



Friday 22nd September

Crossgates Launches Glittering Golden Anniversary Celebrations

Crossgates Shopping Centre's 50th Birthday celebrations got off to a spectacular start yesterday, with historical displays, fantastic balloon decorations and a visit from the Lord Mayor of Leeds, Cllr Jane Dowson.

The Lord Mayor greeted shoppers in the centre before Bob and Jackie Lawrence from the East Leeds History & Archeology Society talked her through a display of historical images that had been curated to celebrate the centre's 50th year.

Local residents gathered to watch as the Lord Mayor cut the ceremonial ribbon and officially launched the display, which will remain in the centre until the end of September.

Unveiling the display, the Lord Mayor of Leeds, Cllr Jane Dowson, said: "What a fantastic achievement for Crossgates Shopping Centre. I have fond memories of visiting the centre as a child with my mother and I must

say it's looking in great shape for 50!

"Leeds is striving to be the best city in the UK and Crossgates Shopping Centre's milestone birthday is yet another example of this great city's ambition and potential."

Bob, from East Leeds History & Archeology Society, added: "Crossgates Shopping Centre is part of the fabric of our local community, we have had the pleasure of celebrating a number of the centre's birthdays and we have loved helping to curate this special 50th birthday display. We're also keen to hear more about local people's memories of the centre."

A giant 50-themed balloon display took over Crossgates' Centre Square and throughout the day shoppers were treated to free gifts including delicious birthday cake from Cooplands, free sweets from Wilko and 50 free balloons, which were handed out to children in the centre.

One shopper who was particularly delighted by the centre's display was local resident Alison Brookes, who was also celebrating her 50th birthday, she said: "When I walked in and saw the giant '50' I couldn't believe it, it made my day. What a lovely surprise to be sharing such a special birthday with the centre."

Celebrations are continuing over the weekend with 'Dance

through the Decades' displays and workshops by Sashay Dance Leeds, 'Flower Power' themed craft stations, free facepainting and balloon modeling, as well as more treats and giveaways for shoppers.

At the craft stations, children will also be able to colour in a birthday themed picture and leave it on a display wall in the centre for a chance to win a £50 voucher to spend at shops in Crossgates Shopping Centre (2pm – 6pm on Friday and 11am – 4pm on Sunday).

Centre Manager, Matt Middleton, said: "We've had a fantastic start to our 50th birthday celebrations and would like to thank the Lord Mayor of Leeds, Cllr Jane Dowson, our shoppers and local community for their continued support.

"It's such an honour to be the manager of Crossgates at such an exciting and historic time and we're looking forward to seeing the centre filled with local families over the weekend."

Were you at the opening of Crossgates Shopping Centre in 1967? Did you work at the centre or do you have a memory you would like to share? Contact crossgates@theretailroom.co.uk or share your story with us on [Twitter](#) (@CrossgatesSC) or [Facebook](#) (Your Crossgates) using #Crossgatesat50.

For more information on all events visit

www.crossgatesshopping.co.uk

Weekend Event Timings

Saturday

- 11am - 4pm Free Balloon Modelling
- 11am - 4pm Free face painting and festival glitter
- 2:30pm - 3:30pm - 'Dance through the Decades' with Sashay Dance Leeds

Sunday

- 11am - 4pm Free face painting and festival glitter
- 11am - 4pm - Colouring and Creation Station
- Make your own play-doh pictures, flower power headbands and leave your colouring on the competition wall for a chance to win a £50 voucher
- 11:30pm - 12:30pm - 'Dance through the Decades' with Sashay Dance Leeds
- 2pm - 3pm - 'Dance through the Decades' with Sashay Dance Leeds

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