

Welcome to the fourth member's newsletter. This is published at an active time for Reigate and Banstead Community Radio (RBCR). It is likely that Ofcom will advertise the final community radio licenses towards the end of the year or early in 2008. With this in mind, we are working to an end of March 2008 deadline for the completion of our application. This is less than 6 months and we have Christmas in the middle when the whole world seems to stop for a couple of weeks! Therefore there is much to do, particularly over the next two months.

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AGM Report

Reigate and Banstead Community Radio Ltd held its second AGM on Monday 1st October. Three members were elected to the board, Lisa Davis and Nigel Gray (who both stood down by rotation) and Paul Swann.

***Note:** the rules of the company state that there can be up to seven elected directors each serving a maximum of three years and with two directors standing down by rotation each year.*

It was also announced that Reigate and Banstead Community Radio (RBCR) had purchased Redstone FM Ltd from Des Shepherd. Redstone.fm will now become the trading name for RBCR. More on this below.

Following the AGM, the directors re-appointed Mike Ward as Chairman of RBCR.

News from Redstone.fm

As noted above, RBCR has purchased Redstone FM Ltd. The previous owner, Des Shepherd explained, "Redstone FM Ltd was set up two years ago to protect the name. It has broadcast four temporary broadcasts to date and built up a lot of support and experience which RBCR is able to take forward in its application to Ofcom for the permanent community licence."

Redstone.fm is planning a further temporary broadcast early next year. The purpose of this next broadcast is to showcase community radio and its relevance to the Redhill/Reigate area. It will probably run for a two week period.

The Board of RBCR have made a policy decision that all volunteers working on Redstone.fm should be members of RBCR. We will be contacting all previous volunteers and current members with a volunteer application form. The purpose of this is that we want to build a data base of volunteers with details of experience, availability and ideas on what you would want to get involved with.

Licence Application News

No news yet on the specific timing from Ofcom but the East and SE (including London) is the only outstanding area to be advertised. Following formal business at the AGM, Des Shepherd gave presentation which looked at Ofcom's requirements. The most important is the section on the application form on finance. Des stressed the importance of a robust business plan. He commented, "We can all come up with great programme ideas but it will be academic if we don't have the resources to pay for it."

Getting Support

It is essential that we can demonstrate to Ofcom support for our proposals. This is usually in the form of letters or e-mails. Support can come from local individuals, organisations, businesses and elected representatives (councillors). We have put together an information pack and can e-mail an electronic version or send you paper versions to distribute. Even if someone doesn't want to become a member of RBCR, a letter or e-mail of support is very important as we need to show we have support from all sectors of the community. [e-mail](#) or call Des on 07977 164872.

RNIB Redhill College

We have been having discussions with the RNIB about making use of the facilities in Soundscape at the old Redhill College. These facilities include a broadcast suite, music recording studios and a performance area and were built 5 years ago at a cost of over £1 million. These facilities were specifically built for use by blind and partially sighted people, an ideal asset for many of our members. However the RNIB have decided they do not wish Redstone.fm basing itself there due to, "security issues" and perceived "unsuitability of the equipment". Although the college has closed, the site continues to be a home for community residents, many of whom have multiple disabilities. It would seem that the RNIB prefer to keep Soundscape for their exclusive use rather than let blind and partially sighted persons from a wider area have access to these specialist facilities. This despite a public comment by the RNIB earlier in the year on Southern Counties Radio that Redstone.fm could broadcast from the site in the future. Whilst this is disappointing, it will not alter our commitment to providing real opportunities to blind and partially sighted people and those with other disabilities.

Redhill Carnival

It seems an age ago that Redstone.fm was broadcasting at the Carnival but last week (Wednesday 3rd October) the various rotary clubs presented cheques to the nominated charities. As a result of the carnival fund-raising, over £20,000 was raised. At the presentation, the Mayor of Reigate and Banstead, Cllr Dorothy Ross-Tomlin, presented cheques of £5,000 to the four charities, Us In A Bus, Surrey Air Ambulance, Orbit Shed and the Redhill & Reigate Live At Home Scheme. If you want to find out more about the charities, visit the Redstone.fm web site: <http://www.redstone.fm/carnival.htm>

Commemorative CDs

Three CDs have been produced and feature interviews from Redstone.fm broadcast last summer. CD1 features interviews with John Gooden, the Chairman of the Carnival Committee together with interviews with representatives from the charities who benefited from the fund raising. CD2 contains interviews by Paul Swann and Martin Rothwell as broadcast at the Carnival Fun Day on Sunday 3 June. CD3 contains interviews broadcast at the Celebrating Age Festival on Saturday 16th June. Copies of these CDs are available – please [e-mail](#) us with your name and address.

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.