

CHAIRMAN'S NOTES

As some of you may be aware we have finally been given access to the new JNA hall at the Redland Colman Centre. The new hall is very spacious and will provide a very practical venue for our meetings. I was lucky enough to be the first presenter of a talk in the new hall and found it a nice room to use and the acoustics good.

On this topic we are in the process of organising the schedule for the coming year. For those of us who have heavy diary commitments the selected dates for the upcoming year are;

Meeting	Date	
Council	Thursday	14 July 2016
Council	Thursday	20 October 2016
Council	Thursday	09 March 2017
Council	Thursday	06 July 2017
GP	Thursday	19 May 2016
GP	Thursday	08 September 2016
GP	Thursday	08 December 2016
GP	Thursday	09 February 2017
GP	Thursday	18 May 2017
Open	Monday	21 March 2016
Open	Monday	31 October 2016
Open	Monday	05 December 2016
Open	Monday	23 January 2017
Open	Monday	20 February 2017
Open	Monday	27 March 2017
AGM	Monday	11 July 2016
AGM	Monday	10 July 2017
Members	Monday	03 October 2016

Our thanks go to Gwyther Joyce for his Chairmanship of the Architecture & Planning committee who is stepping down after 5 years. During this time he has overseen the changes to the operational workings of the committee and the

delegation of the various activities previously charged to the Chairman to committee members, resulting from changes in technology. Simon Walter of Reigate Architects, has agreed to become Chairman of this most important committee and we wish him well and look forward to working with him.

Recently I was approached about organising a tour of Gatton Park, which was the subject of my recent talk, and have provisionally organised a date of 20 July 2016. The tour will take a couple of hours and end with tea and cakes in Gatton Hall at a cost of £8 per head. If you would like to come then please contact me asap. Timings will be advised later.

As part of our drive to increase membership from the current 626 a free talk outlining the work etc. of the Society was presented to a local dining club and can also be presented to any local organisation. If this is of interest then please contact me, either directly or through our website. Any increase in membership will give us a much louder voice on the local issues that affect us.

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 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 lie and how your talents can be best utilised within the Society.

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 is continuing, causing some disruption to parking etc. but hopefully it will not last too long and will bring benefits in the longer term. The replacement of the old Harlequin canopy has promoted some comments but can be seen as modernising and enhancing the area. The plans for Marketfield St have been unveiled and appear to improve and update the area opposite the Belfry. A public presentation of the plans was offered in March and it will be interesting to see what comment that has generated.

Knights store in Reigate has finally closed and although the site has been purchased we do not have any details of the developers plans, but hope it will be something that will enhance Reigate in general and Bell Street in particular. We also understand the Liquid & Envy site has been sold to another developer and, hopefully, 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 or on the A&P section of our website.

As the economy is growing and mortgage interest rates becoming more competitive the number of housing planning applications have increased, which has put huge pressure on both possible development sites and redevelopment/conversion of 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.

The two winners of our 2015 Civic Awards mentioned in the last newsletter, namely RDO Reigate and Garlands Road Redhill have been accepted as our entries into the National Award scheme run by Civic Voice. We hope they will be successful.

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 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.

National Trust passes which should be available through an agreement with Civic Voice have been delayed. As soon as we receive them we will let you know.

Finally, just a reminder that all our Open Meetings are now held 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

You will recall that we have been appealing for more help with the undertakings of the Society and this has been a topic of discussion at GP and Council meetings. I am pleased to report that progress is being made.

Suzanne Stronge has undertaken to lead the Society's participation in The Heritage Open Days and has been hard at work liaising with other bodies and preparing this year's events and brochure which is expected to feature additional venues and activities for all the family. The dates of the Heritage Open Days are 8th to 11th September 2016. (Make sure this is in your diaries as this is an important event for the local community). Suzanne will be pleased to hear from anyone who knows of suitable heritage places which might like to be included and also, very importantly, many helpers are needed to ensure

the success of the event. For example, as there are to be more walks, if some members can put on a yellow reflective jacket and join a walk, to help people cross the road all together, that would be great. A volunteer thank you event is planned for after HODs. Offers of help can be sent to Suzanne at suz8lunch@yahoo.co.uk

Ian Stronge has successfully stimulated the discussion to develop ideas for increasing the publicity profile of the Society and thus attract more members. This focussed discussion has helped to identify where development is most needed. Volunteers with publicity/marketing and IT skills who could help develop our website presence are a priority - if you can help please get in touch.

In January there was a change to our published Open meeting programme. Alan Mortlock gave an

illustrated talk on Gatton Park, the history of the house and grounds. This was an enjoyable evening and gave us all a greater knowledge of one of our special local landmarks. In February we enjoyed Matthew Piggott's talk about the Surrey History Centre and gained an insight into the valuable archive and preservation work carried out there. The scheduled speaker for 21st March, Matthew Slocombe of the Society for the Protection of Ancient Buildings, had to cancel at the last minute due to a slipped disc, however, this talk will be rescheduled for a later date. All Open meetings start at 8.15pm. We have started work on the programme for the year ahead starting with the Members Evening on October 3rd 2016 when our speaker will be David Goode, a past President of the Society. Please put the date

in the diary and look out for the booking form for tickets which should be out in July.

The Society's AGM is on 11th July 2016 in the Colman Redland Centre – please ensure you have the date in your diary. Tim Murphy of the Surrey Branch of CPRE will be the speaker after the business of the meeting is concluded.

FACEBOOK

The number of visitors to our Facebook page is increasing very slowly but very steadily.

Mrs Bridget Doughty (01737) 240974

TREASURER'S NOTES

Subscriptions for the year ending 31st March 2016 showed a good increase over the previous year even though membership was stable. This is explained by previously unpaid subscriptions being chased up by the Registrar last year which turned the previous year's deficit into a positive figure. Accordingly The Society funds show a healthy balance at this time. There will be some extraordinary expense in the year to come for the erection of the Society's 60th anniversary statue in Priory Park.

The current MINIMUM RATES are as follows:

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

Robert Bogin (01737) 248018

REGISTRAR'S NOTES

There are currently 232 single memberships, 181 family and 25 other making a total of 620 members. There have been 22 new memberships in the year (29 people). Against this, there have been 20 lost memberships – 8 have passed away, 2 have moved out of the area and 10 have resigned.

There is a subscription form for 2016-2017 membership at the back of this Newsletter for those who do not pay by standing order. There is also a Newsletter by email request form which is a very cost effective method of delivery for the Society.

Robert Bogin (Acting Registrar)

COMMITTEE REPORTS

ARCHITECTURE & PLANNING

CHAIRMAN: SIMON WALTER (01737) 243540

I am very pleased to confirm having taken full responsibility as your new Chairman for the Architecture & Planning committee, and as this is my first report, would like to introduce myself as Simon Walter. By way of background I have lived in Reigate for many years with my family and

presently run my own practice in the town, Reigate Architects.

Over the past few months I have progressively taken on the role from our previous chairman Gwyther Joyce who has now moved back onto the committee, and together with the other members

will help me with my duties. I am excited at the opportunities offered by this role and look forward to serving the Society as best I can for a period of time that will be agreed, subject to my business commitments.

Under Gwyther's guidance, Architecture & Planning has gradually developed its organisational methodology into a more corporate functioning group which will allow its capabilities to be more far reaching and the workload shared throughout the committee. All will help and contribute to A&P, in whatever way they can manage, even if only in a small way.

By way of a start in my reporting I am pleased to say the Reigate Society Officers and Council received an invitation from Reigate & Banstead Madam Mayor, Mrs Joan Spiers, to attend a tour of the Town Hall followed by refreshments in the Mayors Parlour. The group was shown around the premises on 15th March by Mr David Duke, the Mayor's personal assistant and driver, who provided a very informative and interesting tour. At the end of the tour the group was warmly welcomed in the parlour by Mrs Spiers who, along with Mr Duke provided a great deal of information on the history of the Borough and the Town Hall. Several interesting artefacts held on the premises were shown to the visitors, particularly the Chain of Office and Mace which are quite valuable and normally held in a strong room for safe keeping.

As our Society Chairman mentioned in his report, the development of Sainsbury's in Redhill is progressing very slowly, after the initial stoppage due to the first appointed main contractor's liquidation. However I am very surprised to learn the new shop will be completed ready for use by customers in July this year. Although this completion target date excludes the hotel above the new store, with no evidence of work above foundation level yet, this is going to be an interesting project to observe for the next four months.

The new Marketfield cinema scheme has recently been illustrated in the Surrey Mirror and though it is hard to comment on the architectural merits with so little detail available, as part of the regeneration of Redhill, the project has to be welcomed in providing new jobs and homes as well as boosting the local economy. We look forward to receiving planning details and responding to the proposal when the Borough puts them forward to A&P.

The 60th Anniversary pedestal to support the sculpture has recently taken a positive step forward with the agreement of a local building

contractor to complete construction this year. While the project has been a long time in the making I very much look forward to seeing it in completed form in Reigate Priory Park. A recent viewing of the sculpture which is being held in storage was enjoyed by several members of the Society, and all commented on the excellent quality of design and bronze effect finish.

We have recently observed the progressive stripping of trees and shrubs along the west side of the main railway track embankment on the north and south side of Redhill station. Visually this is to be regretted, as the rather ugly sight of the station and passing trains has been shielded by these trees, even in winter. When fully in leaf they also provide a softening to the harsh urban landscape in the area. We have no information on this but can only guess preparations are being made for the planned Network Rail additional platform on the existing old sidings. Perhaps also the new shops and offices development on the Redhill Station car park. However as less than a couple of years ago we were promised completion by 2016, we hold out no hopes of a start on this project anytime soon.

An issue has been brought to my attention concerning The Priory School right of way. This is in connection with public access for pedestrians via the site road leading from Bell Street car park to Morrisons. The school for some reason seemed to object to Reigate citizens using the footpath as they have done for decades, and even locked the pedestrian gate. Since losing its attempt to block the access, it has now taken to placing several signs along the length of the footpath including ones advising the public about CCTV being in operation. And as if unwilling to give up impeding pedestrians, the footpath gate is now closed, though not locked, during school hours. The committee will investigate the legitimacy of this behaviour and whether it threatens the right of way in any way.

In completing this report, and because the year is progressing fast I would like to remind everyone to look out for suitable nominations for this year's Civic Awards. Alan has mentioned this in his introduction however as an architect I would like to add my own encouragement too as this is the one opportunity in the year for you all to have a direct say by way of praise and encouragement for clients and developers in creating buildings of real quality in our Borough.

I look forward to meeting many of you in the future, whether at open meetings or at the various committees throughout the coming year.

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

Progress on the Sainsbury's site is now very visible. Ground work is nearly complete. The old foundations of Lombard House had to be removed and new foundations installed. This includes piles up to 22 metres long. When complete which is expected in about July a temporary shop will be erected on this part of the site. The present shop will be transferred to the temporary shop and the present shop demolished followed by erecting the part of the new shop on this half of the site. When finished the temporary shop will be transferred back to the new shop while the rest of the building is erected and combined with the earlier erected part. As well as the shop there will be parking for about 900 cars on two floors. There is then above the car park a 68 room Travelodge Hotel and a gym. Work on replacing the canopy of the Warwick quadrant will start shortly. It will be in two phases with the north end demolished first then the south end but maintaining access to the library and Harlequin.

Members will have read in the *Surrey Mirror* (and/or at the exhibition in the Warwick Quadrant Information Centre in the former Mothercare shop) details of the proposed redevelopment of the

Marketfield site. Fuller details are awaited with a planning application probably in April. It is planned as two blocks with a path from Marketfield Way to the High Street between. It will include an anchor store on two floors plus other shops, several food and drink outlets and a six screen cinema. At higher levels there are 153 flats. In the basement there is planned to be parking for 47 cars for residents.

Parking for the cinema is clearly a problem. It is presumed that part of the parking at Sainsbury's will be available of an evening. Some parking will be reserved for the hotel and gym. To help parking in Redhill it is proposed to erect signs in the approach roads indicating how many vacancies are available at each carpark in Redhill. On other sites it is still not clear who has taken over the Liquid and Envy site. The start of work on the east side of the Station is expected shortly. The current felling trees on the west side of the station looks as if it is preliminary work for the construction of platform 0. The Borough is taking over the Cromwell Road shops and flats and plans to add two more floors of residential accommodation.

TRANSPORT**CHAIRMAN:****BRUCE HEALEY (01737) 24057**

Contact has been made with the Raglan Road Association which is campaigning for stricter enforcement of speed limits and reduction in the use of Raglan Road by HGVs. Like the Reigate Society, they are also concerned about the length of time the level crossing gates are closed.

Whether the winter is cold and snowy or wet and mild, this is the time that most pot holes appear. This winter has probably seen fewer appearing but with the squeeze on spending, it remains to be seen how quickly they will be dealt with. Also regarding the spending cuts, it is a concern that the wet weather might have resulted in a deterioration of the drains, particularly in rural areas.

The roundabout at Redhill station is to be resurfaced, the ill-advised stone slabs in the roadway will be removed. Pedestrian crossings have had the indications on the opposite side of the carriageway removed. This is not only in the Redhill "Balanced Network", other crossings in the borough have been changed. This is something of a retrograde step as the indications on "your" side of the road are not that high up and where there are a number of people crossing at once, for example at Redhill Station, many cannot see an indication of the state of the lights. We feel that this negatively affects the safety of the crossings.

Car parking charges are being increased and Sunday charges introduced.

The Governmental procrastination over the final decision of the new runway in the South East continues. A recent report on Gatwick aircraft noise recommended varying the flight-paths and using steeper descents.

The new rail timetable introduced in December means that Redhill gets a daytime Thameslink service and Reigate trains now go to Victoria and do not stop at Merstham, Coulsdon South or Purley.

Southern Trains has come under very heavy criticism recently. The works at London Bridge (which are Network Rail's responsibility) have enforced a reduced service. To serve as many people as possible, Southern are running a somewhat ambitious number of rush hour trains which reduces the reliability of the services. Southern are also suffering from a shortage of train crews, particularly drivers which is a nationwide issue but worse in the South East. While Southern are guilty of poorly handling service disruption and informing the public during delays, they seem to be getting all of the local criticism including some MPs insisting that they be

stripped of the franchise. However, we are not trying to imply that they should not be criticised, they should certainly be able to do better. The works at London Bridge are scheduled to complete by the end of 2017.

Southern trains are proposing to close Reigate, Horley and Merstham stations ticket offices. Staff would instead be located on the station concourse and "re-roled" as "station hosts". Reigate Station

staff are protesting at this. The Reigate Society has been copied with a complaint from a member who believes that the move would disadvantage people who do not use the internet and feel unable to use the station ticket machines.

Brand new fleets of Gatwick Express and Thameslink trains will start entering service this spring.

NATURAL AMENITIES

CHAIRMAN: COLIN BURBIDGE (01737) 245264

Recent decisions by the borough council about the management of open spaces under its control appear to be showing that a different emphasis is emerging about what might happen to these areas in future. It would seem that the revenue raising / cost reduction capabilities of our parks, heaths and commons is becoming more important than the environmental wellbeing of our green spaces. This is very sad to see from a local authority which frequently boasts of being so green and protective of its open spaces and oversees a borough which contains so much green belt.

Examples of this can be sited in Priory Park, on Reigate Heath, Earlswood & Redhill Commons Wray Common to mention but a few.

We all agree that in the present climate there is less money to go round to care for these areas but we should never forget that many of these places have nature and conservation designations assigned to them which seem to be conveniently forgotten in the pursuit of 'value for money'. All will agree that cost efficiency is required but these matters should be freely discussed and consensual decisions made which are acceptable to all parties and stakeholders involved

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

SUBSCRIPTION FORM

NAME(S):.....

ADDRESS:

.....

EMAIL:.....

I enclose our subscription for 2015/2016
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

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

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

or EMAIL request to
robert.bogin@btinternet.com