

Spring 2006 Ramsey Matters

The Ramsey Town Centre Partnership Newsletter



ISSUE 10

Spreading the word

Communication and promotion are key elements of the Ramsey Town Centre Partnership's work and we are particularly pleased to announce the completion of three new projects which will help to spread the word about our area.

The first is our brand new website which, as well as providing information about the Partnership, will promote our area's rich history and heritage, our visitor attractions and events, our local businesses, services and facilities, and provide the links and relevant signposting which visitors to the site might be looking for. The website address is www.ramseytowncentrepартnership.org.uk

The second is the *Ramsey Business Directory*. This is an A5 booklet, produced with the generous support of local printers, Parrot Print Ltd, listing all the businesses in the town and the business members of the Partnership. It contains contact details and information about each business and their service or products.

The Business Directory is available in a number of venues around the town, including the Community Information Centre at 39 Great Whyte, and further afield throughout the county to encourage visitors to use our shops and facilities. It is also published on our website.

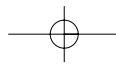
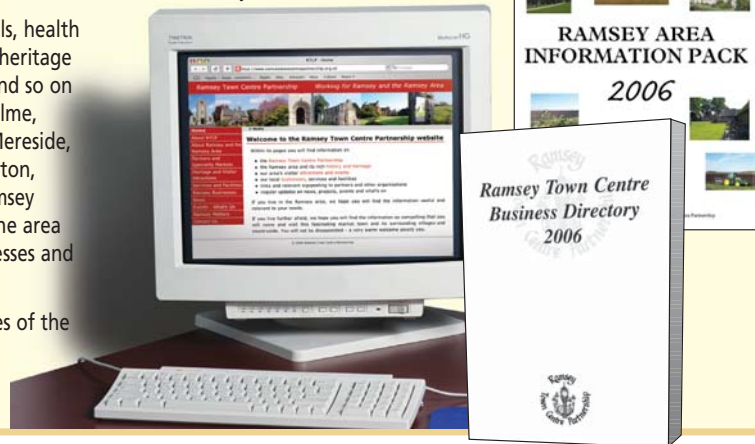
The third piece is the *Ramsey Area Information Pack*. The pack has been produced in conjunction with Philippa Croucher, Project Officer with the Ramsey Area Partnership (RAP), and with support from Huntingdonshire District Council. Both the Town Centre Partnership and RAP are community led and have representatives from the public, private, voluntary and community sectors, and an Information Pack is one of the projects identified in both our Action Plans. This joint collaboration clearly illustrates how effective partnership working is benefiting the communities who live in the Ramsey area.

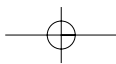
The information covers everything from schools, health and care facilities, recreational opportunities, heritage and visitor attractions, bus timetables, maps and so on and covers the villages of Bury, Conington, Holme, Ramsey Forty Foot, Ramsey Heights, Ramsey Mereside, Ramsey St Mary's, Warboys, Wistow, Woodwalton, Upwood and the Raveleys, and, of course, Ramsey itself. The pack will be available throughout the area and further afield to encourage visitors businesses and newcomers to our area.

If you would like further information, or copies of the publications, please do let us know.

Contents...

Planning for Real.....	2
Visitors' Perception of Ramsey Town Centre.....	2
Heavy Traffic through Ramsey.....	2
Did you know?	3
Flower & Produce Show	3
Ramsey Farmers' Markets	3
Ramsey Arts Festival.....	4/5
JobSearch Help Needed	4
Authors Come to Ramsey.....	5
Ramsey Area Heritage and Tourism	6/7
Upwood's Big Day	6
Ramsey Carnival	7
Ramsey Town Centre Partnership.....	8





Planning for Real



What is Planning for Real?

- Planning for Real is a fun informal open event that allows local people to say what they think about their community in many different ways.
- The first stage of Planning for Real uses a scaled down 3D map of an area made by local school children.
- Planning for Real provides ideas and suggestions that could improve a community or area and encourages local people to contribute and discuss their own ideas and concerns.

Throughout March a series of consultation events will be held to gain community views on the level of services and facilities in the Ramsey area, or simply to give people the opportunity to raise concerns or particular issues they might have.

The exercise is called Planning for Real and involves practical events where everyone is invited to give their views by putting 'comment' flags onto a map of the area. There is no limit to the number of views you can put forward and there is no public meeting to contend with. You simply turn up, spend a few minutes putting your ideas down on the map and then you are on your way again.

Ramsey Junior School has been involved in the creation of the 3D scale model of Ramsey and there will be a number of opportunities for everyone to come and see their hard work and put forward their views on issues in the Ramsey area.

Look out for flyers delivered to your door and posted around town confirming the dates, times and locations of the events.

If you would like further information, contact Philippa Croucher at the Ramsey Community Information Centre on 01487 814897 or email: philippa.croucher@huntsdc.gov.uk

Visitors' Perception of Ramsey Town Centre

In November of last year a survey was commissioned to gather benchmark data from visitors to and users of the town. The research will help to identify if there are any areas which those visiting and using the town centre felt could be improved. As a survey of this type had not previously been undertaken in Ramsey, it is not possible to compare figures against past results. However, it is hoped that the survey will be repeated in future years in order to identify whether opinions have changed and whether projects to improve the town centre have been successful.

Interviews were based around questionnaires and conducted over the course of one week, which was selected to include a day when the Farmers' Market would be taking place. A wide range of town centre users were included, with the interviewers asking people to take part regardless of the age, gender and whether they had any form of disability.

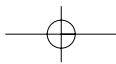
A total of 199 surveys were undertaken as face-to-face interviews and the results have been published in the document, Visitors' Perceptions of Ramsey Town Centre, 2005. It makes interesting reading and you can access the complete survey on our website www.ramseytowncentrepartnership.org.uk or in printed format from the Town Centre Partnership's office (opening times 9.00am-1.00 pm).

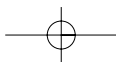
Heavy Traffic through Ramsey

For the past year or so, the Town Centre Partnership has been active in bringing to the attention of the County Council's Highway department, our concerns regarding the passage of heavy commercial vehicles through the High Street and Great Whyte, where concerns have been expressed by many traders and residents.

We have received a fairly comprehensive letter from the County Council outlining the central government guidelines regarding B roads, the Council's actions to date and their plans for the future.

A summary of the letter is available from the RTCP office.





Did you know that the Ramsey Town Centre Partnership

- ✓ Organises FIVE Farmers' Markets each year
- ✓ Brought the first ever Continental Market to Ramsey in 2005 – now a regular event
- ✓ Provided access to electricity supply for markets
- ✓ Produces four issues of Ramsey Matters each year
- ✓ Ramsey Matters is delivered to 6,000 homes in the Ramsey area
- ✓ Works with local schools and youth projects
- ✓ Has a membership of around 50 businesses and individuals
- ✓ Has produced a Ramsey Business Directory
- ✓ Has developed a dedicated website www.ramseytowncentrepartnership.org.uk
- ✓ Has jointly produced an information pack covering services and facilities in the Ramsey area
- ✓ Manages the JobSearch project for local job seekers
- ✓ Installed the Ramsey Beacon
- ✓ Developed the plans for the refurbishment of the Barge Dock
- ✓ Produced the four Healthy Walks leaflets
- ✓ Produced the Pub & Grub Trail leaflet
- ✓ Installed and manages the town's notice boards on the Great Whyte and Abbey Green
- ✓ Developed and manages the Keep Ramsey Tidy Campaign
- ✓ Is a key partner in the Ramsey Area Partnership and the Heritage and Tourism Group
- ✓ Works with other local and regional groups
- ✓ Has delivered free training workshops
- ✓ Participates in study tours for key economic support and funding organisations
- ✓ Carries out surveys and research to inform future plans

Ramsey and District Garden Club Flower and Produce Show



The Ramsey and District Garden Club will be holding their Flower and Produce Show on 22 July at the Ramsey Rural Museum.

This event is not only for members of the club but is open to everyone in the district. The Club encourages entries from a wide range of members of the community.

There is something for everyone. As well as classes for flowers and vegetables (you do not have to be an expert gardener to enter these), there are chances to enter cookery, preserves, handiwork such as needlework and models as well as flower arrangements, art, or photographs.

There are special opportunities for children to enter and if they tell us the school that they attend, there is a cup for the school that gains the most points based on the number of entries from the school and points for first, second or third places in the various classes.

A number of novelty classes are included such as 'my best flower', a misshapen flower, a misshapen vegetable, longest runner bean, heaviest onion and the largest marrow. Again there will be an award for the person gaining the most points in these classes.

On the day the exhibits are staged between 8.00 and 10.00 am with an entry fee of 25p per entry for those who are not members of the Club. The show is open for viewing from 1.00 to 4.00 pm. Entry for viewing is free and the museum is open with refreshments available. Why not come along and have a fun afternoon in the wonderful surroundings of the museum? Even better why not try your hand in some of the classes?

More details of the show are available from Ian Gaunt (Show Secretary) on 01487 710702; fax 01487 711507; email Ian.Gaunt@Care4Free.net

The Garden Club meets on the third Monday of each month at 7.30pm at the George Hotel. We have talks of general interest relating to gardens and the environment as well as visits to gardens. We are a friendly group with members of all levels of gardening ability.

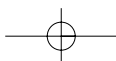
Farmers' Market Dates for 2006

Friday 12 May
Friday 7 July

Friday 1 September
Friday 13 October

Friday 8 December

French Market –
Sunday 26 March



RAMSEY ARTS FESTIVAL

This summer, don't miss the Arts Festival Programme for 2006. There are events to suit every taste.

On Friday 22 April at 7.30 p.m., Zimbabwean dancers **Black Umfolosi 5** will perform at the Ailwyn School, Ramsey sponsored by Arts on Tour in Cambridgeshire. Tickets cost £5 each, and are available from School Plus, Great Whyte, Ramsey from the beginning of April.

Black Umfolosi "shimmering vocal harmonies.. compulsive rhythm" Sydney Morning Herald



On 28 April, at 7.30 p.m. the popular **Arts Festival Quiz Night** will be held at the George Hotel, Ramsey. This is a great ice-breaker if you have not attended the Festival events in previous years, and would like to meet with others with an interest in the arts. For only £2 per competitor, all are welcome.



Huntingdonshire Concert Band, who give so much pleasure to Ramsey music lovers

On Saturday 6 May at 7.30 p.m. in St Thomas a Becket Church, there will be a programme of sacred and secular music performed by the **City of London Chamber Choir** and the assistant organist from St Martin in the Field, **David Hirst**.

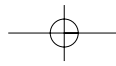
On 13 May 2006 at 7.30 p.m. in the Ailwyn School, **Huntingdonshire Concert Band** will play a range of popular music for all tastes.

Do you have a couple of hours to spare once a month?

Our JobSearch project is growing and we need more volunteers to help local job seekers find work locally.

If you like people, can commit to working two to three hours one morning each month in the Community Information Centre, Great Whyte, we would love to hear from you. Training is available and ongoing support is always provided.

To learn more about JobSearch and volunteering, please contact Vera Woolmer, RTCP co-ordinator on (01487) 813612 or email rampart@btinternet.com



On Saturday 3 June, in Bury Village Hall, the theme for the Poetry evening is **“Blue Remembered Hills”** – a lovely summer evening of wine and verse with a nostalgic theme, for lovers of the spoken word, including works by Hardy and Housman.

Saturday 10 June 7.30 p.m. at the Ailwyn School, the **Solaris String Quartet**, with **Raphael Terroni** at the piano, will play music by Edward Elgar.

The Ailwyn School will be transformed on Saturday 24 June for a **Cabaret Evening** of music for all tastes. The audience is invited to bring food and wine, and to dine in style.

Finally the Combined Schools Concert on 29 June, directed by Jenny Robertshaw at the Ailwyn School, heralds the summer programme of music for which Ramsey is well known.



Sri Lankan dancers performing on the Abbey Green during a previous Festival

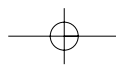
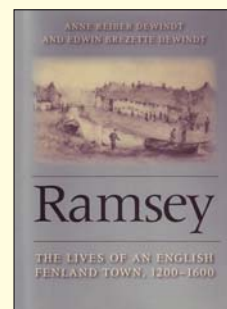
In addition to the Festival Programme, the free brochure and directory contains details of summer programmes for the Ramsey Choral Society, Brass Band Concerts and events at the Rural Museum.

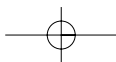
For updates and more details of events see the Arts Festival website at www.ramseyarts.co.uk

Authors come to Ramsey

The Ramsey Rural Museum is delighted to announce that it will be hosting a very special event on Saturday 17 June.

Acclaimed authors, Anne Reiber Dewindt and Edwin Brezette Dewindt, will be at the Museum to sign copies of their newly published book, **Ramsey The Lives of an English Fenland Town, 1200 – 1600** on the 17th June at 2.00 pm. Further information is available from the Rural Museum on 01487 814304.





Ramsey Area Heritage and Tourism Group



The formation of this group was mentioned in the last issue of Ramsey Matters – here are just some of the forthcoming events in the Ramsey area over the coming months. Watch our noticeboards on the Great Whyte and Abbey Green, and the Ramsey Community Information Centre for more information and other events.

April					
1st / 2nd	Annual Second hand Book sale	1000's of quality books, also records, tapes, videos, cds.	11am-5pm	Ramsey Rural Museum	Entrance £1.00 Children Free.
2nd	Cream Tea Tour	Guided walk of gatehouse, museum, mortuary chapel with David Cozens.	TBA	Ramsey Rural Museum	TBA
9th	Indoor Car Boot Sale	To book stall tel: 01487 814832 (between 5pm-7pm). Set up stalls from 8.30am.	9.30am-12noon	Ramsey Forty Foot Village Hall	
22nd	Stories for St George's Day	St George's Day stories of Saints, Heroes and Heroines.	10.30am-12noon	Ramsey Library, School Lane, Ramsey	
22nd	The Black Umfolosi 5	Performances of traditional songs and dances from a group from Zimbabwe. Tel: 01487 812094 or 813607.	7.30pm	Ailwyn School, Abbey Road, PE26 1DG	£6 adults, £5 concessions, £3 under 18s
22nd	Ramsey 1940s Dance	Music of the era with Silver Band.	7.30pm-midnight	Abbey School, Ramsey	Tickets £10
28th	Arts Festival Quiz Night	General enquiries tel: 01487 813607.	7.30pm	The George Hotel, Ramsey	

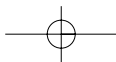
Upwood's Big Day

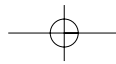
Upwood is holding a Village Open Day on July 15th.

There will be open gardens, an Art Exhibition and, a new venture.....a mass garage sale!

This will consist of a number of houses throughout the village simultaneously displaying all manner of items and bric-a-brac for sale. So, if you live in Upwood, start saving your unwanted items now - profits will go to help village organisations.

If you would like to take part, or would like more information, contact Frances Ashfield on 01487 711411 or John Laing on 01487 812686 as soon as possible.





May					
6th	'Day School about Ramsey'	Talk by local historian David Cozens.	TBA	Ramsey Rural Museum	
6th	City of London Chamber Choir with organist David Hirst	General enquiries tel: 01487 813607.	7.30pm	Thomas a Beckett Church	
12th	Ramsey Farmers' Market	Fresh, high quality local food direct from producers.	8am-2pm	Great Whyte, Ramsey	
13th	Huntingdonshire Concert Band	General enquiries tel: 01487 813607.	7.30pm	Ramsey Ailwyn School	
20th	Ramsey Choral Society Event	TBA	TBA	TBA	
28th	Plant Sale	Also entry to Ramsey Abbey Walled Kitchen Garden.	11am-5pm	Ramsey Rural Museum	£1.00 per person
June					
3rd	Country Colour	An invitation to amateur artists of all standards to come and paint for the day. Plenty of room inside if wet. Refreshments available by prior order or bring your own.	10am – 4pm	Ramsey Rural Museum	£2.00 per person
10th	Archaeological Finds Day	Bring your finds and have them looked at by an expert.	2pm – 4pm.	Ramsey Rural Museum	
17th	Official book signing: The Lives of an English Fenland Town 1200 - 1600	Acclaimed authors Anne and Edwin Dewindt will be signing their book on Ramsey.	2.00 pm	Ramsey Rural Museum	

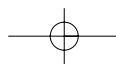
Do you remember the Ramsey Carnival held in July 2004?

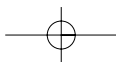
What a great day it was for everyone. So many people commented on how lovely it was to see the decorated floats parade through the town. It was such a good turnout and people from Ramsey and the surrounding towns and villages, as well as summer visitors, made comment on what a great day it was.

The Carnival is held every other year, and the committee is now preparing for the 2006 event, which will be held on Saturday 22nd July.

To make this Carnival even better, the committee is looking for new members. Anyone who would like to be involved in the planning, or is able to offer help in any way, would be more than welcome. Also, any enquiries from stall holders and exhibitors can now be addressed to the committee.

Please contact Mrs Candy Dodsley, Carnival Chairman on Ramsey 812673 for a chat and further details – we really would appreciate your help. Thank you.





What is the Ramsey Town Centre Partnership?

The Ramsey Town Centre Partnership (RTCP) is led by an executive committee – all volunteers – who work with the co-ordinator to drive the Partnership’s Action Plan. The Action Plan is, in effect, an outline of the Partnership’s vision for the future and encompasses the Partnership’s Objectives.

RTCP is also a key partner in the Ramsey Area Partnership and will lead on, or support, a number of the initiatives identified in their Healthcheck Strategy and Action Plan 2004 – 2007.

We believe Ramsey has a lot to offer. We want to make it a more vibrant and economically active market town. Through our projects, activity and membership we plan to increase Ramsey’s appeal to residents, businesses, traders, and visitors alike.

Who are the Partnership’s Members?

Ramsey Town Centre Partnership has a membership drawn from local residents, retailers, businesses, community organisations, Ramsey Town Council, Huntingdonshire District Council and Cambridgeshire County Council. Money is raised through membership fees, grants, sponsorship and fundraising activities.

What are the Partnership’s Objectives?

The Partnership has identified seven key objectives; all projects and activities are directed towards achieving those objectives and detailed in an action plan.

- To improve the image of the Town Centre and promote it for shopping, leisure, cultural and commercial destination
- To improve the communication within the Town Centre and between all Town Centre Organisations
- To encourage and facilitate improvements to the physical environment of the Town Centre
- To improve and promote the safety and accessibility of the centre to all its users
- To encourage citizenship and pride within the Town Centre
- To aid the process of inward investment into the Town Centre
- To measure and monitor the performance of the Ramsey Town Centre Partnership.

How do I join?

Just ask! Membership to the Town Centre Partnership is positively encouraged and greatly valued. Annual fees are as follows:

Individual	£5.00
Charity or Community Group formed for the benefit of public purposes	£10.00
Small Business (up to 10 employees)	£20.00
Medium Size Business (10+ employees)	£50.00
Major Company (50+ employees)	£100.00

Membership application forms are available from Vera Woolmer, Ramsey Town Centre Partnership, 39, Great Whyte, Ramsey, Cambs, PE26 1HH. Tel: 01487 813612. Email rampart@btinternet.com

We welcome your comments and criticisms. If you would like to see a particular subject or interest published in our next issue please contact the Ramsey Town Centre Partnership Co-ordinator, 39 Gt Whyte, Ramsey, Cambs, PE26 1HH, tel 01487 813612 or email rampart@btinternet.com. Whilst every effort has been made to ensure accuracy we cannot accept any liability for errors or omissions.

