

Spring 2007 Ramsey Matters

The Ramsey Town Centre Partnership Newsletter



ISSUE 14



Didn't We Do Well!

From left, Katy Sismore, Huntingdon Town Centre Manager; Emma Thornton, former Huntingdon Town Centre Manager; Corrine Garbett, Economic Development Manager at Huntingdonshire District Council; Sally Bonnett, Regeneration Officer at East Cambs District Council; Vera Woolmer, Ramsey Town Centre Manager; Lisa Warman, Economic Development Officer at Huntingdon District Council, and Alistair Theobald, St Ives Town Centre Manager.

Huntingdonshire has scooped three of the four 2006 Eastern regional awards from the Association for Town Centre Management, including the coveted overall regional project award which could lead to a national prize in March.

The award for Creating Quality Environments was presented to Huntingdon Town Centre Partnership for its work with the district council on the environmental improvement scheme for St Benedict's Court, Huntingdon. The second award, Enhancing the Retail Offer, was presented to HDC for the PRIDE retail training courses that have been used by 174 people at five venues – including Ramsey – across the district. And, this project was named Overall Winner and will go forward to the national competition.

The Ramsey Town Centre Partnership was proud to take part and delighted to give a presentation on the Ambassador workshop which was so well attended in Ramsey. More training news and opportunities are on the Business Matters pages.

RAMSEY JOBSEARCH *Putting job seekers and employers in touch*

JobSearch is a Ramsey Town Centre Partnership project which helps job seekers to find local employment, and helps local employers to find staff to fill their vacancies.

Employers register their job vacancy details with us and that information is available for those looking for work. For job seekers it's just a matter of dropping in to the JobSearch session on Monday mornings, registering your requirements and then we will check through our vacancies with you. We can also help with searching the website for vacancies, provide information on training, and signpost the many support agencies that can assist those who are not in employment.

Could you do the job? JobSearch is now preparing for a busy 2007 and we need more volunteers for our Monday sessions. Typically, our JobSearch advisor will do one 2-hour session per month, meeting job seekers, speaking with businesses and updating files. There is an excellent training programme to give volunteers all the support they need and the team is well supported by RTCP and other volunteers. Can you give two hours once a month to support our community? If so, we would love to hear from you. Call Vera Woolmer at RTCP for an informal chat any morning between 9.00 am and 1.00 pm.

And, don't forget, if you are looking for work, or if you have a job vacancy do register with us. The service is completely free and confidential. **For further information, contact RTCP on 01487 813612.**



Business Support Initiative

The Ramsey Town Centre Partnership's work is focused on the town's economic growth and sustainability. We offer support, information and training opportunities to the business community and work with partner organisations to add strength to a whole range of projects. The Ramsey Business Matters pages are for you to share information, raise issues, request help – we will do our very best to give you information and support.

Please do contribute to this section and, if you wish to be involved in our business and work related projects, please do get in touch.

Promote your business to thousands of visitors

A wide range of retailers and craftspeople are taking space at this year's Inland Waterways Association Festival at St Ives. More than 248 boats have registered, 300 – 400 campers are expected and thousands of visitors will attend over the three days of the event. If you would like to book a stall or exhibition space contact the Festival hotline on 0870 240 2438. More information is available on the IWA website. The Waterways Festival will be held on August Bank Holiday Friday 25th to Monday 27th August. See page 5 for full article.

Take part and promote your food related business

Do you have a food related business? If so, you need to know about this year's Huntingdonshire Food and Drink Festival. The festival is being celebrated throughout the district from 8 - 16 September. This is a 'first' for Huntingdonshire and it is planned to become an annual event. There will be excellent opportunities to promote your business and product – and encourage visitors from across the region to come to Ramsey. Contact Vera Woolmer at RTCP for more information. **A Feast of Flavours – Huntingdonshire Food and Drink Festival is on page 5.**

Services for Business – a partnership approach

Huntingdonshire District Council provides a wide range of services to help businesses.

Their leaflet, Services for Businesses, outlines these and gives further contact information on Economic Development, Planning, Building Control, Environmental Health, Business Rates, Licensing, Waste Management /Refuse Collection, Trading Standards, Social Services, Fire and Rescue Service and Police. Information and support is also available electronically through their website www.huntsdc.gov.uk/business where you can access directories, property registers and much more.



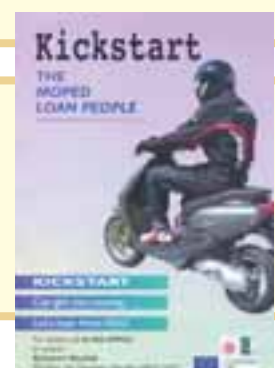
Huntingdonshire Enterprise Agency

Seminars and Workshops covering a range of business skills from Bookkeeping to Business Planning are available through Huntingdonshire Enterprise Agency. Training is free if you are unemployed claiming jobseekers allowance and their Starting in Business Seminar is free to all. Others carry a cost. For more information see www.cambsenterprise.co.uk or call Kelly on 01480 450028

Business Link for Cambridgeshire is another good source for training and networking sessions. They hold events throughout the year. For further information call the enquiry team on 0845 609 7979 or email: enquiries@cambs.businesslink.co.uk

Need transport to get to work or training?

If you live in a rural area and transport is a problem, there is a moped loan scheme called **Kickstart**. They are waiting to hear from you. Just call 01362 699923.



Enterprise Fenland offers support, grants, and more, particularly to start up companies. They can be contacted at Longhill Road, March, Cambridgeshire, PE15 0BL. Tel: 01354 660900 Fax: 01354 660021. Email: info@enterprisefenland.com

The Rural Gateway offers a quick and easy route to advice for all farm, land based and rural enterprises including finance & funding, managing & training your staff, information and communications technology (computers and broadband), environmental advice, business mentoring, innovation & design, starting a business and trading internationally.

They have experienced people to answer your enquiries and business advisors that can come out to see you to talk through your issues in detail. Just call 0845 600 9006 or visit their website at www.ruralgateway.info/

Ramsey JobSearch can help you fill your vacancies. A free, confidential service is available to all local businesses. Just contact RTCP on 01487 813612 or call into the weekly JobSearch sessions every Monday from 10.00 – 12.00 at the Community Information Centre, 39 Great Whyte, Ramsey.

Free Training – RTCP is developing three workshops; **Visual Merchandising** – How to make your window display really work for you; **Your business on the web?** – do you need a website and if so how to design your own or instruct a web design company; **A Welcome Host** – for those in the leisure or tourism sector. The sessions will be free, designed especially for Ramsey businesses and available in town in spring/summer. Look out for posters and leaflets or contact RTCP on 01487 813612 for more information.

Business Crime Reduction

RTCP is in discussions with Huntingdonshire Business Against Crime (HBAC) to explore the possibility of bringing the initiative to Ramsey. HBAC is an independent, non-profit making organisation set up in 2004 as a direct response to requests



from members of the Huntingdon Town Centre Partnership and proved a great success. In 2005 it was expanded to include St Ives and St Neots and has achieved reductions in criminal activity and theft from business in these towns.

We are keen for Ramsey to have the same crime reduction opportunities – if businesses want it. Ultimately it will be their decision whether or not to take part, but we will present them with the facts and figures in due course.

As we go to press, we have registered our interest with HBAC's manager and are awaiting a meeting and further discussions. We will, of course, keep everyone informed of progress. HBAC leaflets are available from RTCP if you would like to know more. If you have any views about business crime and its prevention, please do let us know.

FREE INTERNET

The Ramsey Community Information Centre at 39 Great Whyte, Ramsey is an Access Point, which means that there are two FREE to use computers with internet and email facilities. Free IT training is available. To check opening times and for further information call 01487 815213.

Further free to use computers are available at Ramsey Library. Check opening times on 01487 812575.

Unemployed and need an NVQ?

If so, there are funds available to cover your costs. For support and further information, just contact Julie on 07738 642057 or Lyn on 07971 806397

The Grand Cinema Site

As we go to press, the design proposals for the development of the Grand Cinema site in Ramsey have yet to go to the Ramsey Town Council. The latest version of the design plans are on display at the Community Information Centre, and residents' views are still being sought.

Luminus Group state that the site will be rejuvenated to provide a range of new and exciting facilities in a 'fresh and modern building'. Many residents are pleased that Ramsey will at long last have a centrally positioned library/learning centre and other community facilities, whilst others have expressed concern with the design of the building and the issues of car parking.

Ramsey Town Centre Partnership will continue to listen to all sides and facilitate the communication between residents, businesses, developers and statutory bodies. Our role is to support Ramsey's economic growth and strength and our commitment is to work to make Ramsey a vibrant, successful and sustainable town centre for residents and visitors alike. If you want us to hear your views about the Grand Cinema site or any other issue concerning the town centre, please do get in touch. We will make sure your comments are passed on if that is what you wish, and we are always pleased to hear from our readers.



Age Concern Registered Traders

Age Concern Cambridgeshire and Trading Standards keep a Register of Traders who will provide services for older people who are looking for a reliable and reputable person to undertake work for them. Traders have to provide references and undertake a Criminal Records Bureau (CRB) check to join the scheme.

You can get a copy of the most recent register by calling Age Concern Cambridgeshire on 01354 696650. A copy of the register is held for reference in the Ramsey Community Information Centre, 39 Great Whyte.

If you are a trader who would like to join the scheme (gardeners are particularly needed), please contact Graham Clark at Trading Standards on 01954 284638.

Information about Services for Children

The Family Directory of Childcare and Children's Services in Cambridgeshire is produced by the Early Years and Childcare Service and contains information about services for children, young people and their families, including details of registered childcare and early years education throughout Cambridgeshire.

A copy is held for reference at Ramsey Community Information Centre, 39, Great Whyte, or you can call 0845 04 54014 or visit the website at www.childcarelink.gov.uk and www.isadirectory.or.uk

Congratulations and thanks for our Christmas Lights

It may seem a long time ago, but the Ramsey Christmas lights and the big switch on were, once again, absolutely fantastic. RTCP would like to congratulate the Christmas Lights committee and all those who worked so hard to make the town look so festive. Thank you to everyone involved.



A Feast of Flavours – Huntingdonshire Food and Drink Festival 8 – 16 September 2007

Huntingdon's first Food and Drink Festival, taking place over nine days in the district's four largest towns, will have its grand 'Finale' here in Ramsey.

The Festival will run from Saturday September 8th to Sunday September 16th and include a variety of events designed to celebrate Huntingdonshire's superb food related businesses, from the growers and producers to the pubs, restaurants, chefs and suppliers. The message will be buy local, eat healthy, reduce food miles, and have fun! The Festival will bring visitors to our town, give us nationwide promotion and generate interest in Huntingdonshire as a place to do business and visit.

Following a special St Neots Farmers' Market on 8th September, the Festival really swings into action with a showcase event, FoodFest 07, to be held at Wood Green Animal Shelter on Sunday 9 September. The event will feature tastings, cookery demonstrations, the opportunity to try local producers' food and drink, the chance to 'have a go' at different food skills and visit up to 100 stalls selling all manner of food and drink. This will be a great day out for the whole family and, importantly, it will also give local suppliers and producers the opportunity to show their products and demonstrate the value of 'buying local', eating healthily and reducing the number of food miles 'consumed'. Alongside the food stalls, there will be a food-related craft show.

During the rest of the week-long Festival, local pubs and restaurants in all four towns will be encouraged to offer locally-sourced Festival menus, there will be a Honey Day and Teddy Bears' Picnic at Hinchingsbrooke Park and, on Sunday 16 September, a special Ramsey Farmers' Market plus a 'Feast of Fenland' celebration at Ramsey Rural Museum. We're also planning grain grinding demonstrations and visits to local farms on the 15th and 16th September.

RTCP is a member of the Food Festival Group working with Deni Darke, Huntingdonshire Food and Drink Festival Project Manager at HDC, and Fab! the festival marketing agency. If you would like to be involved in the Food and Drink Festival, either as a sponsor, participant or visitor, contact Vera Woolmer at RTCP. You can also visit the website www.huntsfoodfestival.co.uk



Waterways fun comes to the district

The annual Inland Waterways Festival is a fantastic three day, family friendly celebration of our waterways. This year the festival is coming to St Ives but its impact will be felt throughout Huntingdonshire. Ramsey, with its river networks, historic buildings and warm welcome, is well placed to take advantage of all the visitor and tourism benefits.

The festival is over the August Bank Holiday Weekend 25th -27th August, but the festival-goers are expected to arrive at least two weeks early and spend their time leading up to the festival visiting attractions in Huntingdonshire.

This national event attracted 28,000 visitors and 300 exhibitors in 2006 and has something to offer all age groups. It includes a whole host of trade and charity stalls, selling everything from boat merchandise to arts, crafts, jewellery, clothing and toys. There will be a Wild West Show, a traditional funfair, falconry displays, a classic car rally, decorated boats, boat handling skills, children's activities, bands, dancing groups and a wide variety of refreshments including a beer tent.



Promotions ahead of the festival include a children's art competition which will be at Ramsey Rural Museum. The competition is open to all schools in the district and the prize-giving will be in Ramsey Rural Museum in July.

The festival organisers are currently looking for exhibitors for all areas and entertainers for the children's theatre programme which runs every afternoon. Is this your opportunity to get involved?

RTCP is playing an active role in maximising Ramsey's presence at the Festival, so for more information please contact us on 01487 813612. You can also speak to Helen Donnellan who is the key link with the festival organisers. Helen is based at Huntingdonshire District Council on 01480 388263.

Youth Matters



Cash for Young People

Youth Bank Huntingdonshire is an innovative grant making scheme run by young people for young people.

Ask young people the following questions.

Do you have an idea for a project that will give you things to do or places to go?

Does your group need money for that project?

Are you (and all in your group) aged between 13-19 years?

Do you live in Huntingdonshire?

Does your group include members who face disadvantage ? (eg, disability, live in a rural area, young carers, excluded from school).

IF YES—download an application form and apply.

£200
to
£5000

Easy application
Check it out

www.youthbankhuntingdonshire.co.uk

Update



It has now been decided to take this project further with two strands.

Following the huge success of the mobile skate park sessions we plan to carry this on using more equipment throughout the summer months. Hopefully this can be weekly or fortnightly.

The second strand is to look into providing more permanent facilities with a group of dedicated young people.

Contact details: Mark Hollis. Telephone 01487 813159. E-Mail:~ mark.hollis@cambridgeshire.gov.uk



RAMSEY AREA PARTNERSHIP



Cambridgeshire
County Council



Healthy Walks in Ramsey

Did you know that every week walkers gather for a group walk led by a qualified walk leader?

There are four routes in and around Ramsey all taking in points of historical interest and/or scenic views. Each walk takes about an hour and is suitable for all ages and all abilities. This is a really friendly, informal group (we often stop off for a cup of coffee). And dogs are welcome!

The walks are based on RTCP's four healthy walks leaflets: Town Walk, Museum Meander, Golfing Saunter and Upwood Ramble. Leaflets are available from RTCP's office, the Community Information Centre, Ramsey Library, Ramsey Leisure Centre and some shops in the town.

For more information on the walks and the time schedules, contact Lisa Curry on 01480 387047. Email: Lisa.Curry@huntsdc.gov.uk. www.huntingdonshire.gov.uk/leisuredevelopment

For information on the leaflets contact RTCP on 01487 813612.

Healthy Walks and Heritage Interpretation Boards

RTCP is working with Ramsey Area Partnership and other partners to install a number of interpretation boards in and around Ramsey. There will be one at each of the four healthy walks mentioned above as well as at heritage visitor attractions. Watch this space for more information and pictures!



Resource Boxes available on free loan to Community Groups within Ramsey

There are approximately eighty community and voluntary groups offering residents local to Ramsey a service or activity. Recent funding secured by CP Learning Trust from EEDA to establish Ramsey as a 'Learning Community' has provided these Community groups' access to resource boxes. There are four boxes in total and offer the following equipment.

- Box 1 Laptop & printer
- Box 2 Video recorder & digital camera
- Box 3 Laminator, guillotine & document binder
- Box 4 Laptop



Equipment available for loan is varied and may be used in a number of different ways. Training on how to use the equipment will be provided by our local Learning Champions if required. It is hoped the resource boxes will be well used and assist community groups in Ramsey to promote the service or activity they offer to local residents. The equipment will be housed at the Ramsey Community Information Centre, 39 Great Whyte. To borrow any of the resource boxes please contact Val Fendley on 01487 815213 or Julie Drummond on 01487 814361.

First Farmers' Markets for 2007

Our first market this year will be on Friday 18th May

All our favourite local producers will be with us again. Come and support the market and treat yourself to the finest local fare. The market is held on the Great Whyte from 8.30am until 2.00 pm.

December Farmers' Market Raffle Winners

Ticket	Prize	Ticket	Prize	Ticket	Prize	Ticket	Prize
486	Christmas Tree	264	Rice Cooker	16	Christmas Crackers	436	Mince Pies
426	French Cider	271	Candles	311	Pictures	40	Cow Soft Toy**
465	Bag	376	Scarf	287	Cassio	320	Keyboard

All prizes claimed except **Ticket number 40. Funds raised for Ramsey Farmers' Markets.

Ramsey Town Centre Partnership



Did you know that our Membership is open to everyone? Have you ever thought about joining us?

Whether you are a private individual, a community group, association, business, sole trader.....you will be most welcome.

Our work is centred around making Ramsey the best place to live, work, and visit. Why not come on board! You can be involved as little or as much as you wish and membership gives you all the benefits listed below.

Contact us today and find out more. You can either call Vera Woolmer on 01487 813612, email rampart@btinternet.com; write to Ramsey Town Centre Partnership, 39 Great Whyte, Ramey PE26 1HH, or call into the office at the above address. The office is open every day from 9.00 am – 1.00 pm.

Membership of Ramsey Town Centre Partnership gives you:

- ✓ Minutes of Executive Committee Meetings
- ✓ The opportunity to attend Executive Committee Meetings
- ✓ An invitation to our Annual Review
- ✓ Communication - our members-only publication which focuses on economic development and relevant issues affecting the business community
- ✓ Ramsey Matters – a quarterly general information newsletter
- ✓ The opportunity to benefit from staff training schemes and other business initiatives
- ✓ Entry in a Members' Directory
- ✓ Listing on our website with information about your business/service and hyperlinks
- ✓ Sponsorship and advertising opportunities
- ✓ Networking at business breakfast meetings to be held throughout the year
- ✓ Opportunity of Business Membership at Ramsey Leisure Centre incorporating Impressions Fitness Suites
- ✓ Business support through our channels of market intelligence and network of service and information providers
- ✓ Preferential discounted advertising rates with District Wide (quarterly magazine distributed to 60,000 householders within Huntingdonshire)

And, most importantly...

- ✓ The opportunity to be involved and play a part in the economic growth of the Ramsey area

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.ramseytowncentrepартnership.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

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, 39 Gt Whyte, Ramsey, Cambs, PE26 1HH, tel 01487 813612 or email rampart@btinternet.com. www.ramseytowncentrepартnership.org.uk

Whilst every effort has been made to ensure accuracy we cannot accept any liability for errors or omissions.

