

Winter 2006 Ramsey Matters

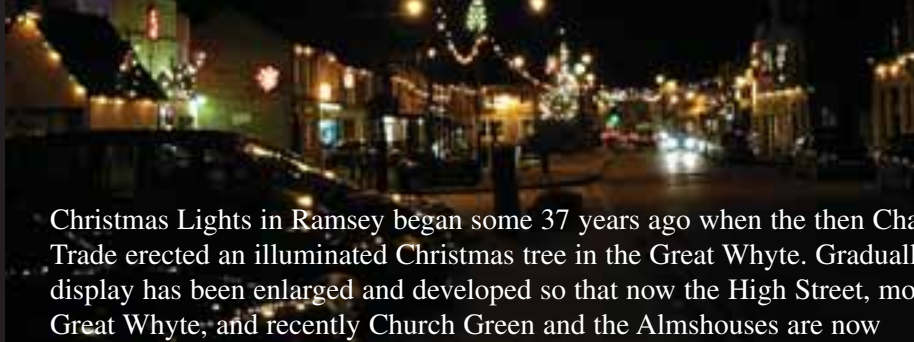
The Ramsey Town Centre Partnership Newsletter



ISSUE 13

Ramsey First for the Festive Season

Getting ready for Christmas? Dreading the stress (and expense) of the superstores? Then take a look at pages 4 and 5. You will be amazed at how much you can find here in Ramsey – not just for Christmas, but all year round. Remember, Ramsey shops and businesses will take the time to look after you, help you find what you need, and they offer a fine range of goods and services. Give them your support. Think local – Shop local. Take the map on our centre pages with you when you shop....and enjoy!



Christmas Lights in Ramsey began some 37 years ago when the then Chamber of Trade erected an illuminated Christmas tree in the Great Whyte. Gradually the display has been enlarged and developed so that now the High Street, most of Great Whyte, and recently Church Green and the Almshouses are now illuminated.









This year's switch on will be on Saturday 2nd December

when there will be entertainment by local children, and a number of stalls from local organisations. The switch on will be in the early evening culminating with a firework display illuminating the sky above the Christmas lights.

Contents...

Ramsey Business Matters	2 & 3
Raffle Winners	3
Ramsey Shopping Map	4 & 5
Youth Matters	6 & 7
Farmers' Market Calendar	8
Christmas Farmers' Market.....	8

Ramsey Christmas Lights Facts:

-  More than 2½ miles of cable
-  Approximately 3000 coloured light bulbs
-  3 - 4 weekends to set up
-  1 weekend to strip it all out
-  Maintenance/ repair/ making up new displays goes on throughout the year
-  £8000 needed each year through fundraising
-  A community event - help always needed (you don't have to go up a ladder and the mid morning breakfasts are superb!)
-  Call: David Denman on 01487 813 976 or 01223 814 068.

Two new regular sections:

Ramsey Business Matters
and Ramsey Youth Matters

The Ramsey Town Centre Partnership's work is focused on economic development. We offer support and information to the business community and work with partners to add strength to a whole range of projects. We hope this new section, Business Matters, will be a useful addition. As always, we welcome your input. If you can contribute to this section in any way, perhaps with information to share, points to raise, or if you would like to be involved in our business and work related projects, please do get in touch.

Business Support Initiative

We are forging links with a range of business clubs, support agencies, and advisory services to provide you with information and opportunities to take advantage of what they can offer. Call RTCP if you need any additional information:

Cambridgeshire Chambers of Commerce – offers a wide range of services, support and opportunities to member companies. Tel: 01223 237414. Email: enquiries@cambscoci.co.uk

Huntingdonshire Business Network

HBN represents many businesses in the Huntingdonshire area. The network meets once a week on Friday; on the third Wednesday of each month, plus a networking evening on the 4th Tuesday of every month. To make a reservation and more information contact Graham Buck, 01480 437320. Email: formalevents@hbn.org.uk

Cambridge Enterprise Services hold regular advice sessions at 39 Great Whyte for people who are thinking of starting their own business as well as for existing businesses who would value an independent review of their current business practices. Contact Kelly Horn on 01480 450028 to make an appointment. Advice and information also available on www.cambsenterprise.co.uk

Business Link provides practical advice for business on a wide range of topics: www.businesslink.gov.uk

www.huntsdc.gov.uk has a wide range of information and links for business and work related issues.

Job Centre Plus is also another good source of information and support. Programmes such as Work Trial, Subsidised Employment and New Deal are innovative projects for employers and job seekers alike. More information is available on www.jobcentreplus.gov.uk or call 0845 606 2626 7.00am – 11.00pm, seven days a week, or you can call into 39, Great Whyte on their Tuesday session (see below).

Ramsey JobSearch. A Ramsey Town Centre Partnership project, manned by volunteers who hold a session for job seekers every Monday at the Ramsey Community Information Centre (RCIC) from 10.00am – 12 noon. Businesses can place their vacancies free of charge. Job seekers can register and search for available local work. This is a free service. For more information or to register your vacancy, contact Vera Woolmer on 01487 813612. JobSearch is always keen to hear from volunteers who would like to help run the scheme. Full training is available; just give us a call as above.

Supporting the JobSearch scheme, Job Centre Plus holds a Tuesday session from 10.00am – 12.30 pm, and on Thursdays Connexions provide advice and support for young people aged 13 – 19. Contact Val Fendley at RCIC on 01487 815213 or Vera Woolmer as above.

www.J4b.co.uk gives information about available grants and funding. There is a wide range of funding pots out there – this is a very good way to find your way to them.

PRIME – is the only national organisation dedicated to helping people aged over 50 set up in business. There is a wide range of information and opportunities on their website: www.primeinitiative.org.uk or you can email prime@ace.org.uk or call: 0208 765 7833.

Training Opportunities

Primum (part of Business Link) is offering a free Training Needs Analysis to small and medium size companies in the Finance, Hospitality, and Retail sectors. Following a one to one consultation on the premises, businesses will be given a report identifying training courses and providers that fit their needs. This report is free and comes with no obligation. There is also the opportunity of funding for training through this scheme. For further information, and to book a consultation, contact Vera Woolmer at RTCP on 01487 813612.

Grants Available for Ramsey Shopfronts

The first projects from the first year of the Ramsey Shopfront Improvement Scheme have now been completed and the repair and redecoration of several premises on the west side of Great Whyte have had a very positive effect on the appearance of the street – and hopefully a positive effect on trading too!

A number of other projects have been offered grant assistance through the scheme or are still being negotiated. There are still some funds left for allocation before the end of March 2007. Shopkeepers or owners interested in a project to redecorate, repair or replace existing shopfronts should contact Chris Surfleet or Jonathan Duck at Hunts District Council for assistance and further information. The number is 01480 388444. Grants vary from 50% - 75%, so it is well worth getting in touch!

Fire Risk Assessment

If you own a building or are the responsible person for any non-domestic premises, an employer or self-employed with business premises, a charity or voluntary organisation, a contractor with a degree of control over any premises or any place to which the public have access, then you need to act now as new legislation will affect you. From 1st October 2006, a new Regulatory Reform Order (2005) came into force meaning you will be required to carry out a Fire Risk Assessment on your building. Non compliance carries up to a £10,000 fine. Self assessment is possible, and details can be found on www.communities.gov. The Offices and Shops Guide, Fire Risk Assessment is available from PO Box 236, Wetherby, LS23 7NB (cost not available at time of writing), and there are commercial companies who will carry out an assessment for you at a cost. Huntingdon Fire Service cannot carry out the assessment but will give advice where possible. Their number is 01480 433297.

Waterways Festival. The 2007 National Festival & Boat Show will take place over the August Bank Holiday weekend at Hemingford Meadows, on the River Great Ouse, St Ives. Whether you are in the hospitality, retail, tourism, or any other line of business there's a good chance that you can benefit from the thousands of people expected to come and stay (some for a week or more) in the region. There will be trade and craft stalls, exhibition stands and much more. RTCP will keep up to date with information as it becomes available.

www.ramseytowncentrepартnership.org.uk is the RTCP website where you will find information on Ramsey and the Ramsey area, past issues of Ramsey Matters, the Town Centre Business Directory, Ramsey Area Information Pack, What's On and more. If you would like a link (it is a membership benefit) just let us know. Feedback, ideas, new topics always welcomed.



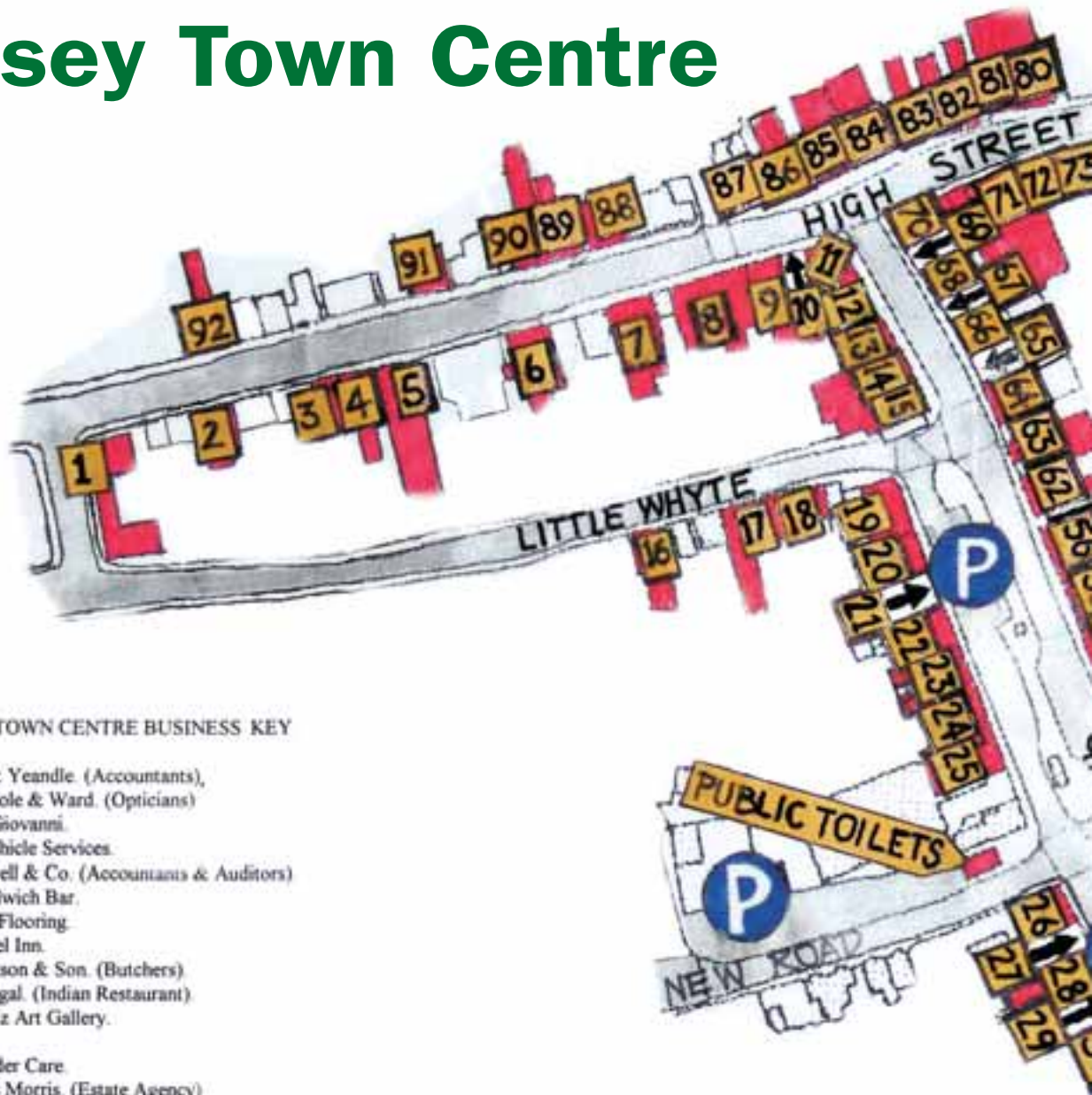
The Ramsey Community Information Centre at 39 Great Whyte, Ramsey is an Access Point, which means that there are two FREE to use computers with internet and email facilities. Check opening times on 01487 815213. Further free to use computers are available at Ramsey Library. Check opening times on 01487 812575

Winners of the raffle held at the September Farmers' Market

All prizes have been claimed. Funds raised for carnival float costs.

Prize	Ticket Number	Prize	Ticket Number
1st Guitar	93	5th Clock	148
2nd Hors d'oeuvre dish	53	6th China Egg Trinket box	14
3rd Roving Microphone	10	7th Coffee maker	83
4th Photo frame	99		

Ramsey Town Centre



RAMSEY TOWN CENTRE BUSINESS KEY

1. Benten & Yeandle. (Accountants),
2. Gather Cole & Ward. (Opticians)
3. Hair by Giovanni.
4. A.J.R. Vehicle Services.
5. S.R.Howell & Co. (Accountants & Auditors)
6. The Sandwich Bar.
7. Creative Flooring.
8. The Angel Inn.
9. E.A.Johnson & Son. (Butchers)
10. The Bengal. (Indian Restaurant)
11. The Ruiz Art Gallery.
- 12 X.
13. Sue Ryder Care.
14. Thomas Morris. (Estate Agency)
15. Barclays Bank PLC.
16. Ramsey Paint Company Ltd
17. Monty & Anne Copping. (Specialist Hair Cutters)
18. S & D Bookmakers.
19. Lloyds TSB.
20. D.Bream. (Shoe Sales and Repairs.)
21. Pisces. (Chinese Takeaway and Fish & Chips).
22. Sharman Quinney. (Estate Agency).
23. William H.Brown. (Estate Agency).
24. Innocence. (Ladies & Childrens' Wear)
25. Ramsey Kebab & Pizza.
26. M.Collins. (Butcher).
27. Charcreme Private Hire. (Cars)
28. Abbs & Warren. (Insurance Brokers).
29. Madera Fish Bar.
30. Ramsey Community Information Centre
31. The Jolly Sailor Public House
32. Fenland Bedrooms & Bathrooms.
33. Cromwell Veterinary Surgery.
34. ABM Publishing Ltd. (Genealogical Books and Publishers)
35. Headlines. (Hairdressers).
36. Abbey Therapy. (Relax & Pamper)
37. Abbey Antiques.
38. Ramsey Motors. (Vehicle Sales)
39. A & J Motorcycles.
40. Peter H Gammons. (Furniture and Carpets).
41. H R Wade. (Bicycles, TV's, Electrical Goods)
42. John Matthews & Co. (Solicitors).
43. Dizzy's Barbershop.
44. Lorraines One 2 One. (Hairdressers).



Produced by Ramsey Town Centre Partnership



- 45 Ramsey Post Office & Shop
- 46. M & E Mobile. (Garage).
- 47. Threshers Off Licence.
- 48. Windmill Bakery.
- 49. David Stuart Ltd. (Office Supplies)
- 50. Lavender Blue. (Florist).
- 51. Mazarron Travel Co.
- 52. Local Hospital Charity Shop.
- 53. School Plus. (School Uniforms & Childrens' Wear)
- 54. Carousel. (Dress Agency).
- 55. Somerfield Supermarket.
- 56. Lloyds' Pharmacy.
- 57. Cannon Kirk (UK) Ltd. (Property Developers)
- 58. Heads Together. (Hairdressers).
- 59. Ramsey Floral Designs. (Florist)
- 60. The Rendezvous Café.
- 61. Bride 2 Bride. (Bridal Wear).
- 62. Bonnets' Bakery.
- 63. Right Price. (Discount Store).
- 64. Newsplus. (Newsagents).
- 65. Michael G Edwards. (Mortgage Advisor).
- 66. Wishing You. (Stationery)
- 67. Choices Café.
- 68. D.L.K Bespoke Kitchens.
- 69. Whiting & Partners. (Chartered Accountants)
- 70. Nationwide Building Society.
- 71. Invict@ Internet Café.
- 72. Golden Inn. (Chinese Restaurant)
- 73. Pet Leaders. (Pet Shop).
- 74. Crafty Ideas. (Gift Shop)
- 75. Barnets. (Hairdressers).
- 76. Style. (Ladies Fashions).
- 77. China Moon. (Chinese Takeaway).
- 78. Chilli Express. (Fast Food Takeaway).
- 79. Lasting Impressions. (Beauty Clinic).
- 80. PC.ok. (Computer Sales & Repairs).
- 81. Chilli Hut. (Fast Food Takeaway).
- 82 Taste of The East. (Indian and Thai Restaurant)
- 83. Knights Restaurant.
- 84. The George Hotel.
- 85. Nat. West Bank.
- 86. Croesus Financial Services.
- 87. Gisonni. (Hairdressing & Lifestyle).
- 88. Harvey's Hair & Beauty.
- 89. Sophie's Convenience Store.
- 90. Digital Video Centre. (Video Hire)
- 91. Hibbins Insurance Services.
- 92. Sergeant & Son. (Solicitors)

Map by John Taylor - Ramsey

Youth Matters

There's nothing to do around here, we're bored.
If we give them somewhere to go there's bound
to be trouble.



I'm not sure who you might refer to as a young person, but
my experience has certainly shown that communities do not know
young people are - a child or a young person.

This question certainly comes into action when it comes to provision.
It has always seemed to me that children are provided more for than young people.
This project recognises that young people are aged 11 to 19.

With nothing to do and not being involved in much, young people seem very visible, this visibility can lead
to resentment and disapproval, is this really fair?

Some might argue that there are adequate facilities, but it is very important to consider the nature of
the facilities and whether they are appropriate.

By default, many communities are causing the very behavior they are trying to avoid.
However, having said that, it is important to understand that this project is not about providing equally
or even to provide at all, although this is not my vision.

It is about realising the benefits in involving young people in local decision making processes and giving
them a voice and an influence over the future and the well-being of their community.
Why? many would ask, I've certainly experienced first hand that young people are not always welcomed
100% into structured society, and some might prefer that they be 'seen and not heard' from the age of
12.

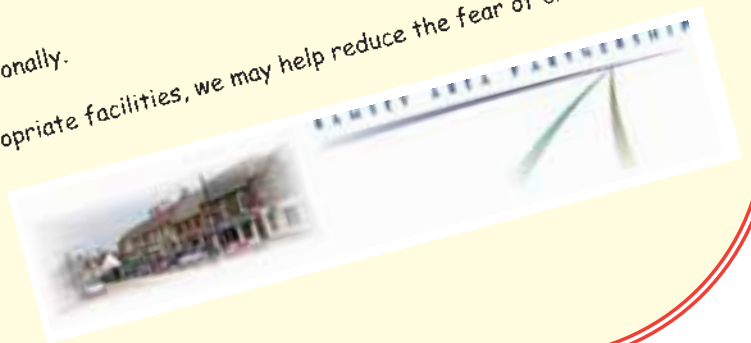
The answer is simple, if there is such a word in our complicated society.

Money and resources would be better spent, at least you would know what young people want or think.
Young people would feel less alienated, they are part of the community and this needs to be realised.

We could avoid a 'them and us' situation.

We can help develop them, both socially and personally.

By encouraging involvement and developing appropriate facilities, we may help reduce the fear of crime and
anti-social behavior.



The Making Changes for the Future Project will work to address any negativity in the Ramsey area by working closely with the young people and the community. A health-check provided a framework for Ramsey and its dependant communities, helping to decide how the area could be regenerated in the future for the benefit of all. From this consultation process came an action plan. As project coordinator, I feel it is important that the ideas and aspirations of the young people are not filed away but become an important part of what is to come and what could come to the area.

My work will be delivered in true youth work style using creative and non-traditional methods to engage the young people. A diverse approach will enhance its success.

Plans do not dictate what happens, they give purpose, purpose nurtures discipline, this then becomes a want and a need. To wrap up, I have a phrase that I feel is very important to remember...

"Young People are our next generation, together we can make a difference".

Mark Hollis.



**Youth Bank—
Huntingdonshire**
Youth Bank is an innovative grant making initiative run by young people for young people.

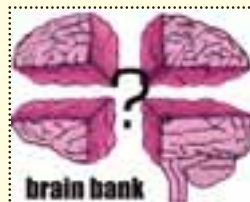
Its about cash for action.

*Youth Bank—
Huntingdonshire will provide grants from £200 to £5,000 to fund young people's good ideas to benefit their own communities.*

This is unique in that it is the young people themselves that make the decisions about who receives the money and about how their Youth Bank is managed and run.



Ramsey SK8
Many young people in the area have always expressed a wish for a skate Park. This project will re-gauge the interest with four pilots using a mobile skate ramp. The first session saw attendance in excess of 70 young people. If successful why not look into a permanent facility!



brain bank
Quite simply a directory of people in the local community who can contribute to a young person's project or just have a say that can influence being healthy, staying safe, enjoying and achieving, making a positive contribution and achieving economic well being.



BOOTH'S HILL
It was identified that this ancient monument has little documentation. A group of young people have produced a brochure for schools, libraries, information centre etc. Phase two of the project will look at the site in more depth.



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