

Redstone.fm

REIGATE AND BANSTEAD COMMUNITY RADIO LTD

Newsletter Issue 10 – January 2009



Welcome to the first newsletter for 2009, a year we hope will bring us the long awaited permanent community radio licence for the area. While we wait for Ofcom to make their announcement, due in October this year, we are keeping busy with a number of activities. We are pleased to announce that a further temporary broadcast will take place during May and June 2009 and details are set out below.

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Summer 2009 Broadcast

We are pleased to announce that Redstone.fm returns to the air in May and will broadcast for a 3 week period during May and June. The planned dates for the broadcast are 27 May to 15 June inclusive* and we have secured premises in central Redhill for our temporary offices and studio. This broadcast will cover two specific events and continue to provide opportunities to visually impaired and other disabled persons as well as young people.

** This is subject, as ever, to acceptance by Ofcom when they clear the FM frequency. This will not take place until April but as things stand now today, Ofcom have not received any other applications for temporary broadcasts in Surrey/Sussex/South London which may affect our requested dates.*



Volunteers' Week (1-7 June 2009)

Volunteers' Week is a national celebration of volunteers and volunteering which takes place from 1 – 7 June of each year. It plays a huge part in raising the profile of England's 22 million volunteers while encouraging others to get involved. During Volunteers' Week there is a burst of activity as events take place across the country to increase awareness of the UK's volunteers.



This year, Redstone.fm is teaming up with the Reigate & Banstead Council of Voluntary Service and their Volunteer Centre to provide a range of programmes and features celebrating the work of the voluntary sector. We will also be working alongside Surrey vInvolved – the youth volunteering organisation run by the YMCA in Redhill. Planned programme highlights will include:

- Launch of the Mayor's Community Awards
- Interviews and features with winners from the 2008 Mayor's Community Awards
- Live coverage of specific volunteering activities
- Interviews and features on a variety of volunteering activities including youth volunteering.



Redstone.fm will again provide coverage of the activities over the carnival weekend. The programme for the weekend is:

- **Friday 12 June 2009**
Drama/music performances as part of a competition for schools in the borough.
Series of live performances of bands in pubs across Redhill and Reigate.

- **Saturday 13 June 2009**

A range of street events in both Redhill and Reigate town centres. The events will include street theatre and entertainment in the Belfry Shopping Centre.

On Saturday evening, a Gala performance at the Harlequin Theatre in Redhill. A showcase for local performing arts.

- **Sunday 14 June 2009**

The Carnival Parade - ending at Redhill's Memorial Park at around midday.

From Midday, a Family Fun Day at the Memorial Park with entertainment in a central arena, sideshows and stalls.

Redstone.fm will be broadcasting live from both Redhill and Reigate town centres on the Saturday. Sunday will see live coverage of the carnival parade, this in association with Radio Redhill. On Sunday we will broadcast live from the Memorial Park in Redhill to bring the sights, sounds and flavour of the event to the airwaves.

Providing Opportunities

Redstone.fm will again be providing opportunities to visually impaired persons and those with other disabilities. Our new studio premises, being in the heart of Redhill Town Centre, are easily accessible by public transport as well as being wheelchair friendly with lift access and parking right outside.

Redstone.fm grew out of the radio training courses at the RNIB College (prior to its closure in 2007) and many former blind and partially sighted students from the college have continued to support the station. In turn we have continued providing opportunities to visually impaired persons to produce and present live radio programmes. Last year 31% of our volunteers had a disability of some kind (including sight loss) and they produced 45% of our live output. We would like to increase these figures this year.



We are also continuing to offer opportunities to young people. Ever since our first broadcast in 2007 when we ran a young DJ competition, we have provided airtime for young presenters and DJs to broadcast to the under-25 year olds in the borough. We will also continue to offer work experience placements to students from local colleges. This year we are working with vInvolved, the youth volunteering organisation based at the YMCA. We have an ever growing list of potential broadcasters and training activities are being organised during the coming months.



Surrey Community Foundation Grant

We are grateful to the Surrey Community Foundation who has awarded us a £5,000 grant towards the costs of the forthcoming broadcast. This is funded through the Grassroots Grants initiative.

Grassroots Grants is a national programme which will run for three years (2008 -2011) to support small, voluntary led community groups to build stronger, more active communities. The programme is funded by the Office of the Third Sector (OTS) and is being managed nationally by the Community Development Foundation (CDF). Surrey Community Foundation has been awarded the funding to deliver the Grassroots Grants programme in Surrey, with over £1 million available to support local communities in Surrey.



Managed by the Community Development Foundation
Funded by the Office of the Third Sector

The specific aims of the Grassroots Grants programme are to increase immediate grant funding and capacity building support to small voluntary and community groups, enabling them to continue or expand their work. The small grant awards are intended to support a wide range of community organisation activities, which could include advocacy, community voice and service provision for local people.

<http://www.surreycommunityfoundation.org.uk/index.php?section=Home>

Permanent Licence Application

As reported in the previous newsletter, we submitted our application to Ofcom for a community radio licence last November. Ofcom have received 48 community radio applications for East and SE England. This area covers East Anglia, the South East, Hampshire, Berkshire and Oxfordshire but excludes Greater London. We have received the following response from Ofcom concerning the timing of the award:

“This region has by some margin had the most applicants, which has an impact on the speed with which we can deal with applications. The assessment process demands input from our engineering, finance and legal colleagues, as well as the occasional input of outside agencies such as the BBC (for spectrum planning purposes), before decisions are finally taken by Ofcom’s Radio Licensing Committee (which meets approximately 10 times a year), so as you will appreciate all of this takes time. We realise that for many of you this will entail quite a long wait and want to assure you that we will process applications in as timely and efficient a manner as possible.”

Ofcom also provided a timetable of planned awards with applications for Norfolk and Suffolk being dealt with during February/March this year. Applications from groups in Surrey and other locations bordering onto Greater London and scheduled for October 2009. Whilst this will be a frustrating wait, it does enable us to continue our activities this summer with our 6th temporary broadcast and demonstrate to Ofcom that we are an active group that continues to develop.

Events

Celebrating Age – 23 April 2009

Redstone.fm will again be present at this event. Unlike 2007 when the event suffered from some challenging summer weather, this year it is taking place at the Harlequin Theatre in Redhill. Further details of the event can be found at www.rbcvs.org.uk/age

This newsletter is published by Reigate and Banstead Community Radio Ltd. The views expressed in this document are not necessarily those of the company or its management.