

CHAIRMAN'S NOTES

I am pleased to announce that the vacancies for the Vice Chairman and Honorary Secretary have been filled by two excellent volunteers, namely Michael and Bridget Doughty. This means that the future of the Society is now secure. However, Cara Hunter-Rowe has decided that due to personal commitments she will have to step down from the Honorary Register position, but in the short term Robert Bogin, our current Honorary Treasurer, has kindly offered to fill that position. Cara has done a great job getting the membership data base up and running and we will miss her organisational skills.

We still have vacancies 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;

Programme Organiser

Publicity Officer

Heritage Open Day Organiser

If you are interested in any of the above vacancies, or want some more details then please 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.

I mentioned in the last Newsletter the new 'Balanced Network' had just been opened. Although I had some concerns about the success of the scheme I am pleased to report that based

on personal experience it seems to be working well, although I understand the rush hour traffic is still very slow.

Although it has been announced the new runway for the south east will be at Heathrow the possible additional runway at Gatwick is still being mooted, especially by Gatwick Airport. We will still be getting involved with the various reviews and consultations as the infrastructure impacts need to be considered for the possible increased passenger numbers, aircraft noise, employment issues and transportation. As mentioned previously we still oppose the plans for the additional runway. It is useful to note that a number of local Boroughs are against the Gatwick proposal, which does strengthen the case for the additional runway not to be relocated from Heathrow.

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

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

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

Although we have filled all the Open meetings we need to fill the Programme Organiser position to administer the actual meetings, Speaker reception etc. and plan for the next series. So if you are interested in help us with this important roles please do not hesitate to contact us.

Alan Mortlock

(01737) 244407

SECRETARY'S NOTES

The 63rd Annual General Meeting took place on 13th July in the Colman Redland Centre. Around 60 members were present. The business of the AGM, the approval of the Minutes of the 62nd AGM and the adoption of the Annual Report and Accounts was completed by members present. Alan Mortlock stressed that he would be seriously considering the winding up of the Society if volunteers were not found for the five current vacancies. He will have completed his 5 years as Chairman by the next 2016 AGM and the Reigate Society Constitution "states "no person is eligible to hold the office of Chairman or Deputy Chairman for more than 5 consecutive years." At the time of this, the 63rd AGM, there was no Vice Chairman and no volunteer for this position, prior to the meeting, and no nominations from the floor. The following were elected to office: Alan Mortlock (Chairman), Robert Bogin (Hon. Treasurer), Cara Hunter-Rowe (Hon. Registrar). All four retiring members of Council had allowed their names to go forward again. John Cumberland, Sean Hawkins, David Paxman and Ian Stronge were all re-elected. A proposed raising of the membership fees was approved by a show of hands. The fees will now be Single: £10, Family £15 and Corporate £50. For further information about this please see the Hon. Treasurer's Report in this newsletter.

Reigate Community Fayre The Reigate Society stand at the Fayre on the 4th of July was manned by hands on members of the Society and my thanks go to Robert Bogin, Charles Wragg, Gwyther Joyce, Mr. and Mrs Fell, Michael Hellings, Ina King, Bruce Healey, Michael Knight and Terry Damer. I must also thank Colin

Burbidge for the loan, for the 6th Year, of his Gazebo! Footfall actually at the stand was down on last year but 9 people took advantage of the special membership deal offered on the day.

The Heritage Open Days event will be over by the time you receive this newsletter but Michael Johnson has liaised with the venue owners and organised their copy for the HODS Brochure 2015. These have been distributed and have been available in libraries and various other retail outlets around the borough. Please do contact us if you know of an interesting and suitable venue to add for next year.

October 5th is an important date in the Reigate Society's Calendar - **Members' Evening at the Reigate Manor Hotel 7.30pm for 8.00pm.** Following the awarding of the Reigate Society Civic Awards, and the finger buffet, **Dr. Freddie Gick, President of Civic Voice will address the meeting.** This is a tickets only evening. You will find a ticket application form at the end of this Newsletter.

Finally can I introduce you to the new Honorary Secretary of the Reigate Society Mrs Bridget Doughty her contact details are: Garthlands, Sandy Lane, Reigate RH2 8QU. Tel. 01737 240974.

I leave you the Reigate Society, your local Civic Society, in very good hands!

Mrs Michèle Damer (01737) 243513)

Email: heathfieldstables@dial.pipex.com

TREASURER'S NOTES

Following much hard work undertaken by our Registrar Cara Hunter-Rowe, subscriptions have been coming in at a good rate with many members having been previously unaware of arrears from previous years. The Society is very appreciative of those who have responded as the subscriptions are our only income to enable the work and the monthly lectures to continue. The accounts are therefore in good shape for the year ahead.

As you know ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTIONS were raised at the recent AGM and the current MINIMUM RATES are as follows:

Individual Members	£10
Family Members	£15
Corporate Members	£30

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

Numerous members will have received reminder letters from me for payment of arrears of subscriptions and I would like to thank those who have made prompt payment. One request made by several members has been for letters/email reminders to be sent out each year when subscriptions are due. Approximately half of our membership is on email and we are investigating the option of sending e-reminders. However we are unable to fund postal reminders, but our Newsletters advise that payments are due in or around April each year and a payment slip is attached to the back of the 'Corporate Members List' sheet in our April Newsletter for your assistance.

I can only suggest that, for those who still pay by cheque and feel in need of a reminder, it might perhaps be easier if those members set up standing orders with their Banks? I can provide Bankers Order forms for you to send to your Bank if you wish, you can contact me or the Treasurer.

Since the last Newsletter was distributed, I am pleased to advise that we have 12 new members including 2 families. 9 of these members signed up with the Society at the Reigate Community Fair last month. Unfortunately, 15 members have resigned; 4 have died and 3 have defaulted on payment and been removed from the records. A further 27 have just been removed from our records as they have been 2 years or more in arrears with payment and have not made payment in response to my request. Our membership numbers have therefore reduced to 613 (430 households).

We all – members included – need to make an effort to spread the word of the Society and encourage new people to join.

Cara Hunter-Rowe

Email:

carahr@sky.com

COMMITTEE REPORTS

ARCHITECTURE & PLANNING

CHAIRMAN:

GWYTHER JOYCE (01737) 249434

As we approach this year's Members Evening preparations for the Civic Award selection process has commenced and to date we have attracted six nominations. The new award category as mentioned in our previous newsletter covers Shop front improvements and new shop developments. For your information the full list of seven award categories follows and any further nominations by any of our members or the public will be welcomed. All nominations must have been completed within the last 12 months and must be located within our borough.

- New buildings
- Conversions, improvements and adaptations
- Conservation and restoration
- Exterior decoration
- Street or road layout improvements
- Tree planting, gardens and landscaping
- Shop front improvements and new shop developments

This year and in future years, in conjunction with the Civic Voice we will be entering the winners of our award programme into a National Award Scheme. We are very keen to ensure some commendable projects are put forward and

therefore you are encouraged to email or post any suggestion to myself or complete the nomination form to be found on our website.

The Reigate Society 60th anniversary sculpture project unfortunately remains in limbo due to the absence of a sponsor for the construction of the brick base. Several members of our society are pursuing options to complete this long overdue project for which we have set a target in completing by the end of 2015. Through this newsletter I would invite any sponsor to contact myself or Alan Mortlock if they wish to offer either the skills or the funds to complete this work.

The most important centre for urban redevelopment at the heart of our borough remains in a disappointing state, being the central business district of Redhill. Much has been promised and no doubt in time we will see a transformation of the area, however right where we should be seeing some handsome new buildings we have two very ugly abandoned demolition sites and two bleak and uncompromising large car parks. The situation can only get better.

The monthly review of planning applications throughout the Borough continues as usual and comments submitted to the planning department.

These can vary in size and the quality of proposals cover a wide spectrum. One of particular interest has been the application for new housing on the current industrial unit at the corner of Hooley Lane and Brighton Road. The recent report in the Surrey Mirror about this development was not accurate as the number of units quoted was for each block, and there are four block proposed. This appears to be a serious overdevelopment and will surely lead to parking and other traffic problem, as the area has also a new development on part of the old Sea Cadets site. Also the future of the old Redhill station and train sheds which have historic value need to be considered.

The pressure on the Borough due to Government and European immigration policy to build new houses has had the very noticeable effect of intensifying the number of backland developments being submitted. These have been seen with gardens being divided and built on, houses demolished and several homes or blocks of flats built instead, and parking allotments redeveloped. Also there has been the noticeably strong growth in conversion of existing office buildings into flats which to some degree has been understandable as

overprovision of offices in the area has been very apparent. Overall and more troubling to our committee has been the tendency to reduce the size of new homes to the bare minimum size. While first time buyers must be catered for, it is our view that building shoe box size homes will be divisive, socially unacceptable and potentially create slums of the future.

Over the decades, our borough has consistently acquiesced to excessive new housing numbers demanded by Government and this has produced the threat to Green Belt land. It would now appear the borough is allowing backland and brownfield overdevelopment to contain the pressure for new homes before it spills out onto Green Belt land.

In conclusion the Architecture & Planning Committee has a very busy programme of monthly meetings and we are always looking for new members to join in our stimulating discussions. We are fortunate this year to have attracted another professional but we are always looking for any member who has the best interest of our unique built environment at heart.

REDHILL

CHAIRMAN: GERRY MOSS (01737) 765508

Since my last report, apart from completion of the balanced network road works, there has little visible progress on the other projects in Redhill. Two-way traffic seems to be moving smoothly most of the time with the exception of some congestion on the routes to the Station roundabout. It is partly caused by the reduction to only one lane entering the town from Redstone Hill. There is related congestion from traffic leaving the town turning left under the railway bridge. It is caused by increased periods when the traffic lights at Noke Drive are red.

The other part of the balanced network project, refurbishment of Station Road East, is complete. Two of the trees in the four new planters do not seem to have survived, probably due to lack of water. The seats in Maple Square, that were

removed in the refurbishment, have not been replaced.

Work on the enlarged Sainsbury's seemed to be progressing well until it came to a halt with the bankruptcy of the appointed construction company. Reports suggest a new firm has just been appointed. There is little sign of work on the Liquid and Envy site or construction of the multistory car park by the station.

Without much publicity in June the Borough issued its booklet on *Reigate and Banstead remembers World War I* programme for 2015 (available from the library or on the Borough website). Of note is that a memorial stone to Rupert Hallows, awarded the Victoria Cross in 1915 for his actions at Hooge, Belgium, will be laid in the Memorial Park on 25 September. Rupert was born in Redhill.

TRANSPORT

CHAIRMAN: BRUCE HEALEY (01737) 240577

As I'm sure most will already know, the Airports Commission found in favour of an extra runway at Heathrow to the relief of most people in this area. This decision has still to be ratified by a Parliament Committee chaired by the Prime Minister and the prospect of a second runway at Gatwick has not been ruled out as an addition.

The proposed changes to the local bus services go ahead on 29/30 August. In summary, the 540 (Woldingham to Redhill) is withdrawn; the 424 is to change from half hourly to hourly and the 357 will no longer run direct from Redhill to Reigate but will instead follow the route of the 424 to supplement that reduced service. A lesser advertised change is that there will be an

extended route, the 485, from Reigate Red Cross to East Grinstead. Any enthusiasm for this is tempered by the fact that there is only one through bus per day. Full details of the changes and timetables for the various operators can be found on the web.

As ever, there are many roadworks in the area, the main ones are on the A25 at Betchworth, which should have been cleared by late August, and on the A23 at Hooley which should finish in mid September.

The recent merging of the Southern Trains and the Thameslink/Great Northern franchises has proposed some interesting and generally

beneficial changes to local off peak services from December 2015. So far these are proposals and are yet to be confirmed. Reigate and Tonbridge trains will miss out Merstham, Coulsdon South and Purley and will run to Victoria rather than London Bridge. There are two proposed Thameslink trains an hour calling at Redhill, Merstham, Coulsdon South and Purley through to Blackfriars and St Pancras International etc. There will still be other services from Redhill to London Bridge. However, the Portsmouth Harbour/Southampton/Bognor Regis trains will no longer call at Redhill to facilitate the above proposals. These proposals would not affect the rush hour services.

NATURAL AMENITIES

CHAIRMAN: COLIN BURBIDGE (01737) 245264

RBBC has apparently reactivated its Green Infrastructure Strategy but there was little consultation undertaken as closing date was 29th May.

Waste Disposal.

SCC is engaged in a cost/ benefit analysis of their waste services. This could lead to the eventual closure of some waste sites where they are under-used involving longer travel to amenity sites for some residents. It is not thought that this would apply to the larger site within the borough. Any changes will presumably be made known during 2016 when the Waste Plan is due to be reviewed.

Priory Park.

It is understood that RBBC has called for the reformation of a Friends Group with the intention of setting up working parties to undertake tasks in the park. The Society was neither informed nor invited to participate.

Reigate Heath.

The Management Plan is to be extended in its current form for a further two years as there is no clear agreement as to what should be included in any replacement plan. The draft questionnaire on the future of the heath which has been proposed to help progress this issue appears to be biased

and confused and will not do solve the way forward. Clarification of the relationship between the RA, RBBC and the Steering Group is required before any significant progress can be made.

Additional funding for maintenance of the heath is being sought to match that released from the residue of CAMEL fund.

The lease on the cricket pitch ceased in August due to the demise of the cricket club.

Earlswood and Redhill Commons.

The growth of vegetation around the Chain Pond has been remarkable since the clearance over the winter period but the recent Management Group walkabout was poorly attended.

There are reports that the lower dam on the lake is leaking.

Wray Common.

The more environmentally friendly mowing regime adopted over the last two years was abruptly changed for this summer without consultation. Despite it being drawn to RBBC's attention that this was in conflict with its biodiversity objectives the 'accidental' use of the wrong mowing regime has recurred on subsequent occasions. The reasons are still being sought.

The Reigate Society

President: Nicholas Owen

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

Tel: 01737 244407

Hon. Secretary: Mrs B Doughty, Garthlands, Sandy Lane, Reigate, RH2 8QU.

Tel: 01737 240974

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



**MEMBERS' EVENING MONDAY 5TH OCTOBER 2015
7.30P.M. for 8.00P.M.**

REIGATE MANOR HOTEL, REIGATE HILL.

**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 S.A.E. ENVELOPE TO:

MRS.B.DOUGHTY.GARTHLANDS, SANDY LANE, REIGATE, RH2 8QU.

NAME(S):.....

I AM A MEMBER.

TEL. NO:.....

EMAIL:.....



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

Remittance Total Cheques: The Reigate Society.

MEMBERS' EVENING MONDAY 5TH OCTOBER 2015

7.30P.M. FOR 8.00P.M. REIGATE MANOR HOTEL, REIGATE HILL

NAME(S)

.....

TICKET NUMBER(S).....

***THIS TICKET COVERS ADMISSION, A WELCOME GLASS
OF WINE OR A SOFT DRINK, AND FINGER BUFFET***

ADDITIONAL DRINKS AVAILABLE AT THE CASH BAR. THIS IS A TICKET ONLY EVENT