

**CHAIRMAN'S NOTES**

**YES, WE STILL NEED YOU!**

Although I have appealed for volunteers to fill the following positions in the last couple of newsletters, unfortunately no volunteers have been forthcoming. So again I would ask all members, or even prospective members, to help us out. None of the positions are particularly onerous or time consuming and the previous incumbent will be available to brief you on the details and work with you to ensure a smooth transition. It is very important to fill these vacancies so as to continue the smooth running of the Society.

The vacancies are;

Vice Chairman,

Society Representative on the Reigate Business Guild

Programme Organiser

Publicity Officer

Heritage Open Day Organiser

If you are interested in any of the above vacancies then either contact me on [mortlockar@gmail.com](mailto:mortlockar@gmail.com) or the number below, or any of the Officers of the Society. Also you can use our website for contact details (<http://www.reigatesociety.org.uk/contact/>) we can then discuss where your interests lay and how your talents can be best utilised within the Society.

Although we have not filled the Programme Organiser position we have managed to arrange talks through to the end of 2015 (with many thanks to our Hon. Secretary). However, if you have any thoughts, or wishes, on possible speakers then please let us know. One item you will need to note is that all Open Meetings will now

be held at the Colman Redland Centre, 33 Croydon Road. Reigate RH2 0LZ

The annual 2014 Civic Awards were presented during the recent Members Evening at the Reigate Manor Hotel; details of the three winners are given in the Architecture and Planning Report. The selection was, again, very difficult as the quality of all entries was very high. Our evening also included a very interesting talk on 'The parks and countryside of Reigate and Banstead, Parks for All'. Thanks go to the presenters Ian Wright and Emanuel Flecken.

Nominations for the 2015 Awards are now requested, so if you know any project you think worthy of consideration, then please let us know. The only entry qualification is that the project must be complete and in the Borough.

The possible additional runway at Gatwick is creating a lot of local interest and we will be getting involved with the various reviews and consultations as the infrastructure impacts will also need to be considered for the possible increased passenger numbers, aircraft noise, employment issues and transportation. Based on information regarding the current, and possible future noise corridors, both from Gatwick and Heathrow, we have reviewed our previously neutral stance and now oppose the plans for the additional runway

The work on the Memorial Park is virtually complete and it is open for the public. This will be a welcome improvement to this fine open space in central Redhill. Unfortunately the Balanced Network road scheme is not progressing well around Redhill and we await, with interest, perceivable signs of improved traffic flows when the work is completed in the New Year, somewhat later than originally forecast. Demolition of the old cinema to the rear of the listed façade is progressing, although the provision of affordable housing has been scrapped as the Developer

could not make a viable case for their inclusion, which is disappointing.

We recently held a new Members' evening which was well attend by the current cohort of new members, and enabled them to appreciate both what the Society does as a whole, and to meet the chairmen of the various committees and have their roles explained further.

You can still receive free vouchers for limited access to National Trust sites, but applications must be made in writing. English Heritage vouchers are still available electronically.

**Alan Mortlock**

**(01737) 244407**

## SECRETARY'S NOTES

We were pleased to see over 70 attendees at the **Annual Members' Evening** held at the Reigate Manor this year. During the evening the 2014 Civic Award winners were announced and received their Civic Award certificates which, as in previous years, had been inscribed by Ann Bowen, a talented local calligrapher. Elsewhere in this newsletter you will read details of the winners and their projects and there is a photograph of the Reigate Society Chairman with the Civic Award winners towards the end of this newsletter.

Ian Wright and Emanuel Flecken, Reigate and Banstead Borough Council's Countryside Manager and Parks Operational Manager respectively, gave a very full and informative talk about the countryside and parks in the Borough and the complications involved in their management. Although by the nature of the gathering the audience was well informed about the green areas and the borough in general there were quite a few facts which increased their knowledge and understanding of the local environment and the complexities it management presents. The excellent talk was illustrated with a power point presentation. The evening was slightly let down by a microphone problem which I am assured, by the events manager at the hotel, has now been rectified.

We look forward to seeing many of you, and members of the public at the Reigate Society's annual season of **Open Meetings** which start in November at the Colman-Redland Centre in Croydon Road, where there is parking on site. Sean Hawkins starts the season off with an illustrated talk entitled "The Borough goes to War". The new 2014/15 season has two differences from the 2013/14 season – **all** the Open Meetings will be held in the Colman-Redland Centre and are on a MONDAY.

One of the easy ways of keeping up with what is happening in the Society is to log onto our website [www.reigatesociety.org.uk](http://www.reigatesociety.org.uk). All the Committees of the society are very active and involved in reacting to situations, planning issues and local concerns. Letters from members also appear regularly in the Surrey Mirror highlighting public worries. I have not had much luck recently getting items published in the Surrey Mirror but hopefully that will improve.

Please do contact me if you have a query, either by email, telephone, letter or via the website all contact details are in your membership card.

**Mrs Michèle Damer**

**(01737) 243513**

Email: [heathfieldstables@dial.pipex.com](mailto:heathfieldstables@dial.pipex.com)

## TREASURER'S NOTES

ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTIONS are due from the 1st April 2014 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.

**Robert Bogin**

**(01737) 248018**

## REGISTRAR'S NOTES

### Please let us know your E-mail address!

E-mail really helps us to get our communications to you – the Newsletters, for

example – on time and at least cost. Be assured that we will never pass your details to anyone else and you can opt out at any time.

Since our last Newsletter, fourteen new members have joined the Reigate Society. We are pleased to welcome:

**Ms L Blackmore**

**Mrs S E Coulson**

**Mr & Mrs J W Dean**

**Mr J Ellacott**

**Mr & Mrs S Elliott**

**Mr D L Jones**

**Mrs S Rice**

**Mr & Mrs D Simmons**

**Miss M Selby**

**Mrs R Soanes**

and **Reigate Grammar School** as a Corporate Member.

Sadly, five of our members have died during the same period.

**David Gardner**

**(01737) 244148**

E-mail: [davidsjg@yahoo.com](mailto:davidsjg@yahoo.com)

## COMMITTEE REPORTS

### ARCHITECTURE & PLANNING

CHAIRMAN:

**GWYTHYR JOYCE (01737) 249434**

Progress on demolition of the old Liquid & Envy as well as the new Sainsbury's sites in Redhill is progressing quickly. Interestingly, the demolition has exposed a view showing a slice through the faience facade to Liquid & Envy, with the very thick bonded brick structure tapering upwards from ground level to top of the structure. Let us hope the chaos of preparation for the new two way roads in Redhill is not made worse by site traffic removing demolished materials travelling to and from these two sites.

It was very satisfying to see the significant achievement through public concern over the 60 acre Solar Farm proposal for Green Belt farmland west of Priory Park. Opposition through organised public protest and in submissions to the borough website, including those from the Architecture & Planning committee succeeded in swaying the council vote. The council meeting was very well attended and two of our residents made clear arguments against the proposal. For all the reasons mentioned by these residents this was a clear triumph of common sense over commercial ambition and disregard for the irreplaceable natural beauty of our Surrey countryside.

The suggestion has been made we enter this year's winners of the Reigate Society Civic Awards for the national competition for The Civic Voice National Design Award. This is a new award for 2015 and the inaugural winner will be announced at a ceremony hosted by the Civic Voice president, Griff Rhys Jones. The award is intended to be a celebration of good design – a kite mark to be recognised by community groups,

professionals and local government alike. The award will also be unique – it will not be an award where professionals give an award to the work of other professionals. Instead, the nominations will be made and supported by local communities across the country, such as ours in Reigate. We believe our awards of 2014 Civic Awards are suitable nominations and therefore are submitting them for this competition.

This year's Reigate Society Civic Awards included the Home Farmhouse at Merstham, a fascinating Grade II listed building dating back to the 14<sup>th</sup> century which has been lovingly restored; also an extension to Sandcross Junior School, Reigate, and the refurbished Reigate Priory Cricket Club pavilion. All are published with photographs on our website.

Our previously expressed concerns over potential threats to Green Belt by future developments remain in view of the continued possibility of a second runway at Gatwick. The recently published Airports Commission Report invites public comment on the commission's detailed consideration of each proposal. This includes analysis of the cost of each proposal, the effect on communities of noise, property loss and construction, and the economic benefits and environmental impacts. It mentions the effect on communities of noise, property loss and construction, economic benefits and environmental impacts. The Reigate Society is 'against' a second runway at Gatwick for several reasons, but for A&P it is because of the lack of housing and associated services to support a

large airport and consequently the inevitability of building on Green Belt. Additionally there is an absence of adequate infrastructure to support a larger airport.

Another threat posed by Gatwick is the revision of routes taken by aircraft departing the airport which are greatly increasing noise levels over Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty and Areas of Great Landscape Value. Most of us are aware of this because the change has created a large increase

in the number of flights close to the south of Reigate and Redhill. We are significantly concerned about this issue which creates intrusive noise and environmental pollution over our new areas of countryside. We encourage members to make their objections known through the many action groups appearing in the press and around our Borough.

## REDHILL

**CHAIRMAN: GERRY MOSS (01737) 765508**

As predicted last time the first project would be complete. The Memorial Park is open and, on a fine day, heavily used. Strictly it is not finished. There are areas of grass still netted off while it gets established. Also the twenty fruit tree orchard (in the old play area) is also netted off. The sensory garden planting is scheduled for later this month. Time will tell how well it all will work. The play area looks as if it may become very muddy in wet weather. There still needs to be a notice explaining that it is a memorial park to those who died in the First World War. This is just hinted at with the poppy and dove motif now on the gates.

The other very welcome project, which is now complete, is the opening of the lift from the ticket office to the cross passage at the station. The next phase of work at the station starts in the new year with construction of the multistorey car park on the east side of the line. This will take about a year and must be complete and in use before work can start on construction of Waitrose, shops and housing on the current station car park on the west side.

As a backdrop to the refurbished Memorial Park the demolition of Lombard House has started. It is expected to be down by next spring with the enlarged Sainsbury ready to open by late autumn 2016. This phase is not expected to cause any additional obstruction to traffic. Special care is being taken to prevent dust pollution.

The saga of the balanced network continues. I first reported it was going to be complete this July

and then in September. The latest projected date for two-way traffic is starting on Sunday 15 February 2015. Most road works should be finished before Christmas except for work at the Lombard roundabout and the Cromwell Road/High Street junction. There will also be some additional work on Princess Way in the new year. However it is noticeable that all of the information on the web or in the Latest Balanced Network Newsletter there is no mention of the timescale of work on the Station roundabout. It has however been reported that this work will be suspended for the Christmas period, which will be a relief from the current massive congestion that occurs for much of the day. The pedestrianization of Station Road East should be complete by February.

We are promised that before Christmas there will be new direction signs under the Travel Smart programme. These will be map based and provide directions to public buildings and other facilities.

Work continues on the Liquid and Envy (Odeon Cinema) site. It is expected to be complete by early 2016. The latest plan for the Cromwell Road south site is to build two extra floors of housing on the shops at the High Street end.

Much is happening in Redhill. We would welcome your comments on the work in progress and more particularly when each is complete. In addition do you have a vision of future work that is needed to improve the town? Do let the Redhill Committee know (email: [g.p.moss@qmul.ac.uk](mailto:g.p.moss@qmul.ac.uk)).

## TRANSPORT

**CHAIRMAN: BRUCE HEALEY (01737) 240577**

### Roads:

The Pebble Hill road works will continue until January. This is putting moderate additional traffic on to Reigate Hill.

There is a contraflow on the M23 between the Merstham Interchange and Gatwick. This is planned to finish by the end of November. The removal of the one-way system in Redhill is

planned to be complete by February. We are promised a 5 week period without road works in the run-up to Christmas.

### Railways:

Engineering disruptions abound primarily because of the rebuild of London Bridge Station. There will be no trains to or from London Bridge on Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> November and Sunday 14<sup>th</sup>

December.

On 20<sup>th</sup> December to 4<sup>th</sup> January, no Thameslink trains will call at Redhill or London Bridge. On 4<sup>th</sup> January, buses will replace trains between Purley and Redhill.

From 5<sup>th</sup> January 2015 to January 2018 (yes, they really do mean 2018), Thameslink trains bound for Bedford will not call at London Bridge. The services will run via Tulse Hill and Elephant & Castle and will take 15 minutes longer than the direct services. A limited number of Thameslink trains will terminate at London Bridge during this period. Southern trains will continue to terminate at London Bridge although a few early morning trains have already been diverted to Victoria resulting in a local outcry - mostly caused by the lack of prior consultation by Southern Trains.

Discussions with Surrey County Council on the amount of time the level crossing gates at Reigate are closed are ongoing.

#### **Gatwick:**

Some members of the Reigate Society attended the "Plane Wrong" meeting to oppose the increase in aircraft noise. The meeting was well attended; Crispin Blunt MP was also present. The conclusion of the meeting was a resolution to write a letter to the Department for Transport and the CAA (copy to Crispin Blunt) "to object in the clearest and strongest terms possible to the new flight paths and the consequent noise that is blighting local resident's lives on a daily and constant basis."

On the subject of the second runway at Gatwick, there is concern that not enough consideration has been given to the run-off of rainwater from the second runway adding to any local flooding in times of bad weather. The Government is trying to move responsibility for drainage from central government to local authorities who we feel will not have the expertise to deal with this subject.

## **NATURAL AMENITIES**

**CHAIRMAN: COLIN BURBIDGE (01737) 245264**

Repairs to the Priory building continue. The status of two structures erected within the school site for the duration of the repairs has been clarified with SCC. We have been assured that these will be removed when the works are complete. The Society will continue to monitor activity on the school site.

**Reigate Heath** The general condition of the heath is good with work continuing under the management plan. Members of the Residents Association have assisted the Reigate Area Conservation Volunteers (RACV) on two tasks recently. However differences remain over certain issues in the management plan which is fixed until March 2016.

**Buckland Sand Pits.** Sand extraction ceased at the end of August. The pumping of water from the pits has been reduced until the redundant processing plant in Park Pit has been removed. Following a complete cessation of pumping there will be a consequent change in the water flowing in Shag Brook which will become variable depending on seasonable rainfall levels.

**Wray Common.** An ad hoc survey at the end of the second summer of the revised mowing regime indicated that the expected benefits are starting to show. It is hoped to confirm this with a formal survey next year.

**Earlswood Common.** The investigation into the water quality of the lakes is awaiting the tracing of the source(s) of the contaminating substances. Work is progressing on the clearance in and around the chain pond as was indicated during the talk at the Members' Evening. The Conservation Volunteers have completed two work sessions already towards completing this task but there is still no satisfactory management plan to supplement the strategy document.

Concerns have been raised over the increasing and excessive use by professional dog walkers of open spaces subject to environmental protection designations. RBBC has been made aware of soil erosion and damage to ground cover caused by overuse of areas such as Priory Park Ridge and Felland Copse. This situation will continue to be monitored.

## **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: Robert Bogin, Townsend House, 64 Church Street, Reigate, RH2 0SP. Tel: 01737 248018

## CORPORATE MEMBERS

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

<b>Name</b>	<b>Address</b>	<b>Number</b>	<b>Business</b>
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)	
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 21/2 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 Grammar School	Reigate Rd, Reigate RH2 0QS	(222231)	
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	1 Castlefield 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 Civic Award winners the Reigate Society Chairman.



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