

### **CHAIRMAN'S NOTES**

Last month we had an interesting talk on local trees by Vincenzo Dejacovo, the Tree and Woodlands Officer of Reigate and Banstead Council. He spoke about their importance locally, their protection and many other aspects of tree work and policy in and around the Borough. A leaflet, entitled 'The Tree Trail' is available at the Town hall and the libraries and a guided walk is held from time to time. The meeting was interested to hear that the tallest Hornbeam in Britain grows in Priory Park near the lake – it is 31 metres high and is listed in the Tree Register which records Notable and Ancient Trees in Britain and Ireland.

The next Open meeting is at the Coleman Redland Centre at 8.15 and this will be a talk on the Globe Theatre in London by Patrick Spottiswoode who is the Director of Education at the Globe. All members and other residents are urged to attend and to put the date in your diary now.

You are reminded that the AGM is on Monday 10<sup>th</sup> July at 8.15 p.m. at the Colman Redland Centre, please put this in your diary. As yet a talk to follow this has not been arranged, however more information will be available in due course.

We were asked to give ideas for the distribution of funds from the CIL (Community Infrastructure Levy) raised from developers. The Society suggested a programme to clean and refurbish

signage throughout the Borough as much is looking very tired. Also a contribution to the considerable costs of our Sculpture project; repair and repainting of the old fountain on the west face of the Old Town Hall was also suggested.

In 1952 Priory Park was under threat and a strong campaign was mounted by local people to save it. This was successful and led directly to the formation, 65 years ago, of the Reigate Society as the Civic Society for Reigate, Redhill and Merstham this being the old borough of Reigate. It is therefore appropriate that the Sculpture, commissioned by the Society to celebrate its 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary is now erected in Priory Park surrounded by an attractive seating area. The support of Reigate and Banstead Council in this project is greatly appreciated. The sculpture will be unveiled on 31<sup>st</sup> March and you are all invited attend. It was commissioned following a competition amongst local art departments and the winning sculptor was Lauren Moody of Reigate School of Art supported by East Surrey College. The installation has been made possible with considerable support from the following: Stanton Construction Ltd for groundworks, Ibstock Brick Ltd for donation of bespoke bricks, Andrew Jee Ltd for construction of the seating plinth and erection of the sculpture, Richard Coffey MBE for drawings and consultancy and J. Stoneman and Sons for the design and making of the plaques.

**Michael Doughty**

**(01737) 240974**

### **SECRETARY'S NOTES**

As you receive this newsletter we are about to enter the second quarter of 2017 and our current series of Open Meetings concludes with the talk on The Globe Theatre on Monday 27<sup>th</sup> March. We are starting to draft a programme for the next Reigate Society year and I can confirm that we

have booked the Reigate Manor again for our Members Evening which will be on Monday 9<sup>th</sup> October 2017 - please put this in your diaries. As usual the Civic Awards will be presented at the Members Evening and after the buffet we will have a talk by Kenneth Bare, Vice Chairman of

the Surrey Hills Society. Dates and venue for Open Meetings will be set out in your programme later this year but I can tell you that the talk for the November Open meeting will be given by Peter Phillips, local architect and surveyor, whose topic covers townscape improvement to combat urban ugliness.

Heritage Open Days 7<sup>th</sup> to 10<sup>th</sup> September 2017

As reported previously the leadership of HODs will be different this year as Reigate Society is stepping back from responsibility for this. However, we have not abandoned the event wholly and have agreed with Reigate and Banstead to help set up a working party made up of the representatives from all the venues and events who will be responsible for their own requirements but gain support from the other participants. Jointly with Reigate and Banstead it is intended to produce a brochure, the cost of which will have to be supported by advertising revenue. There will be need for helpers so watch out for any requests and help where you can. If you have ideas for new venues who might consider opening for some of the Heritage Open Days then let us know and we can pass on registration information.

National Trust Day Passes. Free one day entry passes are available for members of the Reigate Society as a member of Civic Voice. I have finally received a supply of these to pass on. If you would like to make use of them please let me know and send a stamped addressed envelope with your request to Garthlands, Sandy Lane, Reigate Heath, RH2 8QU.

**WEBSITE & FACEBOOK**

A revised home page for the web site is under discussion.

The Facebook page is making sporadic progress. At present the number of 'likes' has paused at 112.

**Mrs Bridget Doughty**

**(01737) 240974**

**TREASURER'S NOTES**

Funds stand at £10,280.01  
Net income for the year to date is £262.57  
Subs received for year 2016/17 are £4988 with £393 received for 2016/17

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

**Robert Bogin**

**(01737) 248018**

The current MINIMUM RATES are as follows:

**REGISTRAR'S NOTES**

There are currently 599 members of whom 220 are single memberships, 176 are family memberships, 19 are corporate and 7 are 'other'. In 2016 there were 15 new members (9 memberships) but 38 losses (30 memberships). These losses were a mixture of people moving out of the area, some deaths, resignations and non-payment of membership subs.

There is a subscription form for 2017-2018 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**

On Flanchford Road the bridge, which has been out of action for over nine months, may finally be reopened around the time of going to press. The repairs were originally scheduled to take around six months, and successive delays to the vital link have resulted in tempers flaring with one resident spraying graffiti on a temporary building to make their feelings known. Poor weather has been cited as one reason for the delay, but this has cut little ice with motorists forced to make an eight-mile diversion through Sidlow.

Staying on the roads, works to install two traffic islands on the A25 at Buckland are due to give drivers travelling between Reigate and Dorking five weeks of delay and disruption. Residents are particularly angry about the lack of consultation, and concerned about the state of repair of both the pavement and the road surface.

In the centre of Redhill, the extended Sainsburys development is on course to be completed in the summer. The development will include a gym from The Gym Group and a 68-room Travelodge. The original 19-month build looks due to go over its original time-frame. As part of the planning permission, the contractors RG Group are making a number of improvements to the site and immediate area. Bee bricks have been installed in the development, to support the local bee population, while the Harlequin centre has benefited from installation of a new canopy, and a newly paved area with trees and seating.

Surrey County Council had been hoping to make savings of around £210,000 per year by through switching off street-lights to thousands of roads between midnight and 5 am. However, the roll-out has been substantially delayed amid concerns of the potential adverse effect on crime and safety. A

petition to central government has been established for Reigate and Banstead, Tandridge and Mole Valley.

In Reigate town centre, there have been a couple of interesting developments. At the old Edward Dean kitchen store, Wagamama has successfully appealed against Reigate and Banstead's decision to refuse planning permission for a restaurant. RBBC had argued that a further restaurant would harm customer choice and retail diversity, but the planning inspector noted the overwhelming public support for the move, and reasoned that increased footfall on Bell Street would actually assist retail sales. The Council's neighbourhood development manager commented that although they were pleased that the unit will be open again, they are concerned about the implications of the decision on safeguarding local shops as set out in the Local Plan.

Next to the old town hall, plans have been approved by Reigate and Banstead to convert the former BT phone box into an office pod. A previous proposal to use the box to display advertising was turned down in 2015. The pod will be open to registered users, and will contain printing, copying, scanning and wi-fi facilities. Staff will clean the pod overnight on a daily basis, and a rolling programme will see the box refurbished every two years.

At Gatwick, the airport expansion issue rumbles on. On the 2 and 3 February the Department of Transport published 16 important documents, which can be viewed at <https://www.gov.uk/government/policies/aviation-and-airports>

### REDHILL

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

There has been little change to report since my last Newsletter. Work continues on the new Sainsbury's. The framework of the part of the shop above the old Sainsbury's site is now starting to be visible. The latest reports suggest the whole shop will be open later this year. I suspect the new car park for 900 cars on three floors will not be open before the whole shop as the car park will be over the whole site.

Work on platform 0 at Redhill Station continues. It is difficult to see much of the outcome as it is behind the screen erected alongside the track by platform 1. Current reports state that it will become the main platform for trains going north but it will have no facilities (toilets, customer services or coffee shop).

Details of the major new shop in the Belfry have now been announced. It will be H & M and will occupy much of the south-west quadrant of the

Belfry, on both floors. The opening has been set for the 30 March.

There has been no progress on the new Station multi-story car park, or the Liquid and Envy site.

The redevelopment to give shops and a multiplex cinema on the Marketfield Way to High Street site is now in the planning stage.

## TRANSPORT

CHAIRMAN:

BRUCE HEALEY (01737) 24057

The structure for the new Flanchford Road Bridge was completed during January. In February, the utility services were diverted back over the bridge. The footways, crash barriers and road surfacing were completed on 6th March when the bridge reopened for traffic.

Winter has seen the usual increase in road potholes. It seems likely that in common with other years, it will take some time before any of these problems are addressed.

Gatwick flight paths continue to cause debate. There has been a Facebook petition requesting reversion of Gatwick Route 3 flight path to its previous path to reduce noise over Nutfield.

Following a settlement between Southern Trains and ASLEF Management (who represent the train drivers), the ASLEF rank and file have narrowly voted against accepting the deal. The RMT Union representing the guards were excluded from these negotiations as their members have already signed-up for the new deal, are still in dispute. The RMT are saying that their members were forced into the deal or lose their jobs and that there was never any formal agreement. Despite ASLEF management stating that Driver operation of the train doors is safe and that trains can operate with a single crew member in limited circumstances, the RMT maintains that a second crew member is required on ALL services. It

should be stressed that all London Underground services operate with a driver only and without a second crew member of any sort and that Underground trains operate in more demanding conditions than Southern trains. Strikes were called by the RMT for 22nd February and 13th March. Fortunately for commuters, ASLEF members ran trains without the RMT On-Board Supervisor (as the guards are now called) and over 80% of Southern Trains ran. It would seem that the RMT has now lost the bulk of its bargaining power.

ASLEF appear to be prepared to reach a settlement and are involved in further discussions with Southern.

Some good has come out of the dispute. The criticism of the poor quality of the monitors which relay pictures from the door cameras to the driver on the older trains has been accepted. Larger monitors (which are standard on the newer trains) will be fitted. Also the monitors switch off automatically when the doors are closed so as not to distract the driver. These will now be left on as the train is leaving the station so that the driver can see if anyone is trapped in the doors. This is a positive safety benefit as with doors operated by the guard, there is no such view of the outside of the train. These improvements will be completed by 2020.

## NATURAL AMENITIES

CHAIRMAN:

COLIN BURBIDGE (01737) 245264

Following the Society's complaints about car parking and poor restoration of the ground damage sustained from the presence of the ice rink in December 2015 it can be reported that the situation in 2016 was improved.

However this cannot be said generally about the management of green spaces within our area. There has still been no publication of **Green Infrastructure Documents** on which to comment for the promised consultation and the indications continue to emerge that the management of our open spaces is not quite as it should be.

On **Reigate Heath** Steering Group meetings have been cancelled thereby preventing the proper interaction between all the stakeholders which is the very purpose of its existence. However, Tapwood pit is refilling and signs of the rewetting of the wetland areas are awaited.

Steering Group meetings relating to **Earlswood Common** seem to be a thing of the past where it appears that the Property Department and not Greenspaces is now managing the area without any regard to any nature conservation designations of the ecosystem

## 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>
All About You (Lingerie) Ltd	19b High Street, Reigate RH2 9AA	(242860)	Lingerie, Hosiery & Swimwear
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)	
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
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

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 24097

SUBSCRIPTION FORM

NAME(S): .....

ADDRESS: .....

.....

EMAIL:.....

I enclose our subscription for 2017/2018  
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