



Newsletter No. 115 September 2016

CHAIRMAN'S NOTES

At the AGM on 11th July Alan Mortlock was thanked for five years hard work as Chairman of the Reigate Society as well as for his continuing full involvement. Alan has now taken on the role of Vice Chairman. The Chairmen and members of the Society' Committees were also thanked for their commitment to the Society's aims. These aims you will find listed on the back of your annual report: to conserve and improve our local environment, encourage high standard of planning and architecture, protect important buildings, speak out for improved local transport, roads and parking and protection and improvement of our open spaces. Over 45 members attended the AGM and after the formal meeting they enjoyed an interesting talk by Tim Murphy of The Campaign for the Protection of Rural England. He was able to answer many questions of concern in our area.

An historic tour of Gatton Park on 20th July was attended by a small number of members. The vision of Capability Brown in his 300th anniversary year was highlighted by our guide for the afternoon, Alan Mortlock. We hope to schedule a talk on Capability Brown for our January Open Meeting.

The Development Management Plan has been published by Reigate and Banstead Council. This can be viewed at

www.reigate-banstead.gov.uk/dmp and there are presentations and exhibitions at libraries around the Borough from 23rd August till the beginning of

October. The issues involved in the Council's plans for future development will affect all residents and businesses. The consultation period ends on 10th October. The Society will be formulating a full response, however, individual responses are also vitally important.

An application has been made by the Society to Surrey County Council for a grant to enhance the Bell Street area of Reigate. The results of this will not be known until November.

The Society is keen to increase membership so I ask each of you to publicise your Society and try to interest at least one other person in becoming a member.

This year is the tenth anniversary of the Reigate Society organising the Heritage Open Days in our area. You will have picked up your copy of the booklet from a local library or other venue and I believe this will be worth keeping as a local reference for the future. We thank Suzanne Stronge for leading this project. By the time you receive your newsletter the Heritage Days will either be in process or will have taken place and I hope that many of you will have taken advantage of the special events and openings of many of our local places of historical importance.

I look forward to meeting as many of you as possible at the Members Evening on October 3rd.

Michael Doughty

(01737) 240974

SECRETARY'S NOTES

The 64th AGM of the Society was held on Monday 11th July at the Colman Redland Centre. There were 48 members present. The minutes of the 63rd AGM in 2015 were approved and the Annual Report and Unaudited Accounts for the year 2015/16 were accepted. Alan Mortlock, who had been Chairman for 5 years, stood down and

Michael Doughty was elected as Chairman. Alan was elected Vice Chairman. Robert Bogin continues as Treasurer and Registrar and myself, as Secretary. The Council members retiring by rotation were John Angel, John Chittenden, Bruce Healey, Gerry Moss, Michael Hellings and Tom Godfrey. All, apart from Michael Hellings and Tom

Godfrey, offered themselves for re-election which was approved. Tom and Michael were thanked for their contribution over the past many years; both will continue to assist the Society as active members. Michael Doughty presented Alan Mortlock with an ornamental garden tree as a souvenir of his years as chairman.

Together with this newsletter you will receive your new Reigate Society programme card for the year ahead. Please keep this readily to hand and put the dates into your diaries. We hope that many of you will join other members at the **Members Evening on October 3rd at the Reigate Manor Hotel.** The tickets for this are just £13 to include a finger buffet supper and welcome drink and our speaker for the evening will be David Goode, a past President of the Society. The title of his talk you will find in the programme. The application form for tickets is attached to this newsletter so please return it as soon as possible.

The programme card and the printed Annual Report contain contact details and information about the Society so both are useful references for the year. The other point of reference is the Society's website.

Since January we have been using the new hall at the Colman Redland Centre for Open Meetings

and for the AGM which is comfortable and with good acoustic for speakers. As with all things there are some challenges to overcome such as non dimmable lighting but we have found a partial solution to this. It is expected that curtains will be fitted in due course which will further improve the hall.

The programme for the year has been managed by the General Purposes Committee and I thank Alan Mortlock and Robert Bogin for their help in finding speakers for the year ahead. Another thank you: to those of you who help with putting out chairs and clearing up the hall after our meetings. We would still welcome a volunteer for Programme Organiser so, if you can help, please let me know and I will give you details of what needs to be done.

FACEBOOK

We reached 100 likes in July which means the page can now be found by web search engines

Mrs Bridget Doughty (01737) 240974

TREASURER'S NOTES

Funds are at £9701.20, an increase of £76.76 since last April. Subs contained £3415.00 for 2016/17 to date.

The expense during the coming year for installation of the statue is still outstanding. There is a printing cost of £1436.00 for the revamped Heritage Open Days brochure

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 628 members of whom 227 are single memberships, 186 are family memberships, 23 are corporate and 6 are 'other'.

There were 10 new memberships in 2016 (20 people) plus 1 new corporate member

7 memberships (7 people) have been lost.

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

No report received before going to press.

REDHILL

CHAIRMAN: GERRY MOSS (01737) 765508

Progress on Sainsbury's continues with the first part of the new shop opened in early August. At the time of writing demolition of the old shop and building the other part of the new shop plus the parking, hotel and gym is about start. The cover over the path alongside the old shop is being demolished. Both this demolition, and of the canopy outside the library and Harlequin, are so covered up that that it is difficult to monitor progress.

In contrast to the progress at Sainsbury's news elsewhere is less encouraging. There has been no progress at the Liquid and Envy site despite yet another change of owner. In fact it now appears that Tesco's has withdrawn its offer of a Tesco Direct on the ground floor. A new planning application is anticipated which will start again from scratch.

At Redhill station work on the first stage of building platform 0 has taken place. The building site has been separated from platform 1 by a barrier and an access ramp for construction equipment has been built off Marketfield Way.

Construction of the new multi-story car station park off Redstone Hill has been put off until 2018. Until that is complete it is not possible to start on the redevelopment of the car park on the town side of the lines. Again it sounds as if revised plans may be submitted before work starts. Waitrose has still expressed interest in the station site if conditions are right.

A planning application has been submitted for the redevelopment of Marketfield car park with the cinema complex, shops, restaurants and flats. The result of this application is awaited.

TRANSPORT

CHAIRMAN:

BRUCE HEALEY (01737) 24057

Gatwick: The lack of a decision on a new runway continues. While the recent changes to flight paths have benefited many, it has led to increased complaints from the Salfords and Sidlow areas.

Roads: The Flanchford bridge repairs have started. The road was closed in May and is not expected to reopen until just before Christmas.

Trains: The dispute between the Southern and the RMT union is still not resolved. The RMT are still maintaining that this is over safety concerns. This claim is all but baseless. The independent Rail Safety and Standards Board (RSSB) state that Driver Only (DOO) is just as safe as operation with guards. The RMT also claim that Southern are trying to abolish the second crew member and that this is unsafe. Note that all London Underground trains run DOO with no second crew member. Southern have promised no job losses and no loss of pay. It would appear, if only the RMT would only be honest enough to admit it, that they are worried about possible job losses or status in the future. The Thameslink trains have been DOO since their inception in 1988. All Southern are asking is for parity of operation with

the Thameslink and Great Northern operations in which RMT allow DOO operation. The RMT are in full battle mode with disputes this year with Scotrail, Eurostar and Virgin. In the interim, the staff (the RMT claim it is not their action which would be illegal) have increased sick leave and reduced rest day working to ensure that Southern cannot properly maintain even their reduced timetable. It is very hard to treat any statement from the RMT at face value.

Southern for their part have a totally belligerent attitude to the unions. Instead of accepting a truce for three months while talks took place, they preferred to reduce the service. This shows a totally cavalier attitude to the travelling public. The Southern are also in dispute with ASLEF over rosters (NOT safety) and the RMT (again) and the TSSA union over ticket office staffing. To be in dispute with three major unions at the same time shows pitiful industrial relations. Note that the other Train Operating Companies have managed to avoid RMT strikes or are at least in discussions. Only the Southern have contrived the worst rail strike in half a century.

Lastly in this sorry tale, we come to the Department for Transport. In letting the Southern, Thameslink, Great Northern franchise, all fares go to the DfT and the operator gets a retainer for operating the service. In the event of a strike, it is the DfT which loses the fares not the operator. While this might benefit the DfT financially in normal times, it works against any resolution of a strike. The contract also prevents the DfT from cancelling the contract. Southern have invoked force majeure which is a contractual term meaning that circumstances outside the control of the operator mean they can be allowed to not meet

their contractual obligations. The DfT have also taken virtually no part in trying to resolve this dispute.

At the time of writing this in late August, there is no sign of a resolution. We would like to express our total and utter disgust to all parties.

Presently we are engaged in yet another exchange of emails with Network Rail about the length of time the Reigate level crossing gates remain closed when trains are passing through.

NATURAL AMENITIES

CHAIRMAN: COLIN BURBIDGE (01737) 245264

The future of our green spaces is at the forefront of all our minds as we are into the consultation phase of the borough's Development Plan. The exhibitions and drop-in sessions will not take place until September leaving little time before the closing date for extensive comments but initial views of the documents suggest that more definition of some of the concepts should have been provided.

It is certainly true that some recent actions taken by the borough council have suggested that all is not well with the management of our open spaces.

The Earlswood Common Management Group is in disarray and the work associated with the lakes appears to have completely disregarded the nature designations of the site. Additional costs have been incurred which suggests that the task in hand was not properly investigated and budgeted for before work commenced.

The ongoing Management Plan for Reigate Heath will be dependent on the results of some survey results which are not yet available because the windows in which the surveys should have been completed are now past. This will impact on future work programmes.

There has also been extended use of Priory Park for public events but there seems to be little consideration to allowing this special environment to rest and recover between events. We should be showing some respect to our wonderful natural environment not demanding a greater and greater financial return to bolster the council's coffers.

Surrey County Council, it seems, is bad. We are now to be charged to use their recycling sites and you will probably only know about this unless you are a regular visitor. Let's hope this does not backfire by causing an increase in fly-tipping.

The Reigate Society

President: Nicholas Owen

Chairman: Michael Doughty, Garthlands, Sandy Lane, Reigate, RH2 8QU.

Tel: 01737 240974

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

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

**MEMBERS' EVENING MONDAY 3rd OCTOBER 2016
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 @ £13.00 a head.
Remittance Total Cheques: The Reigate Society.



**MEMBERS' EVENING MONDAY 3rd OCTOBER 2016
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