

Dreamland

MARGATE



DREAMLAND NEWSLETTER AUGUST ISSUE

IN THE SUMMER TIME WHEN THE WEATHER IS HIGH...

By Jan Leandro

Throughout August Dreamland has taken part in the media circus. Earlier this month BBC Two's Coast production team arrived in Margate on the trail of the traditional seaside landlady. The crew spent a morning filming the show's presenter, Alice Roberts, visiting the Scenic Railway, which will feature in the show next year. BBC One's Country Tracks, also featuring Dreamland, is expected to broadcast before the end of this year.

Week beginning 23 August BBC Radio Kent will be broadcasting a special Dreamland feature, by Jo Burn, around 7-9am each morning and BBC Radio London will be doing a live broadcast featuring Dreamland for the Robert Elms show around 1.30pm on the 24 August.

Up until the 26 August Londoners will be able to visit Margate in their lunch hour at the Seaside pop-up shop exhibition located at 42 Theobalds Road in Holborn. The exhibition includes a Dreamland sound piece created by Liam Dermott and a projected montage of Dreamland archive photographs. For more information visit www.seaside.co.uk.

Dreamland activities since the last newsletter include a presentation to the Kent Greeters at Smith's Court Hotel in Cliftonville. The Greeters are a font of information helping our visitors find their way around the area, pointing them in the direction of places of interest and sharing information about our heritage, architecture and history. So this was a great opportunity to bring the voluntary Greeters up to date with the latest project news and future plans for Dreamland.

On a more local level we took part in Thanet District Council's 2030 Vision Day in July at the Thanet Gateway to tell people about future prospects at Dreamland for the community. Then shortly afterwards we invited the Kent Active Retirement Association to a visual talk and a cup of tea at the Media Centre.

The Dreamland bike has been busy over the summer attending numerous events across the county including the Margate carnival where she hitched a ride on the Margate Town Partnership float – poor old girl couldn't make it up Fort Hill on her own! Next appearance will be at the fabulous Dippers & Dunkers Festival up until the 27 August – full programme via www.dippersanddunkers.org.uk.

And finally... as part of the Heritage Open Days, Dreamland will be conducting a talk and tour between 11am – 1pm on Friday 10 September. For more information please visit <http://www.heritageopendays.org.uk/directory/HOD011827E/>

The summer is often referred to, by the media, as the 'silly season'. This month, in true media style, Bob takes a tongue in cheek look into an alternative future...

HIGH VOLTAGE

By Bob Preedy

As we know from our home bills, the price of electricity and gas continues to rise – and shows no sign of reducing in the years ahead. So for the sake of the Dreamland bills we looked at what alternatives might be available to refurbishing our vintage rides.

Modern motors are designed to run quieter and with less electricity so we wondered whether they're also tough enough to withstand the sea air and the varying temperatures that make up summertime in Margate... Whilst pondering this, we delved into the world of green energy – perhaps a wind turbine on top of the Cinema fin – and solar panels on the roof?

South Eastern Railway has recently developed a method of capturing the power and heat generated by braking, and then feeding it back into their grid. Perhaps we could utilise our Scenic Railway to produce free power as the cars thunder down the dips?

And how about an entrance pathway that generates power from the weight of people's footsteps – the more you eat, the more power to the park? The Big Wheel might have a mini windmill on each carriage, and the friction caused by a mat on the Helter Skelter might add a few volts.

Most promising of all is a bog standard chain reaction – producing free methane gas from the toilets. Seaweed from the harbour could be added for an additional power boost.

The power supply for the park peaks at about 400 kW when everything is up and running. Coincidentally the daily power for Dreamland would run two big fridges for two years – so any ideas to slash electricity usage will be gratefully received.

Happy hols!

ARE WE THERE YET?

By Jonathan Bryant

I am pleased to say we are now approaching the final stages of arrangements to transfer over half the Dreamland site to Dreamland Trust's local authority partner, Thanet District Council, and just as soon as this is complete, we can make a practical start on site works. As all Dreamland supporters know, it has been a long haul but Rome wasn't built in a day and it is important for the long term that we get the foundations right at the outset.

Why is it taking so long, and why can't we just use the funding we have secured to make a start anyway? Well there has been no lack of willingness to get the land transfer deal done. The current landowner, Margate Town Centre Regeneration Company Ltd, has been very co-operative and wants, just as much as we do, to see a successful Dreamland amusement park around the restored Scenic Railway and Dreamland Cinema. Clearly however, it must also have regard to its future plans on that part of the site that it will retain and as these become clearer so we get closer to the deal being done.

Thanet District Council is also hugely supportive and playing its part not just in funding commitments but in terms of taking on the Dreamland amusement park site from Margate Town Centre Regeneration Company Ltd, taking responsibility for some of the major contract works that need to be done and, in due course, for making the site available for Dreamland Trust to operate.

The reason we can't start physical works until the site is transferred relates to conditions of the funders.

Sound complicated? Well it is I guess, but the simple fact is that we will shortly be in a position to go and despite the delays believe that we can be up and running for 2012.