



Newsletter No. 118 September 2017

CHAIRMAN'S NOTES

The Society is concerned at the increasing density of population in our borough because it is not accompanied by increased facilities such as schools, doctors' surgeries, public transport. Added to this the amount of parking in the borough is likely to reduce rather than increase, for example proposals to develop on the Gloucester Road car park in Redhill and on the Town Hall car park in Reigate. The main pressure from Central Government on all local authorities to build more homes is understood but it must include expansion of infrastructure whilst at the same time protecting the Green Belt in the area. Our committees are constantly monitoring these matters and we remain vigilant in maintaining our borough as a pleasant place to live.

For ten years the Society has co-ordinated Heritage Open Days. This year we have combined with Reigate and Banstead Town Hall and representatives of many of the venues to form a working group. This is to spread the load of co-ordinating the brochure and events. Fliers and brochures have been widely distributed throughout

Reigate, Redhill, Merstham and Horley and we look forward to an even greater attendance at the many historic and interesting venues and at the talks and walks which are taking place. The brochure can be seen on the Reigate Society website www.reigatesociety.org.uk Our thanks to Robert Bogin, Beverley Barry and Suzanne Stronge and all those involved. We wish all the venues and leaders of events a successful **HODS 2017 on 7th to 11th September.**

The Society wrote, earlier this year, to chase the re-opening of the Priory Museum. We received a reply from Surrey County Council although we understand that the work is unlikely to be completed until early next year.

I have decided, for health reasons, that I can only continue as Chairman till the AGM in 2018. Also, at the present time we do not have a Vice Chairman. During this year we must find people to fill these positions. Please contact me to discuss.

Michael Doughty

(01737) 240974

SECRETARY'S NOTES

The 65th AGM of the Society was held on Monday 10th July at the Colman Redland Centre. We held a minute of silence to remember Eddie Waller, a Past President, who died last Autumn and Barrie Clark, who served the Society as an long standing member of the Architecture and Planning Committee of which he was a Past Chairman. Barrie died in June this year and several members attended his funeral. The minutes of the 64th AGM in 2016 were approved and the Annual Report and Unaudited Accounts for the year 2016/17 were accepted. Michael Doughty was re-elected as Chairman. Alan Mortlock stood down as Vice Chairman this year but will continue to work for the Society as a Council member. Robert Bogin

continues as Treasurer and Registrar and myself, as Secretary. The Council members retiring by rotation were Colin Burbidge, Gwyther Joyce, Claudia Payne, Alan Smith and Charles Wragg who are all re-elected. Following the business of the AGM Nicholas Owen gave a short presentation drawing attention to the pressures on transport in this area created by ever increasing development. We then enjoyed simple light refreshments and social gathering to complete the evening.

Together with this newsletter you will receive your 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 9th at the Reigate Manor Hotel.

Tickets are £13 (same as last year) to include a finger buffet supper and welcome drink and our speaker for the evening will be Kenneth Bare, Vice Chairman of the Surrey Hills Society. There is an application form for tickets attached to this newsletter so please return it as soon as possible if you have not already applied. **This is a ticket only event.**

For all contacts and information about the Society please use the programme card and the printed Annual Report and, of course, the Reigate Society's website www.reigatesociety.org.uk
In July we heard the sad news of the death of John Chittenden who was well known to many. John remained an active member of Council and the Transport Committee of which he was a Past

Chairman. His informative reports form part of the Society's archives.

The first Open meeting is on November 13th and our speaker is local Architect, Peter Phillips, who will give us a view on our local 'townscape' – the good, the bad and ideas for improvement.

This is my third year as Secretary and I intend to finish next year so I am asking for someone to come forward and take on this position. There is also a need for a Programme Secretary.. The most enjoyable part of the job is meeting so many interesting and sociable people and learning more about the place where we live through being more involved. The Reigate Society is very much a team so help and support is forthcoming if required. Please contact me to find out more.

Mrs Bridget Doughty (01737) 240974

TREASURER'S NOTES

Funds stand at £6098 an increase of £1162 on the year to date.

Subs are £2855 as against £5001 last year; the period August to December 2016 brought around £1500 in subs so the trend for 2017 is down.

Any members who do not pay by standing order are urged to send their cheques to the Treasurer as this is the Society's only source of income.

All expenses for Heritage Open Day have been received with the exception of a new updated Trail leaflet for Reigate Heath. It is anticipated that the

income received from brochure advertising will cover this expense.

The current MINIMUM RATES are as follows:

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

Robert Bogin (01737) 248018

REGISTRAR'S NOTES

Members total 597 (215 single, 177 family, 20 corporate and 7 other)

During 2017 there have been 5 new family memberships and 1 corporate.

In addition to 2017, a number of members' subs for 2016 have not been paid. I will write to these asking if they still wish to remain members and if no response is received, they will be removed from the database. There is a cost attached to printing and distributing newsletters, programmes and

annual reports and the subscriptions are the Society's only form of income.

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) 243

No report received before going to press.

REDHILL

CHAIRMAN: IAN STRONGE

Central Redhill is being transformed, as seems to be obligatory every 30 years or so. Naturally, your Committee is concerned that this should be for the best, though it is hard to nurture 'spirit of place' for a town which lacks a distinctive or 'iconic' central feature.



At which landmark do you arrange to meet in Redhill? Where do you take your friends to enjoy the best of Redhill? Please share – on the Society's Facebook page, or by email to me at redhill.chairman@reigatesociety.org.uk.

At the edge of our area, a rather smaller developer from Billingshurst proposes a "garden village" at Redhill Aerodrome. Among other considerations, this may depend on the business case for a new link road junction on the M23. It will be interesting to see whether Tandridge District Council adopt this as part of their Local Plan – their Garden Village proposals are out to consultation until Monday 9th October. Adjoining the site, East Surrey Hospital is also applying to remove Green Belt protection against further development, including perhaps nurses' homes.

Smaller, more convivial projects include the re-opening of the Garibaldi on Mill Street as a community pub, a project initiated by a 'Friends of...' group on Facebook. We wish them all success. It will be interesting to compare their offering with the "classic gastro pub" planned by the new owner of The Hatch at Linkfield Corner.

We need more members to help make "Greater Redhill". Please join in on the Society's Facebook page, or by email to me at

redhill.chairman@reigatesociety.org.uk.

TRANSPORT

CHAIRMAN:

BRUCE HEALEY (01737) 24057

Trains:

The RMT/ASLEF vs Southern dispute rumbles on after 16 months. The positions of the relevant parties are now totally entrenched and a solution now seems unlikely. The Government has blamed the Unions and are very unlikely to retract from that position. ASLEF have rejected a 24% pay rise claiming that this is not about money, so they now cannot back down. The RMT have had 4 offers from Southern Trains none of which they have put to their members for a vote, implying that they will absolutely not back down. Southern are required by the Department of transport to implement Driver Only operation of the doors and are well and truly caught in the middle.

Moving at a speed which makes Continental Drift look fast, Transport Minister Chris Grayling has at last engaged in discussions with the unions. At the time of writing this (early August), these talks

and the separate talks between Southern and the RMT have stalled. The stand-off continues with no sign of a resolution.

The work at London Bridge continues; the August Bank Holiday closures should little affect the Brighton Line. Although the work is due to be completed by the New Year, the full new Thameslink timetable will not be introduced until May to allow for driver training.

Redhill Platform 0 work is progressing and should be complete for the Christmas to New Year close-down to implement the track and signalling changes.

Reigate Level Crossing:

It is a franchise requirement for GWR Trains to introduce an additional hourly service each way

between Gatwick and Reading. This is dependent on the Redhill Platform 0 work completing and there being enough trains cascaded from the faltering Paddington electrification. This will considerably impact Reigate level crossing. I have sent a letter to MP Crispin Blunt and Surrey County Council recommending a course of action to reduce the times the gates are closed for each train which, if implemented, would substantially offset the effect of the additional trains.

Air:

The Government has fixed the number of night flights at the current level. Regarding the noise quota, the summer night time permitted level remains the same but there is an apparent risk of

an increase in winter.

Roads:

Reigate and Banstead Council have announced as £3.6m Community Infrastructure Levy plan for the next 5 years. Some of this will relate to transport with a number of schemes for cycleways, improved junctions and improved public transport.

Buses:

The new timetables were published on 1st August and become effective on 2nd September. There do not appear to be any drastic changes.

NATURAL AMENITIES

CHAIRMAN: COLIN BURBIDGE (01737) 245264

At this time last year we were anticipating the consultation phase of the borough's Development Plan mindful of the fact that actions taken by the borough council were suggestive that all was not well with the management of our open spaces.

This suspicion has proved to be correct as we now know that the Green Spaces Manager and the Tree Officer have recently departed from RBBC leaving a severely depleted team (in tandem with the Steering Groups) to deal with the ongoing issues surrounding the management of Reigate Heath,

Earlswood & Redhill Commons and the formulation of the continuing Management Plans for these areas. There is also an issue with the overuse of all our open spaces which will begin to suffer if not it is not addressed.

There has also been publicity recently concerning the use of and possible closure of SCC's recycling sites. It is understood that there is to be a consultation on revisions to the Waste Plan this autumn.

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

All About You (Lingerie) Ltd	19b High Street RH2 9AA	(242860)	Lingerie, Hosiery & Swimwear
Care Homes of Distinction Ltd	Wray Park, 55 Alma Road RH2 0DN	(248245)	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 RH1 2JX	(772611)	
Franchise Accounting Services Ltd	48 Nutfield Road, Merstham RH1 3EP	(649839)	Accountancy
Holmesdale Building Society	43 Church Street RH2 0AE	(245716)	Local building society(mortgages & investments)
La Barbe Restaurant	71 Bell Street RH2 7AN	(241966)	Restaurant & outside catering
Micklefield School	10 Somers Road RH2 9DU	(242615) (224211/2)	Independent preparatory school for boys & girls Aged 2 1/2 to 11
Reigate Architects	59 Nutley Lane RH2 9HP	(222099)	Architecture & sustainability
Reigate Grammar School	Reigate Road RH2 0QS	(222231)	Grammar School
Reigate Heath Golf Club	Reigate Heath RH2 8QR	(226793)	
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 Albert & Alexandra School	Gatton Park RH2 0TW	(649050)	Boarding school for boys & girls Aged 7 to 18
Stanton Construction	1 Castlefield Road RH2 0SA	(227430)	Development & construction service to the health 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 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 9th OCTOBER 2017 7.30pm for 8.00pm.

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. GARTH LANDS, 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 9th OCTOBER 2017
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**