

Welcome to the May 2008 edition of the newsletter. Well it is only a matter of a days before we return to the air with our 5th temporary broadcast . . .and we can't wait!

This newsletter will look at some of the programmes and features planned. The aim is to provide a showcase for community radio and how it will work in the Redhill and Reigate area. Full details of all programmes and features will appear on the web site on Monday 5th May and the web site will be updated daily from then until the end of the broadcast.

Programme Overview

We will be broadcasting from 7am on Saturday 10th May until Midnight on Bank Holiday Monday 26th May. The frequency is 87.7fm. This is a frequency used by various groups broadcasting temporary license in the South East. Don't bother tuning in before the 10th May as there is nothing to listen to.

The main weekday programmes were posted on the web site a few weeks ago. Nigel Fitzmaurice is a new member who comes with experience of broadcasting on other community radio stations. Nigel, who lives in Reigate and works for E-on will be looking after the breakfast show. Johny Cassidy presents the morning show and will feature a wide range of guests. Johny has recently completed a post-grad journalism course at Highbury College in Portsmouth and is a qualified broadcast journalist. You will have heard him before as he has hosted the morning show on the last two broadcasts.

Anne-Marie Evans will be on the air every afternoon from 1pm. Her programme will have a leisure bias with interviews looking and local arts and entertainment. Anne-Marie is one of the few presenters who has broadcast on all our broadcasts to date. Another Redstone.fm stalwart is Tess Lewsey who will be looking after the afternoon 'drive' show. This programme will include regular travel updates and the 'News Hour' where she will be looking at the day's top local and national stories.

Evening shows are targeted at a youth audience, presented by some of our younger members. This is being organised in conjunction with Spin FM.

Weekend programmes include live music sessions on Saturday evenings whilst on Sunday afternoons a wide and eclectic range of music is on offer including Jazz presented by Mike Ward. Radio Redhill's Chairman, Nigel Gray will be back with country (and country-rock) music whilst the diva of cool, Petula Rose presents a new show with soft soul, reggae and R&B. A former RNIB Redhill College student, David Ridgway returns to the air on Sunday the 25th May with a special blues and folk show. David will feature exclusive interviews with folk singers and musicians.

New Voices

Apart from Nigel Fitzmaurice, our breakfast show presenter, Redstone.fm welcomes a number of new voices. Chris Spring, who stepped in at very short notice last year is presenting a regular Saturday morning show. Jef Nunn, Paul Barnett and Alan & Kim are joining us from Spin FM (where they will continue to be heard). We also welcome three youngsters who are coming on work experience - Alex Roll, Catriona Harris and Harry Maynard. We hope they will enjoy their experience with us!

Guests and Interviews

Redstone.fm has booked a number of guests who will talk on a wide range of subjects. Well actually we have 36 guests confirmed and a further nine in the wings! The current Mayor of Reigate and Banstead, Cllr Mrs Dorothy Ross-Tomlin, presents her choice of music in an extended 'In Conversation' programme presented by Nigel Gray. This will be broadcast on Sunday 18 May and we are grateful to Radio Redhill for providing facilities for the recording.

Two of the local MPs can be heard on Redstone.fm. Chris Grayling MP will be speaking to Johnny Cassidy on Friday 16 May and the following week Crispin Blunt will be our guest. Various councillors and officials from the borough council will be interviewed. Cllr Kay will be talking about the volunteer sector and how the council is working with this sector. We will be looking ahead to the opening of the Priory Park in Reigate. On our opening day Redstone.fm will be covering the parade in Reigate to mark the centenary of the Territorial Army and our Friday sport show will feature reports on local non-league football clubs. The sport presenter Carl Leaburn also promises a couple of 'big' names on air.

Adult Learners Week

A national event, Adult Learners' Week, is taking place from Saturday 17th May. We will be taking this opportunity to look at various aspects of adult learning with a wide range of interviews. We are working with East Surrey College and will be following their activities during the week.

Youth Radio

Weekday evening show from 7pm will be targeted at an under 24 year old audience. Our audience research shows that this age group is more likely to listen to the radio at this time than other, older age groups. Evening programmes from 7pm to 10pm (extended to 1am on Friday and Saturday nights) will be presented by young DJs broadcasting to this younger audience. This strand on programming is organised in conjunction with the youth radio station Spin FM. We are keen to develop this and help provide young people with their own voice on the radio, not just with the music they play but with the editorial content.

Live Music

A new feature in our programmes this year is the broadcast of live music sessions. The Alan & Kim Show, which airs from 7pm on Saturday evenings, will feature the Live Loft sessions with bands playing live from our second studio. This programme was originally developed and broadcast on Spin FM. There is also the chance opportunity that there will be live music sessions on other programmes including Mike Ward's Jazz show on Sundays and Anne-Marie Evans' weekday afternoon show. Full details of all acts and times of broadcast will be listed at www.redstone.fm

Love Where You Live

One theme Redstone.fm will be developing in the coming months is an appreciation of life in the Reigate and Banstead borough area. As the world is getting smaller, there is generally a feeling of being proud of one's roots. The publisher EMAP have found listener loyalty to their local radio stations over national networks as they reflect the area where they are based. Redstone.fm will be celebrating all that is positive about living and working in the area and generally taking pride in the fact that we are the broadcast voice for the borough.

To start this all off, we are working with the Borough Council in supporting the ‘Love Where You Live’ campaign. We will be broadcasting a “Where Am I?” competition which will feature five different presenters giving clues to five different locations in the borough. A picture of each presenter on location will appear daily on the web site and the Redhill, Reigate and Horley Life newspaper will be printing all five pictures and clues (and lots of other useful information about Redstone.fm). This is a great bit of publicity for us and we hope a bit of fun for listeners and readers of the Life. Details will appear at www.redstone.fm

Technical Facilities

Redstone.fm is grateful to Paul Gilbert, Spin FM and Surrey County Council for the use of the radio studios at the Oakley Centre in Merstham. In particular, Redstone.fm acknowledges the technical assistance of Paul Swann and Martin Rothwell.

Many of our broadcasters are blind or partially sighted. This causes difficulty in using some equipment in the studios, particularly the playout system. With a permanent community radio license in mind, Paul Swan and Steve Burge (who has a specialist knowledge of access technology with audio equipment) are collaborating with Westcountry Broadcasting, who have kindly loaned a playout system for testing with screen reading and magnification software, which enables blind and partially sighted people to access an ordinary desktop computer.

Redstone FM is proud of its on-going commitment to provide realistic and accessible opportunities for every section of the community it serves and thus allow them to play an active role in the station’s future.

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.redstone.fm/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.