

# Redstone FM

## Newsletter – April 2010

Welcome to the latest Redstone FM newsletter. In this edition:

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### **News from Ofcom**

Our application for a full time community radio license was submitted back in November 2008, one of 48 applications accepted for the SE and East of England. We recently received an update from Ofcom:

*We decided some time ago that in theory we would have to consider some applications outside the M25 alongside those from within the M25. Our engineers have advised us that in practice your application will be competing for an FM frequency with others within the M25. In other words we are unable to identify a suitable FM frequency for your service that would not impact on our ability to potentially offer a licence to another applicant within the M25. To be fair to all applicants, this means we will need to consider your application alongside others within the M25.*

*We are busy assessing all the remaining applications and we hope that the RLC will be in a position to make decisions on these, and your application, in June.*

And so we continue the wait, not that we have been idle!

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### **Redstone FM Training**

We have recently received funding from NESOCOT, the further education college based in Ewell. This funding, under the Personal, Community and Development Learning Scheme, allows us to run short, non-accredited courses. We are therefore pleased to offer the following courses, based in the Redhill area:

#### **VI Buddies**

Redstone FM offers opportunities to visually impaired (VI) persons to produce and present radio programmes. To facilitate such opportunities, there is a need for volunteers to provide sighted assistance.

Based in Redhill, Redstone FM is currently running a course for a group of visually impaired students. This group of students will have an opportunity to produce and present their own radio programmes\* in July towards the end of their course. There is therefore the opportunity for running a parallel course for those who wish to help Redstone FM and its students by offering sighted assistance.

This course aims to train volunteers to understand the issues of working with VI people plus to understand the basic broadcast production disciplines and techniques. In particular, students will:

1. To understand issues related to assisting visually impaired;
2. To understand Redstone FM's production procedures
3. To understand how to operate a basic radio studio and associated computer programmes;
4. To gain experience working with VI presenters

The course runs from April to July on selected Fridays with involvement in live radio broadcasts with students in July\*

There are 5 places on the course which is offered free of charge. To register your interest please contact Redstone FM by [e-mail](#) or call Des Shepherd on 01737 763156 or 07977 164872.

**Note:** \*Redstone FM is currently off the air. The broadcast opportunities for students are being provided by Meridian FM, the new full time community radio station in East Grinstead.

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#### **Social Networking** (23 & 30 April 2010)

This short course is aimed at those working for voluntary sector organisations who need to use social networking sites to communicate to clients or promote the work of the organisation.

#### **Media Survival** (7 & 14 May 2010)

A short course aimed at those working in the voluntary sector who deal with the local media in publicising their activities.

For full details please go to [www.redstone.fm/training.htm#sn](http://www.redstone.fm/training.htm#sn). To book a place please contact Reigate & Banstead Voluntary Service on 01737 763156.

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#### **Training for Other Community Radio Stations**

We are also running a number of broadcast law courses with other community radio stations. In February we ran a two day course for Meridian FM, the community station in East Grinstead who came on the air full time last month. Next month we are running a similar course for Uckfield FM. They are preparing to launch full time this summer. The course at Meridian FM was well received with delegates commenting:

- Very interesting and put across well.
- Great Tutor. Very relevant and appropriate information.
- Very relaxed and informative. Good examples given and useful exercises. Plenty of opportunities for clarification and questions. The course handbook looks impressive. Mike made an otherwise dull sounding subject more interesting than I expected it to be.
- Really interesting with excellent and interesting examples.

As and when we are awarded our full time licence, we will be running a similar course for Redstone FM members and volunteers in the autumn.

In the meantime we are running the second Broadcast Opportunities Course. Taking place at the Merstham Community Facility, we have a group of six students who have settled in. The course ends with the students getting the opportunity to produce and present some shows on Meridian FM later in the summer. This course is funded by the European Social Fund and run in conjunction with East Surrey College.

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### **Redstone FM On-Line**

We have recently redesigned our website at [www.redstone.fm](http://www.redstone.fm) In particular, we have developed a whole section that looks at our history over the past 5 years and includes audio clips of some of our highlights <http://www.redstone.fm/archivetesting.htm>



Redstone FM is also now on Facebook. The link is: <http://www.facebook.com/group.php?v=wall&ref=search&qid=71720504972>.

Please have a look and sign up as a fan! We want to make this an interactive site so please feel free to comment and add your news.

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### **Temporary offices in Redhill**

Last summer, our temporary broadcast came from studios based in the Belfry Shopping Centre in Redhill. We are currently in the process of signing a six-month lease on an adjacent office suite in Tower House at the Belfry. This will provide a base for some of our planned training courses plus it gives us a town centre base with a studio facility. We will advise full details on the website when the documentation is signed and we have moved in.

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