

Welcome to the June 2008 edition of the newsletter. By the time this is published, we will have completed our 5<sup>th</sup> temporary broadcast. This newsletter looks at what we have achieved and how we plan to take things forward in our campaign to get a full-time permanent community radio licence for the area.

#### **Contents**

May 2008 Broadcast Achievements  
Programming Matters  
Adult Learners' Week  
Picture Competition  
Web Site  
Acknowledgements  
Latest news from Ofcom

#### **May 2008**

The Summer 2008 broadcast is the fifth as Redstone.fm and the first since Redstone.fm came under the ownership of Reigate and Banstead Community Radio. The first three broadcasts were in conjunction with the RNIB Redhill College where radio students had first hand experience of live radio. With the college closing in July 2007, it has not been possible to broadcast from there so our fourth broadcast came from the Oakley Centre in Merstham. With thanks to Spin FM and Surrey County Council, the May 2008 broadcast also came from the Oakley.

The broadcast had three objectives:

- Offering Opportunities
- Youth Programming
- Local Community Radio

#### **Offering Opportunities**

Previous Redstone.fm broadcasts have enabled blind and partially sighted students from the RNIB college to produce and present live radio shows. Whilst there are no longer any students at the College, Redstone.fm is committed to offering opportunities to blind, partially sighted people and those with other disabilities.

**The aim of the RSL was to provide an opportunity for disabled persons to engage in the practical aspects of producing and presenting live radio shows.**

#### **Outcome**

- 24% of volunteers were either blind or partially sighted and produced 33% of our live output.
- 31% of volunteers had a disability of some kind (including sight loss) and they produced 45% of our live output.

#### **Youth Programming**

All previous broadcasts have involved young DJs and presenters. This has ranged from organising a young DJ competition to working with Spin FM in providing opportunities to 16-25 year olds.

**Redstone.fm is committed to continuing to provide opportunities to 16-25 years olds within its programmes.**

#### **Outcome**

- 24 hours each week were set aside for specific 'youth' programming, i.e. programmes broadcast to an under 25 year old audience by under 25 year old presenters. This was presented in part by Spin FM presenters and in part by Redstone.fm presenters.
- 45% of our volunteers were under 25 years of age and they presented 31% of our live output.

#### **Local Community Radio**

There is the opportunity for a new local community radio station for Redhill and Reigate (to be licensed by Ofcom). The involvement in 'trial' broadcasts is considered an important part of the process in applying for a permanent community license.

**The aim of the RSL is to be a showcase for community based programming for the Redhill and Reigate area.**

#### **Outcome**

- A total of 55 interviewees appeared on Redstone.fm
- One theme for the broadcast was coverage of Adult Learners' Week with special page on the web site and 8 interviews which looked at a range of education issues.
- Local personalities were interviewed. This ranged from the up and coming singer Sally Cranham playing some of her songs to an hour-long special with the out going Mayor.
- Local events and activities were promoted. This included live coverage of the Territorial Army parade on the 10 May.
- Listener's local knowledge was tested with a competition run in conjunction with the Life newspaper. This is part of an on-going theme of civic pride supported by Reigate and Banstead Borough Council.

#### **Programme Matters**

Redstone.fm covered all available programme slots without too much difficulty. The value of organising the guests for interview in the month prior to broadcast meant that we had a full schedule by the day we came on the air. With over 50 guests booked, we only had four cancellations or no-shows. On Friday 16 May we had 10 live interviews in the course of the day which is believed to be a record.

Specialist music shows were largely dropped to make way for youth programmes. However Sunday afternoons and evenings featured a mix of Jazz, Blues, Folk, Country, Soul, R'n'B and Reggae. An hour long special with Cllr Ross-Tomlin (the out-going mayor) was recorded, courtesy of Radio Redhill and broadcast during the middle weekend.

#### **Adult Learners' Week**

This year's broadcast coincided with the national Adult learners' Week. We took this opportunity to broadcast a range of interviews looking at issues related to education. Full details of what we broadcast can be found at [www.redstone.fm.alw](http://www.redstone.fm.alw) and we are grateful for the support of East Surrey College. Whilst we are off the air for the next few months, we will keep the web site up to date with local adult education issues.

#### **Picture Competition**

In a small way, since our first broadcast in 2005, Redstone.fm has become a part of life in the borough and we are proud to be the genuine local radio service. We were looking for a way to develop this, not just on-air but through other media. Over the past couple of years, the Reigate, Redhill and Horley Life newspaper has been very supportive of our broadcasts. This year and in collaboration with the Life newspaper, we launched a competition where listeners and readers had to identify five local landmarks. We had a remarkable response (the coverage in the Life help a lot) and the winner was drawn on Bank Holiday Monday 26 May. Full details of the clues and pictures can be seen at [www.redstone.fm/local](http://www.redstone.fm/local). We are grateful to the **la barbe** French restaurant in Reigate for supplying the prize.

The theme of civic pride will continue in the coming months on the web site with a celebration of all that is great about living and working in the borough. Research has shown that the areas with lower crime etc. have a greater civic pride (*University of Essex 2004*).

#### **Redstone.fm web site**

The web site has been busy during the broadcast with various pages updated on a daily basis. Many people have complimented us on the design, ease of use and content of the site. It has been developed alongside the programming to complement what we broadcast. The aim of the programme schedule pages were not to give a list of DJs or presenters but to give the potential listener useful information about the programme content. Even though we are now off the air, we have reprinted our entire programme schedule with details of all guests who have appeared. Please do take the time to look as we are proud of the range of programmes, guests and topics covered. There is also a complete list of all guests who appeared on the station during the 17 day broadcast. [www.redstone.fm/schedule](http://www.redstone.fm/schedule)

For the future, the web site will be the place to keep up to date with Redstone.fm, licensing news and other activities. It will also be a resource for local news and information. For example we have recently added a page devoted to the voluntary sector and details of the Mayor's Community Award 2008. Just because Redstone.fm is off the air does not mean the web site will go dormant so please do keep looking at it [www.redstone.fm](http://www.redstone.fm)

#### **Acknowledgements**

Redstone.fm would also like to thank the many sponsors (listed on the web site at [www.redstone.fm/sponsors](http://www.redstone.fm/sponsors)). Without their financial support we would not have been able to get on the air.

#### **Latest news from Ofcom**

With the hope that Ofcom will advertise the final batch of community radio licenses sooner rather than later, this could well be the last temporary broadcast Redstone.fm does. Ofcom have said that the licenses will definitely be advertised but won't be drawn on a date of timetable. The main thrust in the coming months is to capitalise on the very useful contacts made, work on the permanent license application (particularly the finance section).

#### **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.