

Summer 2006

Ramsey Matters

The Ramsey Town Centre Partnership Newsletter



ISSUE 11



**Gina Randall,
Ramsey Town
Centre Partnership
Chairwoman**

It is a great pleasure to take up the role of Chairwoman of the Ramsey Town Centre Partnership, and I am looking forward to a busy and productive year.

The work we do is carried out by the executive committee members – all volunteers, who freely give their time, energy and commitment – and our co-ordinator, who runs the office and is the first point of contact. I am very grateful to have such a strong and dedicated team to work alongside.

I must pay tribute to the dedication and commitment of our past Chairman, Dennis Jackson. Dennis was one of the founding members of the Partnership and has been a staunch and tireless worker both as Chairman and as a lead member on particular projects. I should also like to thank Jane Roberts who has just retired from a long stint as Treasurer. Jane, too, was a founding member and, as well as undertaking Treasurer's duties, she has also led on a number of our projects. We wish Jane and Dennis a well deserved rest. I'm pleased to say that, whilst they may have taken a step back from the committee, they remain members of the Partnership, and we are grateful to have their continuing interest and involvement.

Looking to the future, as a resident of Ramsey, I am well aware of the challenges we face as we work to improve the quality of life of those who live, work and raise their families here. As

a local shop owner, I know of the challenges faced by the retail and business sector. I also know that Ramsey is a unique market town, rich in history, and surrounded by lovely villages and countryside. We have much to work for and much to celebrate and I am looking forward to playing my part in the Ramsey Town Centre Partnership's efforts to do just that.

Gina Randall

Ramsey Heritage Review

A new, extended Conservation Area for Ramsey was adopted by the District Council in December 2005. The new area now includes areas of open land to the north and south of the town, and some of the streets leading out from the town centre – including Hollow Lane, Bury Road and Biggin Lane. The designation of a larger Conservation Area will help to control the quality of new development in the town and will also bring protection for existing trees.

A Character Assessment has also been provided for the new Ramsey Conservation Area. This document describes what is important about the town, historically and visually and can be used to inform future decisions about development. It includes information about typical building heights, styles, materials and architectural details – all of which help to make Ramsey special.

In addition, the District Council has published a Management Plan for the Conservation Area. This identifies a series of projects which will help to improve the character and appearance of the town. It includes planning proposals for vacant sites, as well as potential environmental improvements such as lighting, surfacing and shopfront improvements.

Further information about the Ramsey Conservation Area can be provided by Huntingdonshire District Council's Planning Services on 01480 388424 or on-line at www.huntsdc.gov.uk

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RTCP Members' Breakfast Meeting

Around 20 members came along to our first Members' Breakfast Meeting held at Turbine Motor Works Ltd, Upwood, on Thursday 20 April.

A buffet breakfast was followed by a presentation by Tom Vaughan, MD of Turbine Motor Works and a tour of the hangar workshop. Tom described the company's operations, why they chose to relocate to our area and their plans for future growth. Members were particularly pleased to hear about the company's apprenticeship programme aimed at local young people.

Members also took the opportunity to network and get to know one another.

Following the success of this meeting further Breakfast Meetings will be held during the year.



New Mayor For Ramsey

At the Town Council meeting on 11th May, Councillor Ian Walker was elected mayor of Ramsey for the year 2006/2007. Councillor Pat Taylor, a previous mayor of Ramsey, was elected as deputy mayor.

Councillor Walker replaces Councillor Phillip Swales who has been mayor for the last two years and who has recently been appointed Chairman of Huntingdonshire District Council.

A resident of Ramsey Mereside, Ian has been a member of the Ramsey Town Council for three years and has been deputy mayor for the last two years, as well as Chairman of the Finance Working Party.

A Yorkshireman by birth, Ian moved with his wife Sue and children Ben and Victoria to Ramsey Mereside in 1988 from where he commuted daily to London before retiring in 2002.

In addition to his council duties Ian is an active member of the Mereside Village Association and of Ramsey Rotary Club.

Police Community Support Officers

Our Police Community Support Officers are always available to take a call if you have any worries, concerns or information regarding crime, personal safety, parking issues etc. They are a friendly voice at the end of the phone and will always help or advise. You can call Jill Tiernan, or her colleagues on 07921 094812 any time.

You can also contact PC Ned Kelly who is the Local Community Beat Manager at the Ramsey Police Station on 0845 4564564.

Ramsey Matters is on the Web

Ramsey Matters can now be accessed on our website, ramseytowncentrepartnership.org.uk
Winter 2005 and Spring 2006 issues can also be found. All issues are downloadable pdf files.



What a Difference a Year Makes!

Looking back over the past twelve months shows that the Ramsey Town Centre Partnership had a pretty successful year. We achieved most of the immediate goals we had set ourselves and are still working towards those that are scheduled for this current year and beyond.

Five Farmers' Markets were held which not only brought fresh, local produce to our shoppers, but also involved our schoolchildren, the leisure centre and other agencies promoting healthy eating and healthy lifestyles. We also took the opportunity to have entertainment on the Great Whyte and to use the October market as a backdrop to our Trafalgar Weekend Celebrations.

That particular weekend we lit our newly installed Ramsey Beacon, held a 'Trafalgar Dinner' and organised an art competition and exhibition for local school children.



During the year we installed a notice board on Abbey Green to complement the one already on the Great Whyte. These boards are available to all groups to publicise events and information.

We also set about the long task of compiling the Ramsey Town Centre Business Directory and started to build the Ramsey Town Centre Partnership website – both now in use. Later on we worked with the Ramsey Area Partnership to develop the Ramsey Area Information Pack, a comprehensive guide to services, leisure, health, education, and facilities in Ramsey and each of the surrounding villages. The information pack has just been published and is available from our office, the Ramsey Community Information Centre, the Library and a number of the shops in Ramsey.



Still on the theme of providing information, the Partnership has regularly distributed information to residents and businesses regarding local development, planning issues, rateable values, new legislation and so on.

In August 2005, working with the committee for the Ramsey 1940's Weekend, we held a 1940's shop window competition which turned the clock back for many in the town. Suddenly shops were sporting taped windows and displaying 1940's clothes and products. It was a delightful event and we were very pleased to be part of it.

In October, we delivered the first Ramsey Ambassador course which was a tremendous success with more than twenty people attending. The workshop was designed to improve the level of service we offer to visitors to the town and it was judged by the attendees to be a very useful session. The Ambassador course was followed by the launch of the exciting PRIDE Retail Skills Programme, an initiative from Huntingdonshire District Council working with town centre managers in the district to provide free evening sessions aimed at boosting the retail services.

In November, on a cold day of continuous pouring rain, we held Ramsey's first ever French Market. Despite the awful weather, it was a huge success with hundreds of shoppers thronging the Great Whyte, many of whom had come considerable distances.

Throughout the year we have grown the Town Centre Partnership's JobSearch Scheme which offers job seekers help in finding local work, and worked alongside Job Centre Plus to help facilitate employment in our area.

These are just some of the projects we have been working on. There are many others, some ongoing, some completely new and innovative. The Town Centre Partnership is all about working with partners and the community for the benefit of Ramsey and its local communities. Together, we can grow in strength and meet the demands of 2006 as well as plan for 2007 and beyond.



Environmental Improvements

Works undertaken by Huntingdonshire District Council to improve the appearance of Great Whyte are planned to begin in August 2006. New setts and slabs will be laid along a section north of New Road, organising the parking bays and providing a more pedestrian-friendly environment. New lighting has already been installed in this area in readiness.

Ramsey Kitchen Garden wins Lottery Grant

The Heritage Lottery Fund has awarded a grant £24,971 to restore a Victorian walled kitchen garden in the grounds of Ramsey Abbey. The grant will be used to restore original features in the garden and to provide a new access route from Ramsey Rural Museum.

The Walled Garden was the kitchen garden for Ramsey Abbey when it was a private house. In 1998, the garden was re-discovered in the grounds of Ramsey School by members of the Cambridgeshire Gardens Trust. The garden was very overgrown with self sown trees and brambles with the original box hedges being more than six feet high.

Originally created in the Victorian age as a kitchen garden to serve the Abbey, the garden was last in active use by the school in the 1950's and 1960's. Now, with the grant from the Heritage Lottery Fund, the garden will be restored to its original splendour, growing fruit, flowers and vegetables traditionally associated with Cambridgeshire. This means the strong local tradition of horticulture will be preserved and celebrated.

The award of the Lottery Grant will allow part of Ramsey's history to be restored. The Ramsey Abbey Walled Kitchen Garden Trust, formed to restore the garden, is working closely with Ramsey Rural Museum and when restored, the garden will open to the public at the same times as the Museum.

We are always looking for volunteers to work in the garden, if you would like to join us, please contact Jane Sills on 01487 711177.

The Garden will be open when Ramsey Rural Museum stages its Country Fair on 24th September, access via the Museum only.

Counting down to new playground!

The days of no play equipment for the children of Upwood are numbered, following the successful fundraising efforts of the Children of Upwood Play Scheme (COUP) volunteers. They have raised an amazing £36,359 through grants from Huntingdon District Council, Awards for All, individual fundraising and a grant from WREN, who administer the Landfill Tax Credit Scheme of WRG.

COUP would like to thank Cambridgeshire County Council, Huntingdon Housing Partnership, Muir Group, Bedfordshire Pilgrims,

Upwood Village Fete committee, and local businesses Munters

Ltd and ERMS UK Ltd for their donations and support. They

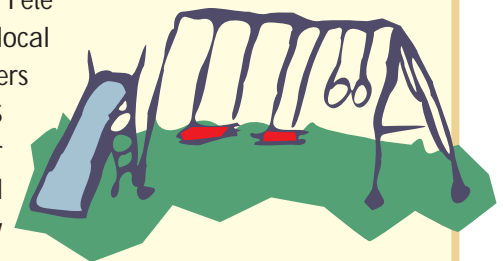
would also like

to thank everyone who helped and gave so generously at their fundraising events.

Upwood and The Raveleys Parish Council have played a vital role in this project, providing the land for the playground and undertaking the ongoing maintenance, insurance and so on. Without their support there would be no playground.

Work will start week commencing 3rd July 2006 and will be completed within approximately three weeks.

Congratulations to all concerned, and to the children of Bury - Enjoy!



Farmers' Market Going from Strength to Strength

Our first Farmers' Market this year in May was a huge success with more stalls than ever and a wider range of produce available to shoppers.

A total of twenty three traders selling first class, local produce gave our shoppers and visitors a real treat offering a wide range of goods from cheeses, vegetables, preserves, plants, chillies, cakes, pies, meats and hot food to herbal preparations and hand spun wool. Our special guests were a Jacob's Sheep mum and two gorgeous lambs. Our other special guests were Eel Pie Band who provided the entertainment.



**Don't miss our next
Farmers' Markets**

Ramsey Farmers' Markets are held on a
Friday on the following dates 7 July,
1 September, 13 October and 8 December.

Bisbrooke Ostrich Farms
Brownsfield Farm
Clover Free Range Eggs
Cobs Bakery
Edible Ornamentals
Edwards Vegetables
Fen Farm Venison
Fen Flora
Fenside Jacob's Sheep
Franklins of Thorncote
Grange Farm Nurseries
Grasmere Farm
Harvest Bakery
Highcorner Herd
Lincolnshire Poacher
Little Common Farm Preserves
Lunchbox Plus
Simply Herbs
Springfields Beef
Tom's Cakes
Willis Landscapes
Wobbly Bottom Farm
Woburn Country Foods
Woodlands Organic Farm



Shopfront Improvement Grant

Over the last year, grant offers have been made to nine local shops in the Ramsey Conservation Area to help improve their existing shopfronts. The grant has been made available by the Ramsey Area Partnership as part of the improvement of the Conservation Area.

Proposed works include re-decorating, refurbishment and repair to a completely new, traditional shopfront. The projects will be carried out within the next twelve months.

Further funds are available this year for local shopkeepers to refurbish even more shop fronts, all of which will help to improve the character and the appearance of our town. For more information, contact Chris Surfleet on 01480 388476.

Ramsey Area Heritage and Tourism Group

Here are just some of the forthcoming events in the Ramsey area. Watch our noticeboards on the Great Whyte and Abbey Green, and the Ramsey Community Information Centre for more information and for other events.



DATE	TITLE OF EVENT	DETAILS	TIME	LOCATION	ADMISSION CHARGE
JULY					
1st July	Music Quiz	Contact Ian Walker on 01733 844287	7.30pm	Ramsey Mereside Village Hall	£1 per person
2nd July	Strawberry Fayre	Strawberry teas, arena events, stalls, bouncy castle, bar. Contact Sue on 01733 844287	1-5pm	Ramsey Mereside Village Hall	
2nd July	Cream Tea Tour	Free guided walk by local historian, David Cozens, taking in the Gatehouse, Mortuary Chapel and Abbey Walled Garden finishing at the Rural Museum with an optional cream tea (£3 per head). Booking essential. Tel: Ramsey Rural Museum on 01480 814304/815715 or David Cozens on 01487 815229	2.15pm	Meet at The Gatehouse, Ramsey Abbey Precincts	Free walk. £3.00 for Cream Tea at the Ramsey Rural Museum
7th July	Ramsey Farmers' Market	Fresh, high quality local food direct from the producers. Meats, cheeses, bread, preserves, vegetables, fruit, pies, sausages, plants, herbal remedies, and much, much more. Hot food and entertainment. Free transport available from local villages. For more information contact Ramsey Town Centre Partnership, tel 01487 813612	8.am -2pm	Great Whyte, Ramsey	
8th/9th July	Art Exhibition	Exhibition open to all amateur and professional artists	11am -5pm both days	Ramsey Rural Museum	Entry to the exhibition £1 Entry to the Museum normal prices apply
8th July	Ramsey Choral Society Summer Concert	Featuring Melanie Lodge - mezzo soprano - talented young professional, and Lindsey Abbott, one of Cambridgeshire's premier jazz vocalists. Tickets available from Buddles Butchers, Warboys, Carousel, Gt. Whyte, Ramsey or any choir member	Gates open at 4.30pm Music from 6-10pm	Ramsey Abbey Grounds	Tickets £8 in advance £10 on the gate Free Parking
15th July	Upwood Village Open Day	Open Gardens, Art Exhibition and Mass Garage Sale. Profits go to help village organisations. For information contact Frances Ashfield on 01487 711411 or John Laing on 01487 812686		Upwood	
22nd July	Ramsey Horticultural Society – Annual Garden Show	Something for everyone with classes for flowers, vegetables, cookery, preserves, handiwork such as needlework and models, as well as flower arrangements, art, and photography. Contact Ian Gaunt on 01487 710702 or email lan.Gaunt@care4Free.net	Exhibits staged from 8 -10am Viewing from 1-4pm	Ramsey Rural Museum	25p per entry



DATE	TITLE OF EVENT	DETAILS	TIME	LOCATION	ADMISSION CHARGE
JULY (continued)					
22nd July	Ramsey Carnival	Procession and Carnival Information from Mrs C Dodsley Tel: 01487 812673	Procession 1pm Carnival 2pm	Ramsey Ailwyn School, Abbey Road, Ramsey	FREE
22nd July	Fun Quiz	Contact Ian Walker on 01733 844287	7.30pm	Ramsey Mereside Village Hall	£1 per person
AUGUST					
6th Aug	Family and Local History Experience	Family history societies, commercial stalls, museum archive available	10am-4.30pm	Ramsey Rural Museum	Entry fee includes entry to the Museum Adults £3 Concessions £2 Children £1.50
6th Aug	Cream Tea Tour	Free guided walk by local historian, David Cozens, taking in the Gatehouse, Mortuary Chapel and Abbey Walled Garden finishing at the Rural Museum with an optional cream tea (£3 per head). Booking essential. Tel: Ramsey Rural Museum on 01480 814304/815715 or David Cozens on 01487 815229	2.15pm	Meet at The Gatehouse, Ramsey Abbey Precincts	Free walk £3.00 for Cream Tea at the Rural Museum
19th/20th Aug	The Fourth Annual Ramsey 1940's Weekend	Living history displays, Paul Harper Band. For information tel: 01487 814753 (Abbey Antiques) or Brian & Christine Cunningham 01487 710680 or email: enquiries@ramsey1940sweekend.info www.ramsey1940sweekend.info		Upwood Airpark, Ramsey Road, Bury	Event tickets: Adults £5 per day 5-16 yrs/OAPs £3 Under 5s Free
19th Aug	Ramsey 1940's Dance	Jeff Short Swing Band For information tel: 01487 814753 or 710680		Airpark at RAF Upwood, Bury Road	Dance tickets £12.50
27th Aug	Thatching Day	Demonstrations of thatching during the day		Ramsey Rural Museum	Adults £5 Concessions £3 Children £1.50 Under 5s Free

Have you ever thought of entering The Hunts Post Business Awards?

- These awards are an opportunity to celebrate our business community
- They are designed to recognise and reward small, medium and large businesses, new or well-established, in the private and public sectors from anywhere in Huntingdonshire.
- Is your business/staff the best in Huntingdonshire? Then regardless of size and turnover, rejoice in the qualities of your team, products and services, gain positive publicity, raise the profile of your business, build team spirit and motivation by winning a coveted award – go on, be proud enough to enter a category.
- Closing date for entries - Friday 25 August 2006.

Further details about the awards and full details of the categories and how to enter can be found on www.cambs24.co.uk/businessawards or contact Carol Gray Carol.gray@archant.co.uk for an entry pack.

Information is also available from the RTCP office or in the Ramsey Community Information Centre., both at 39 Great Whyte, Ramsey.

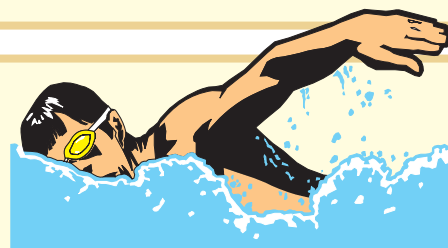
The Awards Gala Evening will take place on Friday 10 November at the Burgess Hall, St Ives,



Categories

Small Business of the Year
Retailer of the Year
Business Person of the Year
Employer of the Year
The Innovation Award
Employee of the Year
New Business Award
Business Development
Sustainable Development Award
Business of the Year.

'Pay As You Go' Adult Swim Lessons at Ramsey Leisure Centre



It's never too late to learn to swim!

Ramsey Leisure Centre is now offering 'pay as you go' lessons to its established swim lesson programme for adults.

For those who do not want to commit to a term or maybe can't make every week, the new 'pay as you go' lessons gives you the opportunity to come to the lessons when it suits you.

Lessons are on Tuesday evenings; 7.30 p.m. – 8.15 p.m. is for complete beginners and non swimmers; 8.15 p.m. – 9.00 p.m. is for confident beginners and improvers. Spaces can be booked one week in advance and payment must be taken on booking.

For more details or to book, call Ramsey Leisure Centre now on 01487 710275.

Salsacize and Pilates courses at Ramsey Leisure Centre

Salsacize is a great way to keep fit and to have fun. Suitable for everyone, these sessions are held on Thursdays from 6.00 p.m. – 7 p.m.

Pilates is a relaxing class, aimed at improving posture, body alignment, breathing, muscular strength and control.

Pilates sessions are held on Mondays from 8.00 p.m. -9.00 p.m.

Both classes are run as a 5 week course and cost just £18.00. To find out the dates or to put your name on the waiting list for the next course, please call Ramsey Leisure Centre now on 01487 710275.

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.

