be invited to display their work at a local Art Exhibition held in the store on Saturday 10th March, a celebration of English Tourism in the Nene Valley is also taking place on Saturday 24th March as part of the national Visit Britain English Tourism week.

Future events are set to include a range of outdoor activities, a Tai Chi Day, a repeat of the successful wedding fayre, craft markets and children’s activities. If you are a local business owner or are part of a local community group and would like to be involved in an event or have an idea for an activity please do not hesitate to contact me.

Please remember the community notice board near the visitors centre at the Lakes is available to all to promote local events and activities; the board is updated on a weekly basis so if you have an event you would like advertising, again, please forward a copy of your event poster to info@rushedentowncouncil.gov.uk

The town council has its own official face book page @rushedencouncil. If you like and share the page we can keep you up to date on local events.

Please contact me at Rushden Town Council – 01933 316216 or email julie@rushedentowncouncil.gov.uk if you would like any further information.

IT’S ALL CHANGE FOR PARTY WEEK!

Due to the recent announcement of the Women’s Cycle Tour starting in Rushden on Thursday 14 June, we have moved the dates of Party Week forward to Saturday 9 June to Sunday 17 June to accommodate this important event and changed its name to CELEBRATE RUSHDEN. We could not let this golden opportunity pass to promote the town of Rushden. The town will be ablaze with flags and bunting and lots of decorated cycles on display.

The ever popular SOAP BOX DERBY kindly sponsored by Kingtools, will happen on the evening of Wednesday 13 June as a pre warm-up ahead of the next day and this year we want as many organisations to take part. Advertising is well under way with lots of prizes to be won, and entry forms/rules & regulations are available from Rushden Town Council’s website.

There will be free events offered for all ages during the week as in previous years and a brochure is being produced which will again be delivered to all houses in the town.

As mentioned in the Winter edition, we would like to run the Open Garden’s weekend again for anyone interested. It will take place during the weekend of 7/8 July (to allow gardens to look their best) either for 1 or 2 days whichever suits. Please get in touch for more information on how you can become involved.

Please contact Cllr Janet Pinnock by email: janetpinnock57@hotmail.co.uk or telephone 01933 314211 or Cllr Richard Lewis, email: r_lewis6@sky.com or telephone 01933 353671.

More details on all the events in the Summer edition including Party in the Park on Saturday 14 July. Enquiries for this event to: rushdeneventsgroup@gmail.com

Salvation Army

The Salvation Army recently celebrated 135 years of the Rushden Corps. Their weekend of celebration also included the 70th Anniversary of the 8th Rushden (SA) Scout Group.
**ClubMark for Bowls Club**

Rushden Town Bowling Club has been recognised as a ClubMark accredited club. It joins a very select band of bowls clubs as there are only 24 clubs in the country that has ClubMark recognition.

ClubMark is an accreditation scheme for community sports clubs that demonstrates that a club has higher standards of welfare, equity, coaching and management. Achieving ClubMark shows that a club provides a safe environment that ensures the welfare of members and encourages everyone to enjoy sport and stay involved throughout their lives.

The achievement was recognised during a brief ceremony attended by the Mayor and members to toast the club’s success.

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**RUSH2TheDEN Does it Again!**

After receiving NAYC’s President’s Cup awarded to their Youth Club in 2016 & Positive Participation Award in 2015 for the third year, RUSH 2The DEN has received another award. The Community Involvement Award was presented to the team at an Awards Evening by the, Northamptonshire Association of Youth Clubs.

Nina Robinson said “We would like to say a massive THANK YOU to ALL of our exceptionally dedicated team of volunteers who’s passion and commitment help make RUSH 2The DEN such a well enjoyed, happy and safe place for young people of all ages and their families. Thank you also to NAYC for their supportive evenings.”

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**COMMUNITY NEWS**

**First UK Shop to Buy and Sell LEGO@Bricks**

The LEGO Brick recently marked its 60th year in existence. To mark the occasion, the LEGO Group rebuilt the first UK toy shop to buy and sell LEGO bricks from the iconic toy makers themselves.

Family run Osborne’s Sports and Toys in Rushden was given the epic makeover - made up of over 277,500 bricks which took 639 hours to build. The large scale build formed part of an incredible week of anniversary celebrations, including a giant LEGO brick unveiled in New York’s Times Square.

Jim Osborne, the founder of the shop, saw the creative potential of the LEGO brick almost six decades ago whilst at the Brighton Toy Fair on his honeymoon, and since then has stocked a range of LEGO products – as the iconic toy brick became one of the world’s biggest brands and most popular toys, even being named ‘Toy of the Century’ in 1999. In 2015, Jim Osborne passed away, but Osborne’s is still run by his wife Pamela and their son Will, stocking a range of the latest toys – but products from the LEGO Group have remained a staple in their shop.

The classic brick design, conceived by Godtfred Kirk Christiansen – third son of visionary Danish carpenter Ole Kirk Kristiansen – in Billund, a small town in Denmark, has stayed the same over the past six decades, first being patented in 1958 – and a LEGO brick purchased at the time would be totally compatible with a brand new 2018 brick.

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**MIND Opens Crisis Cafe**

If you find yourself in crisis or need of support with your mental health in the evening and/or weekend, Rushden Mind have opened a Crisis Cafe to help you in your time of need.

Mind Cafe’s have professional mental health workers who can offer you a safe space. Their aim is to support people to reduce any immediate crisis and to safety plan; drawing on strengths, resilience and coping mechanisms to manage their mental health and well being.

There is no need to call, just drop in to find a safe place with hope and comfort and find your pathway to recovery.

Opening Times:
- Monday & Wednesday 5-10 PM
- Sunday 2-10 PM

Address: Phoenix House, Skinner’s Hill, RUSHDEN NN10 9YE Tel: 01933 312800

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**Obituary**

A founder member of Rushden Town Council, Mr David Reeves recently passed away. A service of thanksgiving was held at Park Road Baptist Church and condolences were sent to his wife Christine and family.

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**Plaque Unveiling**

**Walter Daniel John Tull - 1888-1918**

The third mixed-heritage footballer to play professionally and the first mixed-heritage Officer to serve in the British Army.

The unveiling of a blue plaque by Rushden & District History Society on 25 March 2018 will mark the 100th anniversary of the death of Walter Tull, an accomplished professional footballer, heroic British Army officer and one-time resident of Rushden.

Brought up in an orphanage in Bethnal Green, East London, in 1909 Walter signed for Tottenham Hotspur, becoming the third mixed-heritage professional footballer to play in the top division. After receiving vicious racial abuse from opposing fans, he was quickly dropped to the reserves. On 17 October 1911 he transferred to Northampton Town for a “substantial fee” where he flourished. It was at this time that he lodged in Rushden at the home of Miss Annie Williams at 26 Queen Street.

After the First World War broke out in 1914, Walter enlisted in the Army. He was an extremely able soldier and contrary to the British Army Handbook at that time, in 1917 he became the first black combat officer. Walter was killed on 25th March 1918 trying to protect his men. His body was never recovered and so Walter Tull has no grave.

Further information on Walter Tull and all blue plaques can be found on the web site of Rushden & District History Society.

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**MIND | Rushden**

for better mental health