

REIGATE AND BANSTEAD COMMUNITY RADIO LTD

Members Newsletter Issue 3 – September 2007

Welcome to the first newsletter for 2007. We plan to publish a newsletter on a bi-monthly basis from this issue. Reigate and Banstead Community Radio Ltd is a not for profit company set up last year to campaign for a local community radio station to serve listeners in Redhill, Reigate and Banstead. This newsletter is issued jointly with the Redstone.fm, the radio station that has broadcast with a number of temporary licenses over the past couple of years.

News from Reigate and Banstead Community Radio

Annual General Meeting

The second annual general meeting will take place on Monday 1st October 2007. Members will have received formal notice but the meeting is open to anyone interested in the development of community radio for the area. Following the formal AGM business, there will be a presentation on the plans for a community radio service with the opportunity to ask questions.

The venue is the Oakley Youth Centre, 111a Radstock Way, Merstham, RH1 3NT, and the meeting starts at 7.30pm.

Lottery Grant

Last year (October 2007) Reigate and Banstead Community Radio was awarded a grant from the Lottery Fund 'Awards for All'. We received £9,862 which is the full amount requested. This money is being used to fund the licence application and includes formal audience research, technical surveys and marketing and publicity.

The fieldwork for the audience research is currently taking place and is examining what people currently listen to and the demand for a new community radio service for the area. Questions are also asked on different types of speech content. The technical survey includes identifying a suitable transmission site, applying for planning permission and securing a transmission plot (a map that shows how wide an area we can potentially serve).

Latest from Ofcom

Ofcom are currently in the process of advertising and awarding community radio licenses as part of their second round of licensing. It is being done on a regional basis with London and the SE being the last area to be advertised. We expect licenses for this area to be advertised towards the end of December.

Volunteers Wanted

We are establishing a number of working groups to deal with specific sections of the license application. If you can help in any way or want to contribute to a specific working group, please call Des Shepherd on 07977 164872.

- Finance working group. In particular we need people with experience of fund raising.
- Programming working group.
- Marketing working group. Help needed to promote the station to local organisations, businesses, local councillors etc.
- Training working group. We are particularly keen to involve a qualified teacher working with 14-18 year olds.
- Editor for member's newsletter.

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News from Redstone.fm

Redstone.fm

Summer 2007 Broadcast

Redstone.fm currently broadcasts with temporary 'Restricted Service Licenses' (RSL) issued by Ofcom. The fourth such broadcast took place during May/June this year. Unlike previous broadcasts, this time we came from the Oakley Centre in Merstham. We are grateful to Surrey County Council and Spin FM for hosting our activities.

This particular broadcast was organised in conjunction with the recent Redhill Carnival. Redstone.fm was the official carnival radio station and we broadcast live programmes from Redhill's Memorial Park together with featuring the many charities who will benefit from the carnival fundraising. We also supported the Celebration of Age festival which took place on the 16th June and again Redstone.fm broadcast live from the Memorial Park.

Redstone.fm has grown out of the training course recently offered by the RNIB Redhill College and many of the voices heard on the first three RSL broadcasts have been those of blind or partially sighted people. Although the RNIB Redhill College has now closed, Redstone.fm has continued its commitment to providing opportunities for those who are visually impaired, as well as people with other disabilities.

During the summer 2007 broadcast, 36% of volunteers were either blind, partially sighted or have some other serious disability. They produced 40% of the live output. Interestingly, according to a recent Skillset survey, only 1.7% of the workforce in the radio industry is disabled. (*Skillset is the Sector Skills Council for the Audio Visual Industries and works to raise skills levels in every sector of industry within its remit.*)

Des Shepherd, Redstone.fm's licensee commented, "This is a great achievement and shows that having a disability should not be a barrier to success. Our previous broadcasts demonstrated that those who are visually impaired are just as capable when it comes to producing and presenting radio programmes. All too often those with a disability are marginalised by society. Just because one has lost the use of their eyes does in no way mean they can't be a valued member of society and I hope that those involved with Redstone.fm have felt they made a positive contribution. Looking to the future and the real possibility of a permanent community radio license for the Redhill and Reigate area, I will want to see this commitment developed and included within programming and production proposals."

Future Temporary Broadcasts

Redstone.fm plans to broadcast a fifth RSL in the New Year. However we are dependent on having access to the radio studios at Soundscape at the RNIB Redhill College. We are currently waiting to hear from the RNIB whether we can use the facilities. If Reigate and Banstead Community Radio are successful with their community radio licence application, this could well be the last Redstone.fm RSL broadcast.

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Other News

RNIB Redhill College

The college finally closed on Friday 31 August although there will continue to be provision for Community Residents. However the arts/music/radio centre based in Soundscape will continue to be open and available for use. We understand that the RNIB are going to appoint a manager for the centre. Redstone.fm/RBCR are in negotiation with the RNIB with a view of using the facilities for radio training sessions this autumn, a home for a possible RSL broadcast in the new year and, in the longer term, a possible home for the permanent community radio station.



The youth radio service has been broadcasting during August/September with its second RSL this year. A number of new voices were heard as well as some familiar to Redstone.fm listeners. Spin FM are on the air on 87.7fm until Sunday 9th September. Spin FM will be returning with an on-line broadcast over the Christmas period.

Spin FM is a Surrey County Council youth radio project broadcasting from studios at the Merstham Youth and Community Centre. The project's aim is to give young people within the area an opportunity to learn new skills including media, computer, sales and management. It also encourages a strong social opportunity where young people of similar interests can meet. The project can be used as a stepping stone for young people looking to pursue a media career.

Dates For Your Diary

- 14 September 2007 (Friday)
SAVI Drop-in Day (organised by the Surrey Association for Visual Impairment).
Harlequin Theatre Redhill; 10am–3pm
The event is aimed at visually impaired people, their carers and anyone working with blind and partially sighted people. The event will showcase services, information and equipment available for visually impaired people. Redstone.fm will have a stand with demonstrations on digital editing for the blind and partially sighted.
- 1 October 2007 (Monday)
Reigate and Banstead Community Radio Ltd AGM
7.30pm Oakley Youth Centre, Merstham, RH1 3NT

Not a member?

Reigate and Banstead Community Radio Ltd is a membership organisation. Its strength is its membership. Whether you are interested in having a go at broadcasting or just want to support our aims, please consider joining. Annual membership subscription is only £10.

Please visit <http://www.reigateandbanstead.org/membership.htm> where you can download a membership form.

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.