

Summer 2007 Ramsey Matters

The Ramsey Town Centre Partnership Newsletter



ISSUE 15

Huntingdonshire Food and Drink Festival Comes to Ramsey



Ramsey takes centre stage at the first ever Huntingdonshire Food and Drink Festival when we host the final day of the event.

This is our chance to show off local produce and local skills, so on Sunday 16th September there will be a special Festival Farmers' Market, enhanced with musical accompaniment and street theatre. This will be followed by a family event at Ramsey Rural Museum, when Fred White, a wizard at sculpture using the most unusual materials, will be here to show just what can be made from all that surplus packaging we complain about. Fred is one of life's true enthusiasts and will encourage the children to join in and help with his 'Sculpture of the Day'!

There will be cream teas (locally-made, of course!), and the chance to stroll over and view the progress of the restoration project at Ramsey Abbey's Walled Kitchen Garden.

Why all this celebration? Well this is a Huntingdonshire - wide, nine-day event which will bring a (literal) feast of flavour to the market towns throughout the whole district from the **8th to the 16th September this year.**

There will be a whole range of events going on, small and large, simple and complex and something to attract all members of the

family. In fact, we really want to see children at most of the events so they can learn more about what is available on their own doorstep in the way of healthy food.

There will be a big, one-day food and drink extravaganza, Food Fest '07, at Wood Green Animal Shelter, Godmanchester, on Sunday 9th September. Throughout the Festival there will be special locally-sourced menus available in local restaurants, food quizzes, beer and wine tasting sessions in local pubs, a Teddy Bears Picnic, special Honey, Apple and Plum days and a special Festival Dinner at the Old Bridge Hotel, Huntingdon on Friday 14th September.

Full details of all Festival events can be found on www.huntsfoodfestival.co.uk New events are being added all the time so it's worth having a regular look at the site to check for events that interest you.

If you would like to promote your food and drink products at the Food Festival, contact Ramsey Town Centre Partnership on 01487 813612.

waste packaging sculptures by Fred White





We are delighted to publish the following information about the Ramsey Learning Community project as it has such benefits for everyone in the community, and that must be good for business!

Ramsey Learning Community was launched in October of last year. Since then the people of Ramsey have had the opportunity to take part in the free courses on offer. Further learning opportunities are due through workshops and courses with the aim of encouraging as many people as possible to join in.

By offering a variety of courses and workshops aimed at developing new skills, increasing employment opportunities or 'learning just for fun', the Ramsey Learning Community, under the 'Something for You' banner, has really taken off.

Part of this success is being achieved through partnership working and one of the opportunities centres around self employment. There are free 'Business Start Up' courses being run through Enterprise Fenland and in addition there are chances to attend further workshops on Marketing and Business Planning.

The Ramsey Learning Community has now entered the second phase of this scheme with events planned well into the year. The list below will give you a flavour of some of the opportunities that may be available in the coming months, places will need to be booked. If you would like to have a skills check for either the maths or English in the comfort of your own home then please ring the number below to request one.

4 days Through May & June 2007	Fork Lift Training - Age17 + Qualification ITSSAR - driving licence not required Safety boots or strong shoes must be worn (not supplied) 20 Question multiple choice test at the end	Start 9.00am End 4.00pm
Friday afternoons	Maths & English courses – free via Learn Direct at The Ramsey Community Information Centre If you own a PC some home learning is possible	2 hour sessions between 1 & 5
Friday afternoons	Switch On & Surf Direct - free To compliment computer courses already on offer at The Ramsey Community Information Centre	2 hour sessions between 1 & 5
Ongoing	NVQ Level 2 support Working in partnership with colleges and local businesses.	
Ongoing	Business Start Up Workshops	Sessions
Ongoing	CV, Interview, application form	Sessions
TBA - August 07	Dragons Den with The Scarman Trust	
September 07	Basic Food Hygiene	One Day
September 07	Fabric Painting – on offer to local schools	Sessions
October 07	Appointed Person First Aid Workshop St Johns Ambulance	9.30 – 16.00 One day
November 07	Health & Safety	One day
TBA	Web Design	

As always we are looking for volunteers to help us extend Ramsey as a Learning Community. Any volunteers will be joining a group of twelve Community Learning Champions who have already been through the free training. There is also an opportunity to become a Community Tutor.

Please contact Lyn on 07971 806397 or Ursula on 01354 691016 if you would like to find out more about any of the opportunities above.

'St Ives on Water' – The National Festival & Boat Show

Baroness Young To Perform Grand Opening

The Inland Waterways Association's National Festival is going from strength to strength with over 300 boats booked in for the festival already. The festival team is delighted to announce that Barbara Young, Baroness Young of Old Scone, has kindly agreed to perform the Grand Opening of "St Ives on Water", the IWA's National Festival, on Saturday, 25 August, 2007.

To perform the Grand Opening, Baroness Young will travel to the Festival site on the Broads Conservancy Launch, "Annie", built in the 1950's by Appleyard Lincoln, Ely. The boat had been abandoned in Westview Marina, but has been restored to her former glory by Les Fidler, the marina owner. "Annie", formerly "Whisper", is now electrically powered and for the Grand Opening she will be escorted up the river Great Ouse by a picturesque flotilla from the Steam Boat Association who will be mooring in Jones' Boat Yard, St Ives, during the Festival.

Ramsey Rural Museum will be hosting a schools competition to make a collage or sculpture from recycled products with a Waterways theme. The entries will be displayed at the museum in July and judging of the competition will take place on July 16th. The winning entries will be displayed at the Festival.

Planning for the Festival is well under way with over 300 visiting boats already booked in and exhibition space reserved by over 170 companies with more coming in all the time. The Festival entertainment will include a Wild West show, Classic Car Rallies, steam engines, two theatre programmes, bandstands, folk and line dancing, bell ringing, archery, falconry displays, circus skills



and an extensive children's activity programme. Exhibitors include arts and crafts, clothing, speciality foods, chandlery, boat engines, boat windows, leather goods, boat covers and furniture, jewellery, kitchen worktops, novelty items, healthy living products, solar and electrically powered small craft, and many more. Exhibition boats booked in include steel cruisers from Poland, GRP ones built in Norway and Turkey, narrow boats from China and Poland as well as those from English boatbuilders.

If you or your company would like to have further information about exhibiting at the Festival, just call 0870 241 0237 or visit the website: www.waterways.org.uk

But hurry space at the biggest inland waterways event in Europe is selling fast!



Lose Weight - Gain Health

A new weight loss programme comes to Ramsey



A free 12-week weight loss programme was launched by Cambridgeshire Primary Care Trust and Huntingdonshire District Council in Ramsey earlier this year. The new Community Health Improvement Programme – CHIP – aims to support people to gain health, not weight, in 2007 in a fun and effective way. Small changes to eating and activity habits can reduce or delay the health risks of being obese, such as high blood pressure, diabetes, stroke, heart disease and osteoarthritis.

The CHIP programme is designed to offer patients fun and interactive fortnightly workshops that will introduce them to local community activity and exercise programmes and provide practical ideas for improving their eating habits. Dieticians run a health and weight quiz and 'portion savvy' workshops. Participants work together in small teams to gain points, become more active, lose weight and gain health.

The first Ramsey CHIP programme was launched in February and 19 local people attended at the North Site Hall in Abbey College. Demonstrations were given by Ramsey Leisure Centre fitness instructors, the Healthy Walks team and a dietician. At the final session in April, Polly Redmond from Abbey College demonstrated two healthy dips to the groups and this was followed by a special prize giving celebration at which all the participants were awarded certificates of achievement (see photo).

This programme is modelled on an award winning lifestyle improvement (LIFE) programme that was originally provided for patients at the Spinney Surgery in St Ives. It won the National Obesity Forum's Primary Care Award for Excellence in 2004.

The next Ramsey CHIP programme will start in September 2007 and patients interested in joining this 12-week lifestyle challenge can request more information from their GP or practice nurse.

A person's Body Mass Index (BMI) will indicate if he or she is overweight or obese. If someone has a BMI over 25 this is considered to be overweight and if it is over 30 it is obese. The CHIP programme is for people with BMIs over 30, although if they have a condition such as high blood pressure or diabetes they will be accepted onto the programme with a lower BMI as obesity increases the risks associated with these conditions.

Ramsey Heritage Matters

Artist Ricki Outis has been working with local community groups in Ramsey over the last six months on the creation of a series of textile panels which identify heritage features in the town, from A to Z.

Earlier in the year, the completed panels were shown together for the first time at St Thomas a Becket Church at a special event for everyone who took part in the project.

Around 75 children from Ramsey Junior School, plus other community groups, including Mill House residents, young people from Chaos Youth Club, and members of Ramsey Storytellers had a chance to admire their handiwork. The event even made it onto Anglia News that evening.

The separate panels will shortly be on view to the general public in different places throughout the town, and there will be a special "Ramsey Treasure Hunt" competition over the summer associated with them.

All the panels will be on show again from 5th – 19th August (Thursdays 10am-5pm, Sundays 2-5pm) at Ramsey Rural Museum, when everyone will be invited to come and see them.

This project has been made possible by a generous grant from the Heritage Lottery Fund, through the Local Heritage Initiative, and forms part of a whole programme of events and projects. It has been organised and co-ordinated by the Arts Service at HDC. There is more info on the website: www.huntingdonshire.gov.uk/arts



Dates for your Diary

Ramsey Arts Festival runs from April through to July with a wonderful range of art, poetry, music, drama, film and other cultural events.

The Festival Programme is available at the Ramsey Community Information Centre and other locations, tickets are available from School Plus at 24C Great Whyte or by telephoning 01487 710225 or 813848.

The Town Centre Partnership wishes the Arts Festival another very successful season

On Sunday 19 August we are holding a special **Farmers' Market** as part of the fabulous 1940's Weekend event. So bring your 1940's shopping baskets and stock up on wonderful fresh, local produce...home grown, just how it used to be!

On Sunday 16 September Ramsey will host the finale of the Huntingdonshire Food & Drink Festival - and what could be more fitting than another very special **Farmers' Market**. **Street Theatre, Entertainment, Tastings, Fine Local Produce and much more. Don't miss it!**

What's on at Ramsey Rural Museum

The museum is now open each Thursday from 10.00 - 5.00 and Sunday from 2.00 – 5.00 plus Bank Holiday Mondays from 2.00 – 5.00.

7 – 8 July: Art Exhibition staged by the Upwood Art Group displaying works from amateur and professional artists. Some items will be on sale.

28 July: Ramsey and District Gardening Club Annual Garden Produce and Flower Show. Come and see what local growers produce in their own gardens and allotments.

25 July: Model Railway Fair. Model railway layouts from

local enthusiasts, trade stalls, bring and buy stall and lots more.

9 September: Heritage day. A national event to celebrate our heritage through places of interest in Ramsey.

30 September: Annual Country Fair. Ploughing competitions, heavy horses, craft stalls and much more. A great day out for all the family.

For more information contact the Ramsey Rural Museum on 01487 815715 or visit their website: www.ramseyruralmuseum.co.uk

Youth Matters

Toolbox Arts Project in Ramsey

Arts Award

Since September 06 we have been working with a number of young people throughout the Ramsey area on their arts award. This is a new award scheme offering young people the opportunity to gain a qualification in the arts. They have been participating in a variety of arts activities from photography, drama, graffiti, garden landscaping, film production, lighting, music, sculpture and more. Many of the young people we work with are from rurally isolated areas that don't often have this kind of opportunity.

In December we put through 21 young people in Bronze level and 4 on Silver level for their portfolios to be assessed and moderated. After all their great work we were really pleased to find out that everyone passed. The examiner was very impressed and wrote on the reports:

"Each of the young people picked an appropriate activity for their ability, performed their tasks well, and evaluated effectively. On meeting them they obviously enjoyed their activity and felt that the award offered them a structure, which was very useful. Good work all round."

The young people have all really enjoyed their award and those that have done their bronze are keen to move onto silver level. We currently have another 20 young people signed up working towards their bronze and silver awards.



Sound Space:

We have a music studio at the youth club, which is booked out by bands most lunchtimes and after school. We also offer sessions in the studio during most holidays. The music studio is equipped with a piano, a drum kit, guitar, bass, amps, pa system with mics, a computer with Cubase and midi keyboard for live recording. We have regular gigs for local young bands to perform, which have always been great nights and sold out!! Our next gig is on 21st June at the Thomas Beckett Church 7-10pm. Tickets will be available soon from the youth centre.

YOUTH THEATRE

Every Wednesday at the youth centre we run a Youth theatre for young people aged 11-19. It offers young people the chance to learn all elements of theatre, from script writing, set design and construction, costume, lighting and sound, performing, directing, dance and movement, puppetry and prop making, storytelling and also advertising and promoting.

Our next production is 'Wizard of Oz'.



Community Garden

A group of students from the XL group in Abbey College have designed and constructed a community garden for the people of Ramsey. The Community Garden is located behind the Ramsey Community Information Centre, 39 Great Whyte and will be open to the public on

Mondays: 1.00pm - 4.30pm

Tuesdays: 9.00am - 12 noon

Wednesdays: 9.00am - 12.30 and 1.00pm - 4.00pm

Thursday: 9.00am - 1.30pm

Fridays: 9.00am - 3.30pm
and every 2nd Saturday of the month
from 9.00am - 1.00pm.



This work has been funded by Fen Leader+ and the office for children and young people services. For more info about the work at Ramsey youth centre or the arts award please contact Dibs Fletcher on 01487813159 or email

dibs.fletcher@cambridgeshire.gov.uk
www.chaosyouthcentre.co.uk

Second Term for Ramsey's Mayor

At the Town Council meeting on 10th May councillor Ian Walker was re elected as mayor of Ramsey for the year 2007/2008 .

Ian, a resident of Ramsey Mereside, has been on the Town Council four years, mayor for last year and deputy mayor for the two years prior to 2007. In addition to his council duties Ian is an active member of the Mereside Village Association and of Ramsey Rotary Club.

Councillor Neil Dick, who has been a councillor for four years, was elected as deputy mayor.

Neil, who has lived in Ramsey St Marys for the last twenty two years is also Chairman of the Leader + Local Action Group which has been successful in bringing over £650,000 of European funding into the Ramsey area to support projects for both the town's youth and the community in general.

The coming year will be an important time for the town of Ramsey particularly the issues surrounding the redevelopment of the Grand Cinema site and the possible development at the Northern Gateway including the Tesco store.

The Town Council are aware of the strength of local feeling about both these sites and are keen to continue the public consultation that has already taken place when specific proposals are put forward.

At the Annual Town meeting residents also raised their concerns regarding the ongoing problem of parking in Ramsey. The Town Council has made representations to Huntingdonshire District Council on this matter and await with interest the results of the parking survey the District Council are carrying out.

Town Council meetings are open to the public who, in the public open session, can speak on any subject that they feel is important to the residents of Ramsey. Both the mayor and deputy mayor hope that more residents will take advantage of this as, only by hearing views of the residents, can your council effectively represent you.

Ramsey Town Council

Ramsey Town Centre Partnership AGM

Thank you to all those who attended our Annual General Meeting on the 9 May 2007.

We are delighted to announce that at the AGM Mrs Gina Randall was elected as Chairwoman for a second year with Mr Gwyn Franksen as Vice Chair. Other members of the committee were also elected at that time. All members of the executive were thanked for their commitment and work during the past year. The executive would also like to thank our wider membership for their ongoing support and encouragement. We are looking forward to a productive 2007/2008.

*Ramsey Matters is produced by the Ramsey Town Centre Partnership and distributed to Ramsey and the surrounding villages as a means of sharing information and supporting local initiatives. If you would like to be a member of the Partnership or learn more about our work, please contact Vera Woolmer at 39 Gt Whyte, Ramsey, Cambs, PE26 1HH, tel 01487 813612 or email rampart@btinternet.com.
www.ramseytowncentrepartnership.org.uk*

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