

## **CHAIRMAN'S NOTES**

As I announced in the last newsletter Michael and Bridget Doughty have stepped in as Vice Chairman and Secretary, respectively, and have certainly been getting up to speed, by standing in for me on a number of occasions and organising and minuteing the meetings necessary for the running of the Society, something I, and the Society, very much appreciate.

Robert Bogin also did a great job in organising the distribution of the last Newsletter following Cara's resignation and I am sure this newsletter will also be distributed equally as efficiently. Also thanks go to the distributors who actually do the leg work for those who are not yet on our email distribution, something we would encourage to help us to reduce costs. The option of distributing all the Newsletters by mail was raised by a former distributor, but Council decided that the cost of this was much too high for our limited income.

The 2015 Member's evening was held at Reigate Manor and although numbers were lower than usual due to a delay in publishing the event it proved an interesting evening with two very good awards and an informative talk from Dr Freddie Glick, Chair of Civic Voice, on the work and role of Civic Voice. We were very pleased that the awards received good coverage in the Surrey Mirror, details of the awards are given in the Architecture and Planning section of this newsletter.

The two winners will now be entered into the National Award scheme run by Civic Voice.

Nominations for this year's awards are now open, and should be submitted by 11th July 2016 to the Reigate Society using our [enquiries@reigatesociety.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@reigatesociety.org.uk) form or by post to The Reigate Society, 10 Priory Drive, Reigate, RH2 8AF.

A proforma should be used which can be accessed from our website and printed off at your convenience.

We were hoping that our Open Meetings would be held in the new JNA hall at the Colman Redland

Centre but we were very sad to hear that just as they were near to open the new hall their head Trustee Andy Skilling, sustained brain injuries after a fall at the Centre two weeks ago, and died on 23 October.

Andy single handedly drove this project forward, being at the Centre every day all day voluntarily, and it is particularly tragic that he will not realise his vision of a new community centre for all in the area.

This together with waiting for official paperwork to open has meant that the JNA hall will not be open until the New Year. Our sympathies go to all his family.

Although we have filled some of the vacancies we still need volunteers for the positions mentioned below. None are particularly onerous or time consuming and the previous incumbent will be available to brief you on the details. 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**

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

On September 25<sup>th</sup> 2015 our Vice Chairman attend a service in Redhill Memorial Park where

the Mayor of Reigate and Banstead Cllr Mrs Joan Spiers unveiled the VC Stone in memory of 2<sup>nd</sup> Lt. Rupert Price Hallowes, born in Redhill in 1881. The Victoria Cross was awarded for actions between 25<sup>th</sup> September and 1<sup>st</sup> October 1915 in which Lt Price Hallowes showed conspicuous bravery and devotion to duty, encouraging and supporting his men even after he sustained his fatal wounds.

As you may be aware The Redhill Memorial Park was originally created with money donated by local residents to remember those killed in action during the First World War

During the same ceremony the mayor unveiled the Centenary Field Plaque. This designation for the park is part of the nationwide Fields in Trust programme which gives it protection as an important open green space for the local people for all future generations, a most appropriate setting for the VC memorial plaque.

Recently it has been announced that the new routes for planes entering and leaving Gatwick have been announced. Currently we do not have any objection to this, but would point out that this is a separate issue to the possible second runway at Gatwick we are opposing.

The construction of the new Sainsbury store in Redhill has restarted after a new contractor was appointed and hopefully will proceed with no further delays. We also understand the Liquid & Envy site will recommence shortly. The new Redhill station development has also gone quiet,

but we understand the design work is progressing. Other developments are also being planned, more details can be found in the A&P section of the Newsletter.

Due to the upturn in the economy the number of housing planning applications has increased, which has put huge pressure on both possible development sites and redevelopment/conversion buildings but we are monitoring these applications and will provide constructive comments. We are also concerned about the impact these developments will have on the infrastructure, which is already stretched.

National Trust passes are now available through an agreement with Civic Voice. These passes are valid to May 2016, so if you would like to take advantage of this offer then please contact me, or our Hon Secretary, either for collection or provide a SAE envelope. They will also be available at our Open meetings.

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, details of which are on our website

**Alan Mortlock**

**(01737) 244407**

## **SECRETARY'S NOTES**

This, being my first report, I must start with a tribute to my predecessor, Michele Damer. Her skill and hard work have greatly benefitted the Society over the past several years. Since taking on the job and also attending my first full Council Meeting, I have discovered in real terms just how much work the Society does on our behalf to protect the local area and influence the policy decisions of local and national government which affect us all. The Chairmen and members of all the committees of the Society are to be congratulated on the work they do which you will find reported in this newsletter and in archived reports on the website.

The Heritage Open Days this year saw similar visitor numbers to last year at the various venues across the Borough. Our thanks to the new organisers, Suzanne Stronge and Michael Johnson and their helpers. The team is keen to develop HODS and need more helpers as well as ideas of new and interesting venues to be approached.

The Members Evening at the Reigate Manor was most enjoyable, as reported in the Chairman's report. Freddie Gick of Civic Voice gave a most

informative talk on the work of this organisation to which the Reigate Society is affiliated. Members can discover more by visiting the Civic Voice Website. The VC Stone Ceremony conducted by our Mayor in Redhill's Memorial Park on September 25<sup>th</sup> has been described in Alan's report and a report was also sent to the Civic Voice for their Memorials News section where it was published. They have set up an APPG (All Party Parliamentary Group) at Westminster where they hope to forge links with MP's across the country to promote the interests of local people.

At the recent Open Evening at the Colman Redland Centre Douglas Eaton gave an interesting insight into the history, positions, and descriptions of plaques. He also promoted his book, 'London Plaques – 5 Fascinating Walks'. The next Open Meeting is on 14<sup>th</sup> December when Alex Hunter will explore some interesting Gattin history. I add my voice to your Chairman's request for a Programme Organiser to help with planning and arranging these evenings. If anyone has ideas or requests for particular topics of Speakers at our Open Meetings, the AGM or Members Evening, please let us know. Ian

Stronge has volunteered to lead a small group of members to look at new ideas for actively promoting the Society and its membership. I thoroughly recommend getting more involved - the more of us who take on some of the work, the more the Society will grow.

**Web Site:** A modified navigation bar has been introduced which will make the site easier to use from mobile phones and small tablet computers. The Facebook page is still not attracting as many users as we would like.

**Mrs Bridget Doughty**

**(01737) 240974**

## TREASURER'S NOTES

Subscriptions have been coming in well and there is positive income for the year to date. The Association funds stand at a healthy level.

As you know ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTIONS were raised at the recent AGM and members who pay by bankers order should ensure that your Bank has the correct instructions for your subscription payment.

Individual Members £10

Family Members £15

Corporate Members £30

There is a payment form on the back page.

**Robert Bogin**

**(01737) 248018**

## REGISTRAR'S NOTES

15 members have joined so far in 2015 (12 single and 3 joint)

We have 265 single memberships and 189 joint memberships making a total of 646 members.

The Newsletter distribution method is being reviewed and we would like to send as many by email which is very cost and time effective for the Association.

We have included a form to this effect on the subscription payment page of this Newsletter

**Robert Bogin**

**(Acting Registrar)**

## COMMITTEE REPORTS

### ARCHITECTURE & PLANNING

**CHAIRMAN:**

**GWYTHYR JOYCE (01737) 249434**

It is reassuring to see building work restarting on Sainsbury's major new development in Redhill. The site seems well managed and the impact on users of the store in the old car park as well as surrounding roads is minimal to date. When completed, including the facelift to the existing library, theatre and associated shops, this will improve the image of this important sector of Redhill town centre. Optimistically, we anticipate this will set the stage for all other pending developments in Redhill centre, particularly the station car park scheme.

Since writing our September Newsletter, the A&P 2015 Civic Awards programme has been concluded with the very successful presentation evening at Reigate Manor. Of the 6 projects nominated, two received awards. These were particularly good examples of design and construction that were considered to serve as exemplars for future developments in the area.

A GACC (Gatwick Area Conservation Campaign seeking to oppose any new runway) meeting was attended by one of the A&P team. This was held at the Copthorne Hotel earlier this month and was

very well supported. The efforts of GACC and MPs as well as MEPs was very impressive, and did seem to be gaining results, albeit slowly. The most discouraging fact which came out of the meeting was the very notable refusal of Reigate & Banstead to declare their opposition to the second runway at Gatwick. Why they take this attitude is difficult to understand in light of the very strong local opposition already evident against existing noise pollution generated by new flight paths. With a new runway, the huge impact on noise as well as air pollution and the indirect effect on already congested roads, overstretched infrastructure and shortage of homes in the area is not difficult to imagine.

In addition to the new Sainsbury's in central Redhill, several other smaller projects in the area are taking shape. Most apparent amongst these is the new office block and adjacent flats at the old Taxation Offices on London Road Redhill. Also the old Surrey Mirror building on London Road Reigate is taking shape with modified elevations and new apartment floor on the roof.

As we move forward towards the beginning of 2016, any of these developments could be put forward for the next year's Civic Awards; we all have an

opportunity to judge completed projects and put forward nominations. No development is too small, for instance there is a refurbishment in Chart Lane, which shows great potential, however as we found with this year's Civic Award nominations, what looks good at first sight can upon closer scrutiny fall short.

The protection of the Green Belt around Reigate and Redhill will be an ever increasing challenge in future as central Government takes steps towards meeting the challenge of population growth and a greatly increased need for new build housing, not just on brownfield sites, but also greenfield. This political 'hot potato' has been passed to and fro between so many parties without any real result over the years, that inevitably a major push for new houses will result in pressure on our Green Belt. This has become apparent already with the Horley North West 600 home housing development which is now under construction, part of a master plan for a total of 2,600 new homes. We can expect much more of the same in future, especially in the area known as the Gatwick Diamond. Both local and central governments see this as a major platform for future growth between Brighton and London centred on Gatwick, and inevitably the Green Belt around Reigate and Redhill will feel the full effect of this growth.

## REDHILL

**CHAIRMAN:**

**GERRY MOSS (01737) 765508**

Last time I had to report a number of projects that seemed to have stalled. This time I am more optimistic. Work is in progress on the Sainsbury's site and the Liquid and Envy site.

An exhibition on the new Sainsbury is to be held next week but will have been held before this Newsletter is distributed. As reported in the *Surrey Mirror* Sainsbury plan to put a temporary shop on the Lombard House half so that the shop can continue while the present shop is redeveloped. When this is ready the shop will move back while the remainder of the site is built.

Piling on the Liquid and Envy site seems to be complete ready for construction of the shop (Tesco Express) and apartments.

Most of the time the Balanced Network is working smoothly for vehicles. There are some delays on Redstone Hill and at the St Matthews Road/Station Road junction and elsewhere during the rush hour. The pedestrian crossing at St Matthews Road/Station Road is a hazard for pedestrians who do not wait for the crossing lights to change green. They are liable to not realize that there may be turning traffic coming from behind them.

Associated with the Balanced Network there are cycle routes. It is an improvement that some are now marked with a bicycle painted on the cycle

lane. However it does need better signage as to where to go when it runs out such as at the London Road/Queensway junction. Another signage issue is the lack of street names. Gloucester Road at the London Road end only has a rotten wooden board with an illegible name on it. Visitors who do not know the area need names in order to follow instructions for example for a route from the station.

I reported earlier in the year that the Travel Smart maps had not appeared only finger posts. There are now some map-based signs showing appropriate buildings on a map orientated in the direction of travel. Probably the most seen sign is the one on the north side of Maple Square.

As reported last time a memorial plaque to Rupert Hallowes VC has been unveiled in the Memorial Park by the path from London Road to the café. Also in the park improved flooring by the play area has reduced the problems in wet conditions when it liable to get very muddy. The park seems to be a great success.

Progress on redevelopment of the Marketfield site is slow but it is now expect that a planning application will be submitted early in the new-year. As yet there is no progress to report on redevelopment of the station car parks.

## TRANSPORT

CHAIRMAN: BRUCE HEALEY (01737) 24057

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

**Green Infrastructure Strategy.** There has been no further news on this since RBBC apparently reactivated it in May.

### **Waste Disposal.**

SCC has undertaken a cost / benefit analysis of their waste services. This apparently will result in the closure of some 'under-used' waste sites and the reduction in opening hours of those remaining. Any changes to sites within the borough will presumably be made known early in 2016.

### **Priory Park.**

Nothing more has been heard of the RBBC attempt to form a Friends Group for the park.

It is understood that there is to be a meeting in early December which may resolve the question of the Right of Way between Bell Street and Park Lane / High Street.

### **Reigate Heath.**

The Management Plan is to be extended in its current form for a further year (not two as previously believed) and its review is to be undertaken in-house. As a result of works carried

out under the plan in recent years the Glade is in very good condition.

The draft questionnaire on the future of the heath has been redrafted to remove apparent bias and will be distributed by R & BCC Communications Department under a strict timetable. It is hoped that this will be completed by Easter.

The Residents Association and all ward Councillors local to the heath have been made official members of the Steering Group.

There is to be a borough strategy for the problem of dog fouling.

### **Earlswood and Redhill Commons.**

Following the reports of leakage through the lower dam on the lake the trees between the dam and the road have been removed to prevent any unexpected collapse and possible consequent flooding.

## 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

<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

NAME(S):.....

ADDRESS: .....

.....

EMAIL:.....

I enclose our subscription for 2015/2016  
Cheques to 'The Reigate Society'

Individual £10 .....

Family £15 .....

Corporate £30 .....

I enclose our subscription for 2016/2017  
Cheques to 'The Reigate Society'

Individual £10 .....

Family £15 .....

Corporate £30 .....

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

Please send cheques and/or completed form to:  
Robert Bogin, Townsend House, 64 Church street, Reigate RH2 0SP

## NEWSLETTER BY EMAIL REQUEST FORM

I would like to receive the Reigate Society Newsletter by email in future

NAME(S):.....

EMAIL ADDRESS: .....

Please send completed form to:  
Robert Bogin, Townsend House, 64 Church Street, Reigate RH2 0SP

or EMAIL request to  
robert.bogin@btinternet.com