



**Newsletter No. 116    December 2016**

### **CHAIRMAN'S NOTES**

Since the last newsletter, instructions have been confirmed for the erection of the Reigate Society's Anniversary Sculpture in Priory Park and the work is scheduled to take place in February/March 2017 weather, permitting. We have held two site meetings and the bricks donated by Ibstock are already in store.

At the Open meeting on 31<sup>st</sup> October we had an interesting talk by Matthew Slocombe, Director of SPAB, the Society for the Protection of Ancient Buildings. SPAB offers expert advice to owners of ancient buildings and is an official advisor to Councils and Government on their conservation and protection. The SPAB was founded by William Morris and Philip Webb 30 years before the National Trust. E.M. Forster, John Ruskin, George Bernard Shaw, Arthur Conan Doyle, Edwin Lutyens, Sir Adrian Boult are just some of the famous names who have featured in the SPAB membership listing over its 130 year history. The SPAB has a large and interesting library of old documents and books which is open for research on application.

At the Society's last Council Meeting considerable concerns were raised over the future of The Angel Inn at Woodhatch. It is among the oldest buildings in the Borough and dates back to the 1600's. Since closing as a public house it has been empty

and an application to convert to flats has been refused on structural grounds. The building is in a very poor state and has been broken into. This was reported to Mr John McNally, RBBC Conservation Officer, who has arranged with the owner to secure the door. All Reigate Society Members are urged to watch out for any signs of further major deterioration or vandalism at this important local landmark and to report all concerns to John McNally.

As previously reported, The Reigate Society applied for a grant from Surrey County Council to enhance the Bell Street area of Reigate and Suzanne Stronge did much work on this. Unfortunately the bid was not successful but we will continue to explore other methods of funding the proposed planters.

The Winter Ice Rink is again being erected in Priory Park and will, no doubt, be enjoyed by many families. We have written to RBBC pointing out the damage to the grounds still remaining from last year and urging that all damage to the grassland must be repaired after this event has finished and have received a positive answer. We shall monitor this.

**Michael Doughty**

**(01737) 240974**

### **SECRETARY'S NOTES**

At the date of the last newsletter Heritage Open days were taking place across the borough. Our thanks to Suzanne Stronge for leading this on behalf of the Society. The special anniversary brochure has been admired by many and is worth retaining as a souvenir. All who were out and about over these days to visit our heritage sights and take part in some of the activities and talks are agreed that it was a very successful few days.

Unfortunately the workload of organizing this event demands considerable time and resources. For this reason Suzanne, who has a full time job also, has resigned as organiser so there will be some changes for next year. Suzanne remains an active member of the Society and leading other projects for which we are most grateful.

On Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> October over 80 people attended the Members Evening at Reigate Manor Hotel. Nicholas Owen presented the Civic Awards to: East Surrey and Sussex Healthcare Trust for the new Macmillan Cancer Support Centre at East Surrey Hospital

Reigate and Banstead Borough Council for Redhill Memorial Park and the Pavilion Architects for the Macmillan Cancer Support Centre Project, Studio 4, and the Builders, Buxton Building Contractors Ltd also received Award certificates

For the Redhill Memorial Park and Pavilion project Awards were presented to landscape architects, Enplan, and Architects, Trevlyn Tanner, and builders, Buxton Building Contractors Ltd.

In addition, this year, four different projects received a Commendation

1. Mural on the side wall of Boots store in Reigate by Adam Green which depicts the central view of Reigate from a photograph by Francis Frith
2. The Lightwell, a new and innovative housing construction in Alma Road, owned by Tom and Mandy Robinson.
3. An exceptional extension at Somers Road owned by Mr and Mrs Gibbon
4. The Westmount development in Linkfield Lane, Redhill owned by Raven Housing Trust

Following the Awards and an excellent Buffet Professor David Goode, a past president of Reigate Society and renowned wildlife authority, gave a stimulating and fun talk on 'Wildlife Where We Live' illustrated with excellent photographs of flora and fauna, birds and other creatures to be found in parks, gardens, commercial centres and derelict land across the country.

The first of the new season of Open meetings took place on 31<sup>st</sup> October. Matthew Slocombe spoke on the history and work of The Society for the Protection of Ancient Buildings. The Society is a member of SPAB and individuals may like to consider joining as individual members especially if they live in an old building. [www.spab.org.uk](http://www.spab.org.uk)

### WEBSITE & FACEBOOK

The website contents is under review. The Facebook page is making slow but steady progress, it is now up to 105 "likes".

**Mrs Bridget Doughty**

**(01737) 240974**

## TREASURER'S NOTES

Funds stand at £10,303.23

Net income for the year to date is £633.79

Subs received are £4505.00 for 2016/17 to date (last full year £5956.23 which included a number of subs unpaid for earlier years)

A recent batch of reminders has produced £426.00 with cheques still arriving daily.

The expense for installation of the 60th Anniversary statue in Reigate Priory Park will be around £4350 and work should be completed in March 2017

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 612 members of whom 218 are single memberships, 183 are family memberships, 21 are corporate and 6 are 'other'. There are 7 new memberships (13 people) including 1 new corporate member 24 memberships (27 people) have been lost including 2 corporate members. A number of people have passed away, several have moved out of the area and some removed due to non-payment of subs over the last 2 years

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**

This month, the Architecture and Planning Committee is interested in matters aeronautical. Although the decision was announced last month giving Heathrow the right to expand, Gatwick's chief executive Stewart Wingate has suggested that the airport could still progress with its own plans in the future. Gatwick has an agreement with West Sussex County Council that no new runway will be built before 2019, but a report in New Civil Engineer has suggested that ultimately both airports may be given permission to expand.

The Gatwick Area Conservation Campaign has welcomed the decision to go with Heathrow, and is hoping that the planning condition on air quality requirements will rule out any judicial review from Gatwick Airport.

Even without a judicial review the story is far from over, as the government now has to put together a draft national policy statement approving Heathrow before submitting it to a public consultation, followed by a vote in the House of Commons, submission to the Planning Inspector and a final sign-off from the Secretary of State for Transport.

Meanwhile, over at Redhill Aerodrome the owners have submitted a retrospective planning application for engineering works to resurface, straighten and widen the taxiway, and this has received broadly supportive comments on the planning website. The aerodrome directors comment that without a hardstanding airstrip the aerodrome is not financially viable,

In the long-term, ambitious plans have been announced to replace Redhill aerodrome with a development of 4,500 homes, supported by schools, link roads and open space, but no planning application has yet been made.

On other matters, the Reigate Society has submitted comments on the draft RBBC development management plan (DMP). We are concerned about residential development of a dense 'city' type which is altering the character of Reigate. Family houses, even small ones, should always have a garden area.

Parking is not sufficient for current requirements and current development. The DMP includes proposals to build on existing parking areas. Whilst the Council maintains that existing capacity would be maintained this is not satisfactory as the level of parking provision required would be greatly increased with increased development. The plan does not appear to provide any solutions for the existing parking problems and certainly does not contain a viable plan for the additional pressures created by any future developments.

It seems that the Council also has in mind to increase the number of high rise buildings in Redhill. The town has already become dominated by buildings of considerable height which cut out natural sunlight from some pedestrian areas. If buildings are to become higher the need for open green areas is even more important

### REDHILL

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

Work continues on the new Sainsbury's. Much of the main structure has been erected. Work is in progress on the demolition of the old shop. On Princess Way the old helical ramp to the upper car park has been demolished and work is in progress constructing a ramp to the new car park floors on the Lombard site.

The new canopy over the stairs to the Library and Harlequin is complete. As recent rain shows it provides much less protection from driving rain. Work continues on resurfacing the ground around the stairs

Some initial proposals for redevelopment of the Liquid and Envy site have been presented by Rainier Developments. Questions have been raised as to whether the façade of the old Odeon Cinema should be retained. With an increased number of flats parking may be a problem especially as access to any car park on the site will have to be from Marketfield Road. It looks as if Tesco is no longer interested in a Tesco Express on the ground floor.

## TRANSPORT

CHAIRMAN:

BRUCE HEALEY (01737) 24057

### Roads

Traffic is getting ever heavier and there have not been any recent reviews to consider the traffic flow at some of the worst points.

Traffic at the west end of the Reigate one way system could benefit from a "yellow box" to encourage cars which want to change lanes to drive on and filter in further down the road.

- Pendleton Road is unsuitable for heavy traffic near St Johns Church. Britannia Crest trucks heading to their facility on the A217 are particularly noted using this route.

- Reigate level crossing gates are closed for longer than necessary. The transport Committee have discovered from Network Rail that the gates should be closed for Reading bound trains just as the train is coming into the station. Typically the gates are closed at least one minute earlier than this. We have contacted Network Rail to try and get this situation resolved. For Redhill bound trains, the gates are closed for 3.5 minutes, this is due to the spacing of the signals. Surrey County Council should be putting pressure on Network Rail to move this signal closer to Reigate Station (an action taken by other County Councils to help with their traffic congestion).

- Traffic at the Angel pub intersection at Woodhatch will not be improved by the Westvale Park development north of Horley or the proposed 750 houses in Woodhatch South.

- The latest proposal for housing on Redhill Aerodrome shows a link road to the M23 and to a roundabout near East Surrey Hospital. The effect on the A23 would be moderate. Such housing schemes have been proposed from time to time, we need to wait to see if this one will progress. Note that part of the Aerodrome is in Tandridge.

Air pollution at the level crossing has been measured to be one of the worst in Reigate. There had been notices encouraging drivers to switch off their engines. These have been removed.

Surrey County Council is proposing to switch off

some street lights in the borough between 12pm & 5am from January or February although we have not seen any detailed plans.

The Flanchford Road bridge works should be complete by the end of February.

### Airport

The "decision" for a third runway at Heathrow still depends on a vote in the Commons in about a year's time. There is almost universal relief here that Heathrow "won" this battle.

### Railways

The RMT strikes rumbles on with more industrial action promised into the New Year. After that, the guards will become On-Board Supervisors (OBS) whose presence is not mandatory. Any strikes in the New Year should be many times less effective as trains will then be able to run without the second crew member. The train drivers union ASLEF are taking strike action in support of the RMT. Note that the RMT has recommended that their guards accept the position of OBS rather than being sacked but despite this they are still calling their members out on strike.

Southern/Thameslink are holding consultations into their timetable for 2018 when the works at London Bridge will be complete. Southern are promising either three shuttle trains an hour to Redhill (and no further) or two trains an hour to Victoria. The consensus seems to be for the Victoria option, if nothing else because if a train driver is unavailable, the entire shuttle is suspended. The London trains would be a more reliable option.

Surrey County Council is proposing to switch off some street lights in the borough between 12pm & 5am from January or February although we have not seen any detailed plans.

## NATURAL AMENITIES

CHAIRMAN:

COLIN BURBIDGE (01737) 245264

The Society's response to the borough's **DPM** has been covered in the A&P Report but the consultation was supposed to have included the **Green Infrastructure Documents**. These were omitted from the consultation package even though this would seem to be an integral part of any future plan. Let's hope there will be an early opportunity to be consulted on this and that this is

not another indication that the management of our open spaces is not quite as it should be.

Our Chairman has mentioned **Priory Park** in his notes and it is worth mentioning the Right of Way leading from Bell Street to Park Lane and the High Street via Morrison's car park. You may have noticed a newly erected sign on the side wall of

Martin's relating to the ROW. This is an unofficial sign and its erection is being investigated by SCC Highways.

An issue arose during the early autumn on **Reigate Heath** when contractor's vehicles started parking on the grass near the Black Horse. This problem was much reduced very rapidly after the issue was raised on Twitter by the Friends of Reigate Heath.

The heath generally is doing well and Nature is coping well in the absence of any formal management. One citation species has appeared on site and Natural England is supportive of work that is currently being done.

The continuing work programme is still awaited because it is contingent on the results of surveys which were not undertaken within acceptable time windows but the Management Plan is expected by March.

## **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

<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

SUBSCRIPTION FORM

NAME(S): .....

ADDRESS: .....

.....

EMAIL:.....

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

