



THE REIGATE SOCIETY

The Civic Society for Reigate, Redhill and Merstham

Newsletter No. 106

September 2013

CHAIRMAN'S NOTES

I am pleased to advise that following our plea in the last newsletter we have found a replacement for John Angel, David Gardner. Thank you, David, for taking on the important role of Honourable Registrar.

In a similar vein we need to consider succession planning for any other vacancies that may arise in the future. So if you have some time to spare and wish to support us in the running of the Society, either as a Committee member or Officer then please contact me on mortlockar@gmail.com or on the number below so we can discuss where your interests and talents can be best utilised. One vacancy that we would like to fill as soon as possible is the Society's representative on the Reigate Business Guild as Tom Godfrey will be stepping down. If you are interested in this position then please contact me. Our thanks go to Tom for his excellent work as the liaison between the two organisations.

Following the Core Strategy Inspectors consultation meetings recently the proposed changes to the Strategy are now in the consultation period and can be found on the R&BBC website, more detail is given later in the Newsletter. Again we are also looking for likeminded people to join us in order to continue the review on the document and also all the other issues relating to green belt and development management policies that are so important to us.

Just following my note about the free National Trust and English Heritage passes in the last newsletter we had an update from the Civic Trust who advised the system for obtaining National Trust passes has had to be altered this year as, unfortunately, it appears there was some abuse of the system last year with downloading of passes by non-members.

National Trust passes are therefore available in hard copy only this year, one per member (two for joint members) and can be obtained by writing to Civic Trust at the address below enclosing a stamped address envelope.

However the link given below will allow you to obtain English Heritage day admission pass, which is, as previously, downloadable by clicking on the following link and following the instructions:

<http://tinyurl.com/civcenglishoffer>.

The pass can be used between 1 April and 30 June and 1 September and 31 January 2014. The pass is valid for one visit per Civic Voice member (couples should register twice - once for each individual) and is intended as a personal benefit, therefore not valid for use as part of a group visit. This pass is not transferable.

Where members do not have internet access, the English Heritage day passes can be obtained by request with a stamped addressed envelope sent to Civic Voice, Unit 101, 82 Wood Street, The Tea Factory, Liverpool L1 4DQ.

Finally I would also appeal to our members to spread the word about what we do and how we keep a close watch on all the planning, transportation, and other issues, local and borough wide, that could affect our local environment. If you know of any local club, society or organisation that would be interested in a talk on our activities and ideals then please contact me.

Alan Mortlock

01737 244407

SECRETARY'S NOTES

The Society's 61st **Annual General Meeting** was held in the Woodhatch Centre on July 1st. Alan Mortlock, Chairman of the Society, welcomed the 50 members present and also extended a

welcome to Richard Bate the evening's speaker. The Chairman gave the apologies of our President Nicholas Owen to the meeting. He went on to report that the Core Strategy and Green Belt

issues had been robustly taken up by The Reigate Society, and Reigate Society representatives had attended each session. There was not much more to report about the 60th Anniversary statue in Priory Park but it was progressing albeit slower than had been hoped at the outset. The Society was looking forward to receiving nominations for this year's Reigate Society Civic Awards. Intention of resignation at the 2014 AGM had been received from the programme planner.

The Officers of the Society were re-elected apart from John Angel who resigned as Registrar. David Gardner was elected to this position. Six Council members, John Chittenden, Tom Godfrey, Michael Knight, Gerry Moss, Monica Tingley, and Pauline Young had completed their three years and therefore stood down. Joyce Crosfield also wished to stand down. Of those, John Chittenden, Tom Godfrey, Michael Knight and Gerry Moss agreed to stand again and were duly elected together on to Council with John Angel and Bruce Healey.

Howard Whiting and Dennis Turner had died during the year. Alan Mortlock spoke of the tremendous work both had done for the Society. He also thanked both Joyce Crosfield and Monica Tingley for all their work over the years.

Stuart Tucker was appointed as Auditor. The Treasurer, Charles Wragg, gave notice that both he and Stuart Tucker would be resigning at the next AGM.

After all the official business had been done the Chairman made a presentation to John Angel thanking him for the 29 years he had been an Officer of the Society. John had been Chairman of the Natural Amenities Committee 1977-1986, Chairman of the Society 1986-1989, Hon. Secretary 1989 – 2001 and Hon. Registrar 2001 – 2013. He wished him well on his retirement but was pleased that John had agreed to go on to the Council.

After a short break for photographs, Alan introduced the speaker again. Richard Bate is a planning consultant concerned with protecting the environment. His talk was entitled “**Green Belt and planning for the future**”.

The excellent and instructive talk was followed by a question and answer session.

The meeting ended with Alan thanking the speaker, for a very interesting and pertinent talk, and everyone present for attending.

The Reigate Society again had a stand at the **Community Festival in Priory Park**. The event was very well attended.

Apart from display stands and information material, a Quiz was run. 62 entries were received

and there were 8 correct entries. In line with the competition statement; “*in the event of a tied result a draw would take place. Judges decision final*”, a draw was made from those 8 correct entries. The first drawn was from Mr. R. Davis, who is ineligible for membership of the Society by the nature of his professional position, so there was a redraw and the entry from Mrs. G. Swan was drawn. It was decided that the money prize of £20 would be split between Mr. Davis and Mrs. Swan and that Mrs Swan would receive the year's membership to the Society.

For all who entered and are interested the correct answers to the Quiz are as follows:

1. Why is the Mill on Reigate Heath unique?
b) it is a consecrated chapel
2. Which of the following Inns/Pubs were open in 17th Century?
a) The Bell
3. The Priory was let by Lady Henry Somerset to which well known socialite who later lived near Leatherhead
b) Margaret Greville
4. In which year did Reigate and Redhill become a Municipal Borough ?
c) 1863

The answer to question 2 may be controversial but according to Wilfrid Hooper's book “**Reigate its Story through the Ages**” Mr. Hooper was unable to trace the name The Angel before 1814! Sorry, a bit sneaky, but a good deciding question.

Heritage Open Days 2013 is from 12th – 15th September and comes after the 150th celebration for the incorporation of Redhill and Reigate. This year the HODS brochure has been co-ordinated by me, for the Reigate Society, and has been typeset, designed and printed by MadIdeas the company producing the 150th Anniversary Brochure for the Borough. The cost of production has been covered by advertising in the Brochure sold by MadIdeas. So this year's brochure will have display adverts in it. This arrangement has been beneficial for the Reigate Society, (we neither had to seek money for the brochure production, nor do the design or arrange printing), and also for the Council as the Councillors have not had to dip into their Community Award Fund. The timing of the distribution is later but brochures should be in all the usual outlets by the end of the 1st week of August. **The Undercroft will be managed by the Reigate Society** again and Michael Hellings would welcome offers of help for Saturday 14th September. Tel. 01737 245342

As reported in the previous newsletter this year's **Members' Evening on Monday 7th October**, starting at 8pm, will be held in the **Reigate Manor Hotel** off the A217 on Reigate Hill. The format for the evening will be similar to previous members' evenings. There will be a finger buffet with a

welcoming drink (a cash bar will operate after that); the Reigate Society Civic Awards will be presented, and an illustrated talk “**The History of the Bluebell Railway**” will be given by Bruce Healey. The Bluebell Railway is one of our oldest and most important heritage railways. Over the years, it has broken much new ground and frequently led the way in setting the standards for railway preservation. The extension of the railway this year to East Grinstead involving the clearance of municipal waste from Imberhorne Cutting, is a unique achievement. Tickets are £12 and an application form for tickets is attached to this newsletter. We look forward to seeing many of you there.

Don't forget that there is much information

available on our website:

www.reigatesociety.org.uk

My first year as Hon. Secretary is now up; it has been a year of discovery and learning. I would like to give my thanks to all who have filled in my society knowledge gaps and gently corrected errors, and a big thank you to Michael and Mary Hellings who did a wonderful job organising and collating all the society secretary's archival material

Mrs Michèle Damer (01737) 243513)

Email: heathfieldstables@dial.pipex.com

TREASURER'S NOTES

ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTIONS were due from the 1st April 2013 and the current MINIMUM RATES are as follows:

Individual Members	£8
Family Members	£12
Corporate Members	£25

Those of you who pay by bankers order should ensure that your Bank has the correct instructions for your subscription payment.

There is a payment form on page 6.

Charles Wragg (01737) 210640.

REGISTRAR'S NOTES

My first Newsletter 'Notes' must begin with an expression of thanks to John Angel. He has handed over a wonderfully developed and maintained set of records and procedures for the rôle of Registrar. It has made the transition virtually painless and I am most grateful.

I have been a member of The Reigate Society for a number of years but was surprised to learn that, while we have nearly 700 members, this represents a considerable decline from a peak of 1,000 in 1980. John has made repeated appeals in his 'Notes' for new members. We have an information leaflet cum application form that tells what the Society does and has done and we must now ask members to take these leaflets away from our meetings and distribute them to friends

and neighbours. Non-members who attend meetings should be encouraged to join.

Since the last Newsletter, four of our members have died but we have gained four new members. We welcome:

Mr & Mrs R A Bogin **Ms P Shillingworth**
Mr T Mann

If you have any queries about membership, please contact me:

David Gardner (01737) 244148

E-mail: davidsjg@yahoo.com

COMMITTEE REPORTS

ARCHITECTURE & PLANNING

CHAIRMAN: GWYTHER JOYCE (01737) 249434

As the year progresses, the most significant feature for the Architecture and Planning Committee, if not the whole Society, has been the

seemingly unstoppable progress of the Government Core Strategy and its significant effect on our Green Belt. Despite our best efforts,

and those of a lot of other interested groups and individuals, the Government Planning Inspectorate has now concluded much of the original proposals by the Borough are to proceed. We are left with the impression that all of the fine words from every level of our present Government, including the PM with regard to localism which was supposed to allow local people to have a meaningful 'say', at the end of the day has come to mean virtually nothing. All actors in the unfolding tale have performed their parts well, particularly the main player Reigate & Banstead Borough Council, however the fundamentals of the issues we disagree with remain. The Borough has deliberately acquiesced to far too high a population growth of over 25,000 new residents in the next 15 years (it already is the most densely populated non-metropolitan borough in the whole country). Consequently the area of Green Belt in the Borough is to be diminished, and already overstretched resources stretched further, while roads become ever more congested.

Reigate Priory is receiving the long outstanding attention it deserves and some works are progressing as evidenced by the skip and ancillary builder's materials at the Park frontage. There is much to be done and we hope this will be completed before the end of the year. With school holidays being the only time internal works can proceed, this period is rapidly running short.

Several large project planning applications have come before our committee, all in Redhill, and though we objected to some and provided

constructive comment on others, overall we are pleased to see investment in large schemes that should help the town lose its poor image and become a much more attractive place to live and work. The new Redhill Railway Station development in particular will provide a major boost with an enhanced rail 'gateway' to the town. There are missed opportunities in the design in our opinion, however overall the scheme must be applauded.

At the other end of the scale, our ongoing action to prevent the threatened demolition of the signal box at Reigate station has made some progress and discussions are ongoing with Network Rail. Possible options for its re-use include a food/drink/bar or micro-museum (Frith/rail/history). Any ideas from Society members will be welcomed.

The annual Civic Awards event is with us again, and it is pleasing to note we have 5 contenders, including conversions and new builds. They all look very interesting and should provide an informative and enjoyable exercise for the adjudicating team.

As mentioned in our last newsletter, we again appeal to any society members to consider joining the A&P Committee, particularly any building or planning professionals. If you are interested would you please contact us and we will be very happy to discuss with you and explain how we work. The time you would be asked to contribute would only be about 2 to 3 hours monthly attending a review of planning applications.

REDHILL

CHAIRMAN: GERRY MOSS (01737) 765508

The planning application for the development of the Redhill Station car park has now been entered. It provides for a 25,000sq ft Waitrose Super Market, other shops towards a new station entrance, 150 new homes in tower blocks, with a substantial forecourt to the west and a small amount of cycle storage. To the east there will be a drop off point for cars, taxi rank, a 450 space multi story carpark and cycle storage. Most cyclists will have to leave their bikes at the eastern entrance and then go to the west to use the ticket office if they do not purchase from machines.

This is a commercial development to maximise return but there is little or no improvement for the efficient operation of the station for passengers, especially those being dropped off or coming from the west by car, and considerable inconvenience.

This year work will begin to reduce the size of the station roundabout and reduce the traffic lanes under the bridge from three to two. This is ostensibly to improve cycle movement yet at the same time cyclists will now have to go further to the eastern station entrance to store their bikes. More important it is accepted that this will substantially reduce the highway efficiency of this part of the road system of the town, slowing the passage of through traffic and causing further congestion.

The Borough core Strategy which will underlie all development for the next twenty years is now being amended to incorporate changes recommended by the Inspector. However, although building in the Green Belt is currently presented as a last resort to meet house building targets, the position is left deliberately fluid. The next step will be the agreement of the

Development Management Plan which will control actual development.

Recent decades have seen house building concentrated in Horley and to the east of Redhill at Watercolour and Park 25. These are close to stations and allow commuters to get there mainly by foot or by bike. In this way population has been boosted without exerting great pressure on movement. Further building in Redhill, completed at the Lidl site and planned for the Liquid and Envy and Station Car Park sites, will also boost population without pressure on movement. However, building in the Green Belt at the extremities of the urban area is a different thing. There new populations will have to travel to get to rail heads.

According to the Core Strategy, all this building is related to demand for housing mainly from within the borough. However, once built who will buy these houses? Past experience suggests that the new residents will come mainly from outside from the frustrated London demand so that the position for Borough need will go unsatisfied.

The next steps, already under way, are the intensive building of supermarkets in Redhill. Waitrose, a new much enlarged Sainsbury's, ASDA and Tesco Express (in the Liquid and Envy site), all plan to develop. There is, as yet, little sign that other substantial retailers are interested in coming to the town.

So, the foreseeable consequence of the core Strategy is a substantial inflow of population to the borough which will increasingly be placed at the periphery of the urban areas. This population will be fed and watered by the central growth of supermarkets in Redhill. Traffic will be fuelled not only by population increase but by those coming to shop, whilst through traffic is likely to increase with the further development of Gatwick. Redhill will soon be a bigger bottleneck than at present and much traffic will be diverted through Reigate. Is this the service the present residents wish from their elected council?

Harry Ingram (Secretary)

TRANSPORT

CHAIRMAN: JOHN CHITTENDEN (01737) 242328

Because of Sir Jeremy Heywood's recent statement Report No. 32 has been resubmitted to both the inspector and RBBC. Point No. 6 has been updated and this will appear on the website shortly.

The AGM of GACC on 25th October is to be preceded by a seminar jointly organised by both

CPRE Surrey and CPRE Sussex on the proposed new runway at Gatwick. This will be attended and reported upon in due course.

Report No. 59 has been sent to Surrey County Council as a response to its consultation on rail services. This can also be seen on the website.

NATURAL AMENITIES

CHAIRMAN: COLIN BURBIDGE (01737) 245264

All the Reigate Society donated trees in **Redhill Memorial Park** have been identified but so far there has been no indication of how or even whether they would be incorporated into the new design.

Wray Common. The wild flower meadow strips have been in the mowing schedule for the whole of the summer. The grass had grown exceptionally this year as a result of the early wetness and the summer heat. There had been encouraging signs of wild flowers which would hopefully seed successfully to provide a greater diversity next year. The long grass areas are due to be cut during late August/early September which would automatically spread this season's seed crop.

Earlswood. There is still a parking issue at Reigate School for parents and staff. The Council

have built a bund to prevent parking on the Common together with wooden posts to help prevent the illegal parking. The school has been refused permission to increase parking on site but this is not apparently on planning grounds.

Vegetation and scrub has been removed from the dams and the rangers and the Conservation Volunteers have removed vegetation from the bottom lake. Incorrectly installed domestic drainage exacerbates the lake water problem with washing machine effluent running into the chambers and then out into the lakes. The Conservation Volunteers have organised a lake planting programme for later in the summer.

Money has been received from Thames Water and match funding is being sought so that a cohesive management plan can be drawn up for Earlswood and Redhill Commons with Petridge Wood, Felland Copse and New Pond Farm. The County Council has identified a SSI band from

Earlswood Common to Pettridge Wood. Redhill and Reigate Golf Club has expressed a desire to make changes to the golf course which may be at odds with the nature conservancy restrictions which apply to the Common.

A residents' association for **Reigate Heath** has been set up membership of which is open to residents within a large geographical area around the Heath. It will be interesting to see what issues this group become interested in and whether such a large group with potentially many diverse views can show unity on any particular issue. On the Heath itself the work programme continues.

Britaniacrest Recycling Hookwood. The landscape planting on the site required by a planning agreement remains outstanding. Action by the county council to ensure compliance is awaited and has been urged by the Society. Since making our representation the most recent planning application for replacing the Waste Reception Building has been refused.

The Reigate Society

President: Nicholas Owen

Chairman: Alan Mortlock, 3 Gatton Close, Reigate, RH2 0HG. Tel: 01737 244407

Hon. Secretary: Michèle Damer, Heathfield Stables, Reigate Heath, Reigate, RH2 8AA. Tel: 01737 243513

Hon. Treasurer: Charles Wragg, 3 Weald Way, Reigate, RH2 7RG. Tel: 01737 210640

Subscription Payment / Banker's Order Form

NAME(S)

ADDRESS

Email

I enclose my subscription for 2013 /2014 **Individual**

(Cheques should be made payable to 'The Reigate Society') **Family**

(The rates are listed on page 3) **Corporate**

Please send me a Banker's Order form for payment of future subscriptions.

I also enclose my subscription for 2012 / 2013 **Individual**

Family

Corporate

(Please tick box applicable)

If you are not a member and would like to join please tick here

Please send completed form to:
Charles Wragg, 3 Weald Way, Reigate RH2 7RG

(NL 106)

CORPORATE MEMBERS

Note that all addresses are of Reigate town and all telephone numbers have the code 01737, unless otherwise stated

	Address	Business
Bakers Radio Ltd	6 Western Parade, Prices lane RH2 8AU (240543 / 242322)	TV, Electrical Retailers
Care Unlimited	Chaldon Rise Mews, Rockshaw Road, Merstham RH1 3DE (645171 / 646266)	Care Homes
Care Homes of Distinction Ltd	Wray Park, 55 Alma Road RH2 0DN (242778)	Care Homes & Property Development
Crow Watkin	14 Bell Street RH2 7BE (245886)	Independent Estate Agents, Surveyors & Valuers
Dunottar School	High Trees Road, RH2 7EL (761945)	
East Surrey College	Claremont Road, Gatton Point, Redhill RH1 2JX (772611)	
Iain Johnston	4 Chart Lane (244160)	Podiatrist
Michael Jones & Associates	Crossway House, 8 London Road RH2 9HY (245610)	Engineering Consultants – Building Services
Keymex Ltd	59-61 Bell Street RH2 7AQ (240171)	Domestic Appliance Sales, Service & Repairs
Holmesdale Building Society	43 Church Street RH2 0AE (245716)	Your local Building Society for all your mortgage and investment needs
La Barbe Restaurant	71 Bell Street RH2 7AN (241966)	Restaurant & Outside Catering
Micklefield School	10 Somers Road RH2 9DU (242615 / 224211 / 224212)	Independent Preparatory School for boys and girls age 2 ¹ / ₂ to 11
Ormerods	Suite 4, Chapter House, 33 London Road RH2 9HZ (0208 686 5000)	Solicitors
Reigate Architects	59 Nutley Lane, RH2 9HP (222099)	Architecture and Sustainability
Reigate Heath Golf Club	Reigate Heath, RH2 8QR (226793)	Golf Club
Reigate Priory Cricket Club	Park Lane, RH2 8JX (244477)	Cricket Club with senior & junior sections
Reigate Priory School	Bell Street RH2 7RL (245065 / 240229)	
Royal Alexandra & Albert School	Gatton Park, RH2 0TW (649050)	Boarding school for boys and girls ages 7 to 18
Stanton Construction	1Castlefield Road RH2 0SA (227430)	Development & construction service to industry, public & commercial sectors
Stentor Music Co Ltd	Albert Road North, RH2 9EZ (240226)	Manufacturers and Distributors of Musical Instruments
Stoneman Funeral Service	Doran Court, Reigate Road, Redhill RH1 6AZ (763456)	Funeral Directors & Memorial Craftsmen
TWM Solicitors LLP	40 West Street RH2 9BT (221212)	Solicitors
White & Sons	24 High Street RH2 9AY (222600)	Independent Estate Agents, Surveyors & Valuers

THE OCTOBER MEMBERS' EVENING

On MONDAY 7TH OCTOBER 2013 7.30P.M. for 8.00P.M.
at the REIGATE MANOR HOTEL, REIGATE.

For tickets to this event please complete the top half of this form and return the **WHOLE PAGE** as soon as possible with your remittance and a **STAMPED ADDRESSED ENVELOPE** for the return of the ticket to **MRS.M.DAMER, HEATHFIELD STABLES, REIGATE HEATH, SURREY RH2 8QR.**

NAME:.....

Current Member of the Reigate Society.

TELEPHONE NO:

EMAIL:.....,

I/We apply for tickets @ £12.00 a head. Remittance Total

Cheques should be made payable to the Reigate Society.



THE OCTOBER MEMBERS' EVENING MONDAY 7TH OCTOBER 2013

7.30P.M. FOR 8.00 P.M.

REIGATE MANOR HOTEL, REIGATE HILL, REIGATE

NAME(S)

TICKET NUMBER(S).....

THIS TICKET COVERS ADMISSION AND THE BUFFET WITH 1 GLASS OF WINE OR A SOFT DRINK.

ADDITIONAL DRINKS AVAILABLE AT THE CASH BAR.