

CHAIRMAN'S NOTES

It is with great sadness that I have to report that our Honorary Registrar, David Gardner, recently passed away following a very rapid decline in his ongoing illness. Although David only recently took over this position he was rapidly up to speed and had updated all the Registrar's records into a database, which is a great step forward. He and Heather also instigated, and ran, the inaugural New Members' evening, which was very successful and will be carried on in future. David was a very sociable and popular man, as evidenced by the large turnout at his Thanksgiving Service at St Matthews, where there was standing room only. During the service we were privileged to hear about his life and interests which was full and varied. Our sympathies go to Heather and Rebecca.

However on a brighter note we have been able to fill the Hon. Registrar's position with Cara Hunter-Rowe, a former Legal Executive and currently volunteering with the East Surrey Domestic Abuse Service. Although she is a new member she supports the ethos of the Society and is looking forward to getting to grips with the challenges of her new role, especially the Access database. Despite this challenge she is now reviewing all the documents and files she recently received. Of course she is being supported by other members of the Society where necessary and I am sure she will be a valuable asset to the Society.

We have also recruited David Brown, a long term member, local Rotarian and currently on the Reigate Business Guild to act as liaison officer between the Society and the Guild. We wish him well.

In spite of these two new recruits we still need another four volunteers for the positions below none of them 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,

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 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.

As you may know we are members of Civic Voice, a national charity for the civic movement in England. As part of this organisation we receive a series of updates of activities, news worthy events etc.. Currently these updates are not necessarily circulated to all interested parties. Therefore we would appreciate a volunteer who can act as a coordinator for these updates and distribute them according to an agreed matrix. No experience is necessary apart from having and be familiar with Email.

As of writing the new 'Balanced Network' has just been opened, somewhat later than originally planned... It will be very interesting to see how the scheme performs, as we had concerns about the scheme at the planning stage, but hope the

new layout reduces delays as expected, although there may be some teething problems as drivers adjust to the changes.

The possible additional runway at Gatwick is still 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. It is useful to note that a number of local Boroughs are against the proposal, which does strengthen the case for the additional runway not being approved.

We are following the discussions that are taking place between rail users and both Network Rail and the rail franchise holders, although our input will be limited.

The work on the Memorial Park is complete and is open for the public. This is a welcome improvement to this fine open space in central Redhill and hopefully it will be well supported as the weather improves.

SECRETARY'S NOTES

The 2014/2015 Open Meetings, have been organised jointly by the Chairman and Honorary Secretary. The organising of the Open Meetings is not onerous especially as the decision was taken to have one venue. The reason that parking is a slight issue on site is that there is a dance class which takes place in the large hall from 7.30pm - 8.30pm. So the participants arrive and leave before the Reigate Society this is why the car park has been 'split' so that the dancers can park to the left and the Reigate Society parks to the right and everyone can leave when they want to without finding that they have been blocked in by someone from the other activity.

The talks so far have been well attended with audiences of 50 -60 members and visitors.

The last Open Meeting talk on March 23rd "Einstein, Honeybees and the survival of the Human Race" will have probably taken place as you receive this Newsletter but the talk following the AGM will be still to come and will be revealed in the Annual Report.

All members with email will have received the 5 aide memoire Open Meeting flyers with details of the talks taking place. The flyer is also placed on our website www.reigatesociety.org.uk. and on the Rotary Noticeboard adjacent to Morrisons' Car Park. Thank you David for keeping the Noticeboard up to date.

Planning applications are still being reviewed and comments submitted, one of particular interest is the application for Tesco convenience store on the site of the car showroom at Shaw's Corner. It was previously rejected and with Tesco current problems are they serious about this development?

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

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.

Finally; a reminder that all our Open Meetings are now at the Colman Redland Centre, 33 Croydon Road. Reigate RH2 0LZ; please come and join us, as we have an exciting selection of speakers for the coming year.

Alan Mortlock

(01737) 244407

We know that there are many members who have the right skills to take on the role of programme organiser. If you are one of those and you feel you would like to take this on please do get in touch and help to keep the Society alive and well.

The 60th Anniversary Sculpture progresses! We have been hampered by good fortune! The Building boom has resulted in a shortage of bricks and skilled bricklayers. The statue still awaits installation.

The Society's website at www.reigatesociety.org.uk has much information on Society matters and events so please do use make use of it. The Society has a fledgling **Facebook** page as well. If you are also on Facebook please register a Like! on our page it would be good to grow our following. The last talk flyer was viewed by 96 people and shared 3 times.

The NT and EH passes are a complimentary concession made available each year by negotiation with the respective organisations.

We don't yet have confirmation of arrangements for this year's passes and once we do we will let everyone know asap.

National Trust day admission passes

are hard copy only, one per member (two for joint

members) and can be obtained by individual members of Civic Societies forwarding a stamped address envelope to me at this office: Gill Roxborough, **Civic Voice, 60 Duke Street, Liverpool L1 5AA.**

I am pleased to supply the link to obtain the

English Heritage day admission

pass, which is downloadable by clicking on the following link and following the instructions:

www.tinyurl.com/civicinglishoffer14

This pass can be used between 1 April and 30 June and 1 September and 31 January 2016. 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.

Please note that there are terms and conditions and certain properties and dates are excluded from both offers so you are advised to check the passes before making your arrangements to visit.

Good News

We welcome **Michael Johnson** on board to help organise this national event locally. Michael has offered to keep in touch with all the local venues and to distribute the Brochure around the Borough, which will be a huge help. If anyone knows of a Reigate and Banstead venue which would sit well in the Heritage Open Days event you can let us know by email: heathfieldstables@dial.pipex.com or tel. 01737 243513.

Here are a few dates for your diaries:

The **Priory Park Community Festival** will be taking

place again on **Saturday 4th July 2015** and the Reigate Society will again have a stand there to promote the Society, encourage membership and to listen to the concerns of local residents. Please consider offering to be one of those who man the stand for half an hour at a time.

The **63rd Annual General Meeting** will be held in the **Colman Redland Centre at 8.15pm on Monday 13th July 2014**

Heritage Open Days in the Borough of Reigate and Banstead will take place from **Thursday September 10th – Sunday September 13th 2015.**

The Reigate Manor Hotel will again be the venue for the **Reigate Society Members Evening**. The date to put in your diaries for this year's event is **Monday October 5th**. The ticket price is **£12**. This price includes a free welcoming glass of wine or soft drink and a light snack buffet. There will also be a cash bar for your convenience.

The **2015 Civic Awards** will be presented and will be followed by a talk details of that will be in the next Newsletter. Don't forget that anyone, member or non member can submit a **completed** local project either new build, conversion, renovation, landscaping etc. to Gwyther Joyce for consideration by the panel. gwyther.joyce@ntlworld.com.

Mrs Michèle Damer (01737) 243513)

Email: heathfieldstables@dial.pipex.com

TREASURER'S NOTES

ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTIONS are due from the 1st April 2015 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 the back page.

Robert Bogin (01737) 248018

REGISTRAR'S NOTES

As the Chairman has notified you above, I have just taken over as Registrar of the Society. I have lived in the Redhill/Reigate area for the last 17 years and was raised in Woodmansterne, near Banstead. I have always had an interest in architectural / heritage issues and I believe the work of the Reigate Society is important. I also feel it is important for existing members to do all

they can to encourage an increased and, indeed, younger membership to enable the Society to continue its work and to provide it with new ideas.

Since the last Newsletter, there has been a further change in membership numbers. Unfortunately, 3 members have died during this period, but we

have gained 2 new members: the Henderson/Wareham family and, of course, I have joined also.

Cara Hunter-Rowe

Email:

carahr@sky.com

COMMITTEE REPORTS

ARCHITECTURE & PLANNING

CHAIRMAN:

GWYTHER JOYCE (01737) 249434

The works in Redhill to renovate the Sainsburys site continue apace. The demolition of Lombard house is progressing quickly, but as of mid-February a contractor had not yet been appointed for construction of the new works, so let us hope that the site will not remain inactive for too long, as there will be a big gap in the streetscape of the town. Building work is planned to get underway this Spring, with a final completion date of summer 2016.

Staying in central Redhill, the change in traffic flow has now been implemented. For the rest of March drivers can only exit the Belfry car park by turning left, but this will change to two-way by the end of the month. The Regeneration chief, Councillor Natalie Bramhall is sure that the system will improve Redhill by reducing the number of cars entering the town and ensuring that, once in the system, they can now reach their destinations more efficiently. However, Reigate and Banstead Pedestrian Forum are yet to be convinced of the benefits: "The crossings around the roundabouts were holding up traffic, but they're still going to be there. I'm not sure there's enough room for lorries, and with the building work there's an amazing amount of lorries bringing stuff into town".

The committee remain concerned over the proposed alterations to the RNIB site, including the construction of 117 new homes and facilities on land near Philanthropic Road. The scheme would see the demolition of a number of long-standing buildings on the site. The Environment Agency has highlighted the increased risk of flooding. Reigate's Conservation Officer says that "Substantial harm to or loss of a grade II listed building should be exceptional" and whilst he has not raised any objections, this is predicated by a 12-part condition. The impact of the

development on the Tudor House (the former site of The Philanthropic School, regularly visited by Charles Dickens) and the fact that the development is in the Green Belt are both of particular worry. The scale of the development is likely to impact upon local infrastructure, including traffic congestion, as well as schools and doctors' surgeries.

At Gatwick, the council have not opposed plans for a 2nd runway at the airport, Deputy leader of the Council Allen Kay has said that they will 'not support or object to 'the proposed plans, hoping to secure maximum benefits for residents and businesses whilst at the same time inevitable negative impacts are minimised'. There are considerable concerns ranging from noise issues and air quality to greater risks of flooding and impact on housing and social infrastructure. Most local councils have opposed the plans, and if Reigate and Banstead had added their voice this would have carried substantial weight. The Gatwick Area Conservation Campaign has issued its reply in the form of, the *Response to the Airport Commission's Consultation on Runway Options*. A number of A&P members have read this document and consider it both creditable and well-researched.

In Reigate, work has started in converting the old Surrey Mirror offices on London Road into what is believed to be a Co-Op at ground-floor level with flats above. Whilst the renovation of a space which has lain unused for four and a half years is to be welcomed, there is the strong possibility of a negative impact on traffic circulation which already has to contend with the level crossing gates and school run traffic.

Simon Walter

REDHILL

CHAIRMAN: GERRY MOSS (01737) 765508

Anyone recently visiting Redhill cannot fail to have noticed the changes. Two-way traffic around the Town Centre was adopted on 15 February. Lombard House is nearly completely demolished ready for building the enlarged Sainsbury. The 'Liquid and Envy' site is now clear except for the facade.

Although now two-way work on the balanced network continues, the footpath from the station to the pedestrian crossing across Princess Way is being widened. This results in traffic having to go down to one lane at the roundabout with congestion nearly as bad as before Christmas. There also will be resurfacing on many of the roads around the system in the near future. No doubt when the new Sainsbury is built there will be further disruption. While the balanced network is incomplete it is premature to decide if the system is a success or failure. Signs so far are not good. It is clear that congestion down Redstone

Hill is worse. This is in part due to the new cycle path under the station bridge. Thus traffic can only sort into two lanes for those turning right and those turning left very close to the roundabout. There seems to be problems with long articulated lorries at a number of quite sharp bends. The exit from the Belfry car park is a problem, especially for cars wanting to turn right. Another problem for both customers and service vehicles is at the new mini-roundabout at the entrance to the Belfry. The *Surrey Mirror* has very recently published new images for the Marketfield site and the canopy over the entrance to the Library and Harlequin. We await submission of detailed plans for the development.

I mentioned last time on planned new map based Travel Smart direction signs. These have not appeared, instead there are a number of new pedestrian signposts.

TRANSPORT

CHAIRMAN: BRUCE HEALEY (01737) 240577

ROADS: Separate petitions for a 20mph limit in Reigate High Street and for a pedestrian crossing near the Esso Garage on Reigate Hill have been passed to the Council.

GATWICK AIRPORT: Reigate Society letters opposing the Gatwick second runway have been sent to the CAA, the Airports Commission and the *Surrey Mirror* (which was published).

EXTRA HOUSING: The proposed 1500 house development in north Horley will put extra strain on roads and be under the Gatwick flight paths. It could require improvements to the local roads. Drainage and water run-off are also considerations.

RAILWAYS: Network Rail has issued a draft Route Utilisation Study for Sussex. This proposed many improvements (mostly without specifying dates) such as additional platforms at East Croydon, grade separated junctions at Purley and north of East Croydon. The additional platform at Redhill is scheduled for completion by December 2017 when 3 trains an hour from Reading with 2 going on to Gatwick is a possibility, increasing pressure on Reigate level crossing. An additional 12 car platform at Reigate was mooted - in future; all trains to London will be 12 cars. The present rush hour scheme with Three Bridges / Tonbridge

and Three Bridges / Reigate splitting at Redhill cannot be supported because of the time taken separating the trains. Network Rail proposes to retain the Tonbridge / Three Bridges service but run 12 cars to Reigate for the other service. The new platform would be behind Platform 2 and would occupy some if not all of the car park. Our response was to suggest splitting Reigate/Tonbridge trains and having 12 cars running to Three Bridges requiring no infrastructure changes.

When the Gatwick Express service was a separate franchise, Southern held down fares to provide competition. Consequently, a season ticket from Gatwick to London is presently cheaper than one from Redhill or Reigate. Similarly, fares from Godstone were held down when that line had inferior rolling stock and a worse service. It now has the same rolling stock, a better service to London Bridge during the present disruption and cheaper season tickets. The fares structure is now fixed with annual percentage increases. The Department of Transport does not have want to change this despite representations from MP Crispin Blunt. The reduced rush hour service to London Bridge has been well documented in the press.

Reigate Heath

Ian Wright and his team are proceeding with the schedule of works in the current Management Plan, and are helped by the **Reigate Area Conservation Volunteers (RACV)**. The process for the drawing up of the Management Plan for the Heath from March 2015 has been started.

The **RACV** has one work day scheduled for Reigate Heath. **Sun.29 Mar. REIGATE HEATH SSSI & LNR – Heather Restoration.** Continuing this season's heather restoration programme. Clearing tree and scrub cover together with later turf/litter layer stripping to allow the heather to regenerate from seed. Meet in the Flanchford Road car park from 10am. Session usually finishes at 4pm. Grid ref: 239503/Postcode: RH2 8AB. Any member of RS or the general public would be welcome to this working party. Please wear suitable footwear, clothes and gloves. Find out about the intricacies of managing this SSSI. Young people under 16 years must be supervised by an adult.

Reigate Heath Residents' Association: The Reigate Heath Residents' Association Constitution (10 July 2013) states that the area of interest includes properties and land comprising Flanchford Road to the north of the junction with Clayhall Lane, Bonnys Road, Reigate Heath, Heathfield, Trumpets Hill Road, Sandy Lane, Buckland Corner, Buckland Road, Cliftons Lane, Colley Manor Drive and Colley Lane. Residents of these roads are automatically members. Relevant planning application details are circulated to the group by email and another social get-together is organised for early March. The RHRA Committee has been actively working to seek ways of reducing the speed on West Street, ensuring safety for pedestrians and riders crossing the A25 at Flanchford Road. Repeater signs for the 30 mph limit on West Street have now been installed in an effort to slow drivers either approaching or leaving the town.

They have written to Surrey County Council asking them to consider an extension of the 30 mph limit west on the A 25 and on Flanchford Road. They are also in discussion with Surrey County Council to try and resolve the flooding issue on the bend near Sandy Lane on the Flanchford Road as well as the condition of the road edges further along.

Liz Hale has resigned as Chairman having been instrumental in setting up the Residents' Association, and Harry MacMillan who was Vice Chair has stepped in as Chairman until the AGM. He can be contacted by email at the following address: hjoycepippin@aol.com.

There has been a proposal to denotify some of the wetland area parts of the SSSI encompassing Reigate Heath. This is in response to the dramatic lowering of the water table and the drying out of these areas. Natural England does not believe that the cessation of sand extraction will lead to a natural restoration of these areas which lie to the south east and south west of the main area of the heath.

Earlswood Common. Attempts continue to identify the source(s) of the contamination which affect the water quality of the lakes. Until these investigations are complete it will be difficult to improve the state of the lakes. The clearance work in and around the chain pond has been completed by the Conservation Volunteers ready for the desilting work to be undertaken by R&BBC contractors.

Common Land. R&BBC has also been made aware of incursions into common land by the new development at Somers Gate (the former Dovers Care Home) in Dovers Green Road and this will hopefully be restored shortly. There may be other incursions also within this area of council owned common land which will need addressing.

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

Name	Address	Number	Business
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

