

Students at RNIB College aim for high standards in covering local issues

# Radio station goes on air

by Mark Davison

mark.davison@trinitysouth.co.uk

A RADIO station for Reigate and Redhill went on air on Monday and listeners can tune in over the next month.

Redstone FM has been given a licence to broadcast from the Royal National Institute for the Blind (RNIB) College in Philanthropic Road for 28 days.

On Monday, a celebration launch party was held in the college's Soundscape studio, when supporters from Reigate and Banstead Borough Council, Rotary Clubs, schools and community groups gathered to mark the occasion.

It is the second time that the station has gone on air under its own steam. Last July, a similar broadcast was made over four weeks.

The station is run by RNIB staff and volunteers together with five of the college students, some of whom have limited eyesight.

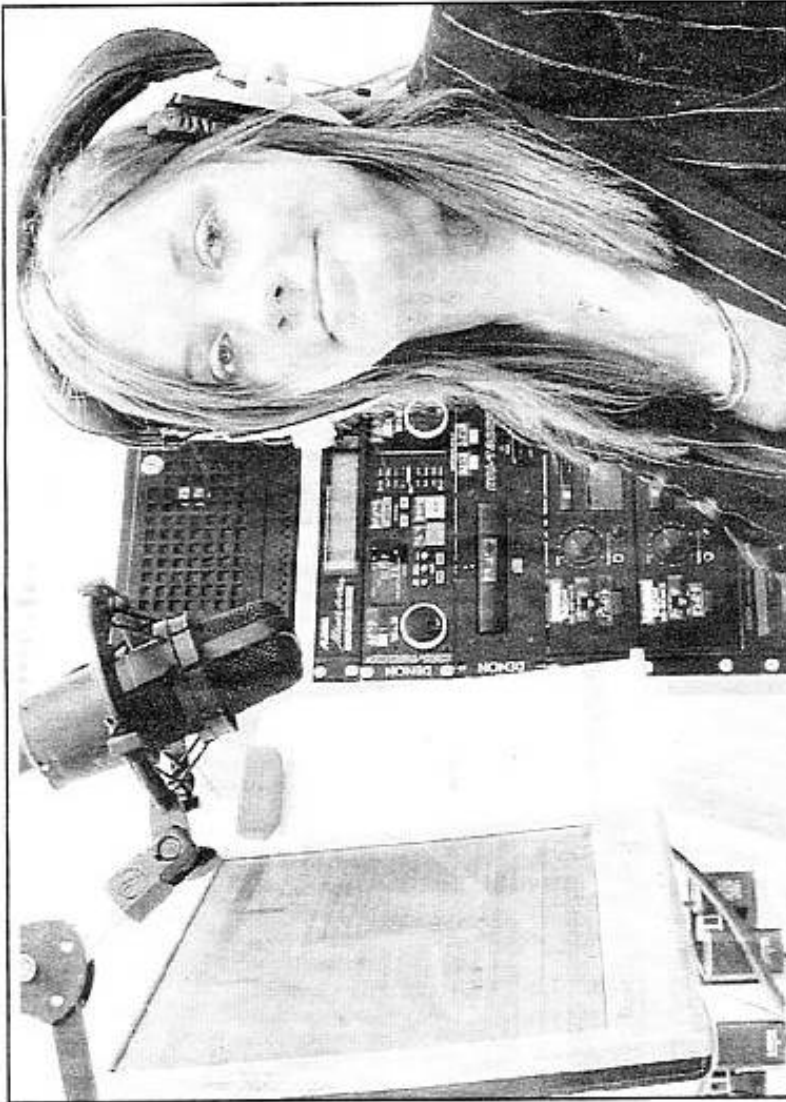
One of the main organisers of the project is Des Shepherd, who runs a radio training course for students.

He said: "While the broadcasts are student-led, we aim to produce programmes to a professional standard.

"This broadcast will again feature interviews with many local people and from a variety of local organisations."

The weekday morning magazine show begins at 9am and has a new presenter Arne Vans, a student at the college.

She will be looking at local news and issues and holding discussions with studio guests.



**Morning slot:** Arne Vans, 19, is presenting Redstone FM's morning show

programme on Friday evenings when he will be looking ahead to the weekend's sporting activities. He aims to have interviews with stars of the sporting world.

The station will be playing popular music and taking news items from Independent Radio News with which it has a contract.

Mr Shepherd said that the cost of the

month's broadcast is likely to be about £12,000, of which half will be met by the RNIB and the remainder from advertising and sponsorship.

He added that eventually he hoped the station would be able to put in an application to the radio broadcasting authorities to go on air 24 hours a day all year – but the cost of doing this could amount to £20,000 per month.

## Radio Students Present Redstone.fm

RNIB Redhill College became the home of a new community radio station Redstone.fm on a Restricted Service License (RSL) from Monday 9 January until Sunday 5 February 2006.

Current students studying towards a BTEC Advanced Diploma in Radio Broadcasting undertook all of the duties to run the station, everything from producing the broadcast,

what it takes to produce and present a radio show. Before Redstone.fm I had only worked on a hospital radio station, which broadcasted from 5pm until 10pm Monday to Friday then 9am to 10pm Saturday and Sunday. Redstone.fm on the other hand was broadcast 24 hours a day for the full 28 days.

Doing the drive time show gave me a lot of responsibility that I am thankful for as I felt a valued part of the team. I also enjoyed doing the news reports at the start of the broadcast, as the news element within the drive time show was still important. It became part of my responsibility to keep the listener informed.

Before Redstone.fm I didn't believe I had what it takes to be a radio presenter, but now I have so much more confidence and can't wait to get back behind the microphone."



arranging interviews, presenting the shows and marketing the station.

The experience provided all those involved with the opportunity to put into practice what they have learnt on their course as well as enabling new ideas to be tried and tested.

Lucy Greaves, a current student had the following to say about her Redstone.fm experience...

"I feel I have now gained a lot of experience and learnt a lot about





# Video will never kill these radio stars

Redstone FM is giving blind and partially sighted students at a Redhill college the chance to hone their broadcasting skills. GEMMA WHEATLEY re-

**B**lind students at a Redhill college are not letting their disability get in the way of their dreams.

Thanks to the development of a radio station at the RNIB college blind and partially sighted students have been given the chance to be stars of the airwaves.

Broadcast journalism student Lucy Greaves, 20, is partially sighted. She says: "My sight has never stopped me doing what I want to do, you get used to it and I've had it all my life so it is normal to me."

"People often ask me why I don't have operations on my eyes but I am so used to my own little world now that I don't want any."

Lucy's positive attitude is typical of those involved in the year-long broadcasting course at the college in Philanthropic Road, and it is this determination which is helping to make the radio station such a success.

A radio suite was built in the college's state-of-the-art Soundscape Centre in 2003 and course organiser Des Shepherd, who has worked in radio all his life, managed to get a broadcast licence for the college station, Redstone FM.

He says: "The students all learn a lot from it, things which however much we try, we just cannot teach them on a course."

Redstone FM has just finished its second temporary broadcast and has been so successful it is



Radio ga ga: Lucy Greaves, Des Shepherd and Steve Langsdale NO141231.jpg

now applying for a permanent licence.

Des says the students have been true professionals. "On the first day of the second temporary broadcast, we came into the studio and one of the first things we had to deal with was the July 7 bombings. The students were amazing and took the initiative to adapt the programme. These things don't happen very often and we have to be able to adapt. Radio is very instant and they have to be prepared for that."

Many of the students studying broadcast journalism were struggling to find

limited sight.

Lucy has ocular albinism, more commonly known as albinism. This restricts her sight and she can only see things close up.

She has been passionate about radio all her life: "I worked in hospital radio for a while before I came here which was great because I love music," she explains. "The problem was after I found it really hard to do normal jobs."

"I always hoped by this age I would be at this stage and getting closer to where I want to be and doing a job I really love, and now I can."

Fellow student Steve Langsdale, 45, feels the course has been invaluable and says there is nothing more important to him than proving you can be partially sighted and hold down a full-time job.

He was made redundant from his former job in radio after 16 years and is back at college learning the computer skills he now needs.

He says: "It's great for us to be part of a real broadcast. I am pretty optimistic about getting a job. Having 16 years' experience might help but I have to get out there in the real world and find out."

The college has helped people like Lucy build a life, independent of home and family. She adds: "My mum worries about me non-stop, but I have proven to my mum now that I am OK on my own, I have such a great support base down here and the college has been so supportive."

Redstone FM and its team hope to be back on the air permanently early next year, depending on when their licence is approved by Ofcom.

careers before they started the course, due to their



# BORDERLINES

AROUND

## REDHILL

REDSTONE.FM, a community radio station for Redhill and Reigate, last weekend completed its fourth temporary broadcast.

Redstone.fm ended its four-week broadcast on Saturday with a second outside broadcast from Redhill's Memorial Park.

Redstone.fm presenter Natalie Osborne presented a special programme at the Celebrating Age festival while reporter Paul Swann interviewed many of the participants.

Natalie Osborne said, "Despite the weather it was a fantastic day. It was great to get out of the studio and meet our audience and provide a showcase for Redstone.fm to the general public."

Redstone.fm went on the air on May 21 and was the official radio station for the Redhill Carnival.

The station broadcast its first ever outside broadcast on Sunday June 3 at the Redhill Carnival Fun Day.

John Gooden, chairman of the Redhill Carnival organising committee said, "Redstone.fm provided a terrific boost to the carnival. It provided publicity, not just for the carnival but also the chosen charities who are benefiting from the fundraising."

Whilst this is the end of Redstone.fm's fourth temporary broadcast, it plans to return with a further broadcast early in 2008.

Redstone.fm is also supporting the efforts of Reigate and Banstead Community Radio in its forthcoming application to the media regulator Ofcom for a permanent community radio licence.

# Radio station gets a helping hand from blind broadcasters

REIGATE and Redhill's community radio station Redstone.fm demonstrated its commitment to blind and partially-sighted broadcasters during its last temporary broadcast.

During the last four-week broadcast, which ended earlier this month, 40 per cent of the station's live output was produced by people who are either blind, partially-sighted or have some other serious disability.

This figure would have risen to 49 per cent, but one of the key daytime presenters suffered a family bereavement which took him

away from the station, based at the RNIB college studios, in Philanthropic Road, Redhill.

Des Shepherd, Redstone.fm's licensee said: "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.

"I hope that those involved with Redstone.fm have felt they made a positive contribution."

Tess Lewsey, one of the presenters who has broadcast on all four of Redstone.fm's temporary broadcasts, said: "I have always had an interest in radio broadcasting and came to the RNIB Redhill College following stints on my local hospital radio in Cambridge.

"I am grateful to the opportunity offered by Redstone.fm in allowing me to develop my

broadcast skills."

Johnny Cassidy, another former student from the RNIB Redhill College who presented the daily magazine show at the station, said: "As a result of my two stints at Redstone.fm, I have been offered a place on a post-graduate broadcast journalism course in Portsmouth.

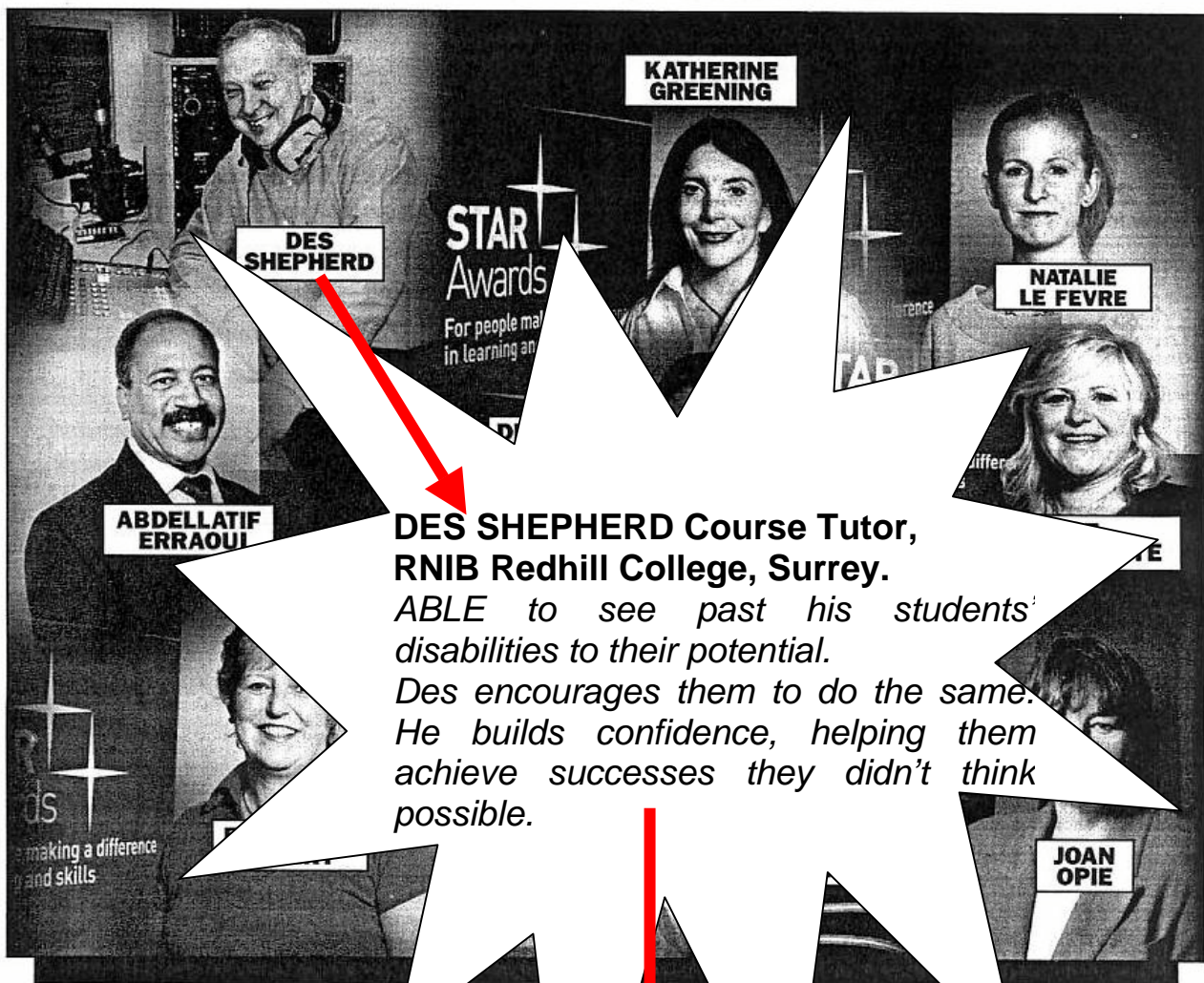
"Redstone.fm allowed me to develop my interviewing skills and build my confidence to use complex studio equipment.

"I am looking forward to this course when it starts in September."

Sony Hivax 28/6/07



# Mirror WORKS



**DES SHEPHERD** Course Tutor,  
RNIB Redhill College, Surrey.

*ABLE to see past his students' disabilities to their potential.*

*Des encourages them to do the same. He builds confidence, helping them achieve successes they didn't think possible.*

## Gold Stars

**T**HE ability to pass on a new skill is a precious gift. And that is why we are proud to be involved in some very special teaching awards.

The annual QIA STAR Awards recognise the unsung heroes working in the 16-plus learning and skills sector – those teachers whose talents help to inspire, encourage and support students in further education.

And this year there is a brand new prize category, The Mirror's Learners Choice STAR Award.

It is nominated by students to commend an exceptional member of staff, who has inspired and motivated them to succeed.

We have whittled down a host of fantastic nominations to a shortlist of 10.

Each of them has received a certificate and will attend a glittering awards ceremony in London later this month, where one of them will be crowned our overall Learners Choice winner.

Our finalists are:

**DR AUSTIN HILL**  
Access Course Leader  
Morley College, London

*AN inspiration to his students, Austin encourages them to approach their work*

## 10 FAB FINALISTS UP FOR MIRROR AWARD

*with discipline, focus and sincerity, enabling them to achieve great results.*

**ABDELLATIF ERRAOUI**  
French and Arabic Tutor,  
Birmingham Adult Education  
Service

*ENTHUSIASTIC about his subjects, Abdellatif always helps pupils achieve their goals. Attentive and encouraging, he ensures lessons are engaging and enjoyable. He really understands students and adapts teaching style and content accordingly.*

**DOREEN CHAPPELL** Basic  
Skills Coordinator, Leicester  
Adult Education College

*DOREEN is a natural. She can interact with students at their level to encourage them to achieve their very best. Her support extends beyond the classroom, providing assistance with writing letters and filling in application forms.*

**PETE DAY** Photography  
Tutor, Exeter College

*HIS hands-on teaching technique both inspires his students and elicits their respect. Pete encourages students to succeed by pushing*

*them to the limits of their ability.*

**ELIZABETH PERRY**  
Learning and Development  
Officer, Greenwich Council,  
London

*ABLE to make each learner feel important, Elizabeth is always willing to help with both personal and work-related issues.*

**KATHERINE GREENING** Pathfinder  
Course Tutor, Kingston  
College, Surrey

*HAVING an instant connection with young people from all walks of life, Katherine offers the support, kindness and attention many of her students have not experienced.*

**DES SHEPHERD**  
Course Tutor,  
RNIB Redhill  
College, Surrey

*ABLE to see past his students' disabilities to their*

*potential, Des encourages them to do the same. He builds confidence, helping them achieve successes they didn't think possible.*

**LOUISE CARRINGTON DYE**  
Hairdressing Tutor, Amersham  
& Wycombe College, Bucks

*AN inspiration, Louise supports her students both technically and personally. By letting them share any fears and problems regarding the course she enables them to get the very best out of themselves.*

**NATALIE LE FEVRE**  
Programme Leader for  
Dance, Harlow College, Essex

*NATALIE instils in her students a self-belief which produces significant results – including a dramatic rise in grades.*

**JOAN OPIE** Skills for  
Life Tutor, Stockton  
Adult Education,  
Teesside

*SHOWING a true passion for teaching, Joan's inspirational methods are tailored to meet the individual needs of her students, helping them exceed all expectations.*

For more on the QIA  
STAR Awards visit [www.dfes.gov.uk/starawards](http://www.dfes.gov.uk/starawards).

**BT WILL** be searching for more than 400 apprentices for its Open-reach division, which links millions of homes and businesses to communications providers' networks. Budding telecoms engineers aged 16 or over can apply online from early in the New Year with successful applicants starting apprenticeships in summer 2007. For information, visit [btplc.com/Careercentre/CareerStart-Apprentices/index.htm](http://btplc.com/Careercentre/CareerStart-Apprentices/index.htm)



Wednesday, July 26, 2006

[redhillandreigatelife.co.uk](http://redhillandreigatelife.co.uk)

## Star tutor in line for award

A TUTOR for people with sight problems has been shortlisted for an award after being nominated by his students. Des Shepherd, who teaches at the Royal National Institute of the Blind Redhill College, has been shortlisted for a STAR award which recognises outstanding contributions to learning.

Organised by the Department for Education and Skills, there are 17 award categories. Des has been nominated for the Learners Choice STAR award, open only to nominations from students.

As a teacher on the college's radio broadcasting course, Des is also the licensee of the college's radio station, Redstone FM.

He said: "I was very surprised when I heard I had been nominated. I work in this field because I enjoy passing on my subject knowledge and over the years have helped students develop their talents and succeed in getting jobs in the radio industry. I am gratified that my efforts have been recognised."

● Radio students from the RNIB Redhill College will be on air from October 7 to 27.

Redstone FM, run by students on the radio broadcasting course, will be filling the airwaves for the third time under a temporary license issued by Ofcom.

Programmes will be broadcast from the college. The broadcast frequency will be announced in September.

## Redstone.fm

Redhill and Reigate RSL station Redstone.fm completed its fourth temporary broadcast last weekend, with a second outside broadcast from Redhill's memorial park. Redstone.fm presenter Natalie Osborne presented a special programme at the Celebrating Age festival whilst reporter Paul Swann interviewed many of the participants. Natalie Osborne said, "Despite the weather it was a fantastic day. It was great to get out of the studio and meet our audience and provide a showcase for Redstone.fm to the general public."

The station plans to return with a further broadcast early in 2008 and is also supporting the efforts of Reigate and Banstead Community Radio in their forthcoming application to the media regulator Ofcom for a permanent community radio licence.

Radio  
Magazine  
June 2007





**FULL OF LIFE:** Over-80s singing group Spice Of Life performed at a festival to celebrate living longer and healthier lives.

The Celebrating Age event in Redhill Memorial Park was open to young and old and included live acts, tai chi and line dancing.

Redstone FM rounded up its four-week temporary licence with a broadcast from the festival. The radio station came on air on May 21 and was the official broadcaster for Redhill Carnival.

The next Redstone broadcast is planned for early 2008 and the station is supporting Reigate and Banstead Community Radio's application for a



permanent community radio licence.

Pictured are the Spice Of Life and Paul Swann and Mike Ward, of Redstone FM, interviewing borough mayor Dorothy Ross-Tomlin.



## Radio Interview



Rave in  
the pod

Anyone who has become involved in volunteering will know how important it is to encourage more people to join in as we can always do with an extra pair of hands to help! On 22 May, we had the perfect opportunity to do this with an interview on radio Redstone, a community radio station for Reigate, Redhill and Banstead. Nadine Cullum arranged for Matthew Smith, Verity Lambert and myself to be interviewed with her by Peter Fletcher. We had the chance to talk about some great work we had done so far, including how much fun we'd had doing various community projects, such as the very successful YMCA fun run. We explained why we had chosen to volunteer, the aspects of it we enjoy most and how essential it is to the local community, which hopefully influenced many listeners to find out more and get involved as well.

Not only was this a brilliant way of spreading the news of volunteering, but it was also a great experience to get behind the scenes and be able to see how a local radio station works. I in particular found this, an exciting, enlightening and useful opportunity, as I am possibly looking to pursue journalism as a career.

I'd like to say thank you to vInvolved and Radio Redstone for this great opportunity.

Rachel Stafford

## Redhill and Reigate Life – May 2008

Life

redhillandreigatelife.co.uk



**Nigel Fitzmaurice:** I am standing beside a place of worship perched on a hill just outside Redhill. This distinctive monument can be seen for many miles around. What is the name of this building?



**Johnny Cassidy:** I am up on a hill away from the bustle of this particular town. There used to be a castle but now just peaceful gardens and a folly. Where am I?



**Annie-Marie Evans:** I am on a common overlooked by Reigate Hill. At one end of the green open space is a former working structure that is now a private residence that sails no more! Where am I and what is this building?



**Tess Lewsey:** I am at the heart of this particular town outside a place where the bells toll and where it is just possible you could shop until you drop. All the big stores are here and it's the place to come for the theatre and cinema. Where am I?



**Des Shepherd:** I feel like I am on the top of the world. Looking south I can see in the distance the South Downs with a hint of the English Channel. Looking to my right, Leith Hill stands proud. Behind me is a folly. What is the name of this folly?

# Reckon you know the borough?

REDSTONE.fm is proud to broadcast to the borough of Reigate and Banstead. The two towns of Redhill and Reigate, while in close proximity, are vastly different.

Overshadowing both towns are the magnificent North Downs while around the towns are a number of locations providing delightful open space away from the urban sprawl.

To celebrate the fantastic place that is the borough of Reigate and Banstead, the radio station is supporting the council's Love Where You Live scheme. It takes pride in being a part of life in the borough and wants to help promote civic pride. But how well do you know the area?

Redstone.fm presenters have been out

## Redstone.fm

and about with a camera and have come up with five locations you want you to identify. Clues for these locations will have been broadcast on Redstone.fm over the last few days and pictures of the five presenters on location are printed above.

To take part in this competition, e-mail the five answers to [omnir@redstone.fm](mailto:omnir@redstone.fm) making sure you include your name and contact details. Alternatively, call Redstone on 07953 430199 with your answers (and contact details).

All the correct entries will go into a draw to take place on Monday, May 26.

The prize for the winning entry is dinner for two with a bottle of wine at Le Barbe French restaurant in Reigate.

Redstone.fm's competition rules may be viewed at [www.redstone.fm/competition-rules](http://www.redstone.fm/competition-rules).

Redstone.fm is the local community radio station for Redhill, Reigate and Banstead and is currently broadcasting with its fifth temporary licence.

The station developed from the radio training courses run at the RNIB Redhill College. Although the college closed last summer, Redstone.fm continues to broad-

cast with temporary licences and offer the opportunity for those who are blind or partially sighted to get involved in radio broadcasting.

Redstone.fm is supported by radio industry partners and individuals who recognise the importance of radio to those with sight difficulties. This year, Redstone.fm is providing a showcase for local community involvement.

Redstone.fm's long-term aim is to secure a permanent, full-time licence to broadcast to the borough. Such licences are expected to be advertised by the media regulator Ofcom in the coming months.

Redstone.fm can be heard on 87.7FM until Monday, May 26. Programme details at [www.redstone.fm](http://www.redstone.fm)