



10th AUGUST 2017

Crossgates Shopping Centre to Celebrate 50th Birthday Milestone

Crossgates Shopping Centre in East Leeds is set to celebrate a landmark anniversary on Thursday 21st September when it turns 50 - and it's calling out to local residents to share their memories.

Originally named the Cross Gates Arndale Centre, the retail destination was the first indoor 'American Style' shopping mall in England and opened on 21st September 1967, at the climax of the renowned 'Summer of Love'.

The launch of the centre, which cost £1.5million and took 18 months to build, came only 11 years after the first US indoor shopping mall. Today it is home to more than 60 stores and is visited by around 120,000 people per week.

Celebrations are already underway at the centre, with a series of Summer of Love themed kids' club activities. 'We Love Sport' will take place on Thursday 24th August, where kids will be able to join in games and storytelling, while 'We Love Magic', with tricks and fun from Puzzling Paul, will take place on Thursday 31st August.

The centre has also commissioned a new logo to mark the celebration period and is encouraging local people to share their pictures and memories of opening day and the past 50 years by emailing its team or sharing on social using #Crossgatesat50.

Centre Manager, Matt Middleton, said: "It's extremely exciting to be centre manager at Crossgates for this momentous milestone. We pride ourselves on being a close-knit community shopping centre that is steeped in history and as we approach our 50th birthday we want our loyal customers to share their pictures, memories and stories with us.

"Our children's summer activities have certainly kick-started our celebrations and we have plenty of fun activities planned in store for shoppers in our anniversary week and we will be revealing these very soon.

"We can't wait to hear local people's stories and are looking forward to an exciting and successful next 50 years!"

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.

All summer kids' club activities will take place on Centre Square outside Wilko and will run from 11am – 4pm. For more information visit www.crossgatesshopping.co.uk

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