

Press Release 26th July 2010



If you want a trip from Cumbria to see the biggest stars on the biggest stages - then Ray Sharkey is the man for you.

Ray, 42, from Carlisle, has arranged coach transport and concert tickets for thousands of Cumbrians over the last 20 years to see some of the world's most famous performers such as Robbie Williams, Tina Turner and Janet Jackson at major venues all over Britain.

His work with a succession of travel firms in Cumbria also included regular excursions to top West End theatre shows and major sporting events like the British Grand Prix and Wimbledon tennis championships.

Now after a year's break away from the business, Ray is back after being appointed events and tours manager with Wigton-based Reays Coaches.

Carlisle-born-and bred Ray said: "In this business, it's not what you know but who you know. That's how I used to get my hands on the hottest tickets around, like Robbie Williams at Knebworth and the Bee Gees at Wembley.

"The current whispers are that Take That and Kylie will be announcing tours shortly, so it's a question of getting in early with the right contacts to make sure you have tickets available for your customers, which is what I've already started doing."

Ray first worked for Carlisle-based Gordon Box Travel in 1989 before setting up his own business in the city called Premier Events and Travel. He has also

subsequently had spells working for K&B Travel in Penrith and Stacey's Coaches in Carlisle.

Ray's role with family-run Reays Coaches from August 2 will also include organising short breaks and shopping trips from Cumbria to a wide range of destinations as well as UK holidays and trips to the continent. Much of his work will involve day trips to big-name concerts in Manchester, Newcastle and Glasgow and overnight stays at ones in London.

To mark his arrival, Reays are launching a new weekly Saturday shopping service on August 7 to Newcastle's Metro Centre, Manchester Trafford centre and Glasgow on alternate weeks. The day-return coaches will go from Egremont via Whitehaven, Workington, Maryport, Wigton and Carlisle. A regular Blackpool Seaside Special service from Cumbria is also being launched.

Ray added: "I am really looking forward to starting work with Reays. I have been in the business for two decades apart from taking the last year out and Reays are really going up in the world. They are so much more professional now.

"A lot of people throughout Cumbria know me from my work with different local companies. Some have followed me from company to company because they know the packages I put together are good quality. I'm hoping to renew a lot of old acquaintances at Reays now. It's great when you receive thank you letters from people who've had a fantastic time."

For further information, ring 016973 49999 or go to www.reays.co.uk .