



THE REIGATE SOCIETY

Newsletter No. 119 December 2017

CHAIRMAN'S NOTES

The Secretary and I represented the Reigate Society recently at a Gatton Park event to celebrate the conclusion of the project to restore Capability Brown's Vision for Gatton. Pictures were shown of the work carried out in the landscape and the enhancements to the visitor experience which had involved local artists as well as families and children. We then had a conducted tour in the Park. The weather that day was perfect which set off the Park at its best and we were able to fully appreciate all the work that has been achieved to open up the original Capability Brown vistas and restore and enhance Gatton Park's important history. I urge you to visit or even volunteer as a helper at this wonderful parkland within our Borough which is managed by the Gatton Trust. The National Trust also owns part of the Parkland and the two organisations are committed to its preservation. Alan Mortlock is a long standing volunteer at Gatton and I am sure he would answer any questions from interested members

It is sad to report on the death of John Angel, a previous Chairman, Secretary, Registrar and Trustee of the Reigate Society. John had continued to serve the Society as an active Council member with comments and advice always at the ready. He was a mainstay of the Society to the last and we are grateful for his constant support.

Many of you will have noted the discussion in the local paper of the new Sainsbury development in Redhill and the level of disappointment with its poor design and visual impact on the Town. The views of the Society have been made known to

the Council and reported in the paper and we hope that future developments will be influenced for the good by these comments. The Architecture and Planning Committee and Redhill Committee are watching development plans closely and standing up for an improved 'townscape'

Bruce Healey and the Transport Committee do an excellent job lobbying for improvements to traffic conditions, parking issues, railway services and management. Our President, Nicholas Owen, has also helped with raising awareness of the Railways heritage of Redhill. Most recently we are speaking out for the Locomotive shed at the Hockley Business Park in Redhill which is due to be demolished as the site has been given permission, on appeal, to be developed for housing.

Following the Town walk led by Ian Stronge and the Redhill Committee, ideas have been discussed on how to create more greenery in and around the Town. Amongst the suggestions was to plant one or two disease resistant English Elms and we will follow up on this with RBBC.

In the Secretary's notes you will see a report on our Members Evening in October and the November Open Meeting. I urge you to check your programme and come along to the Open Meeting talks. The topics of the talks are varied and interesting and it is an opportunity to meet other members.

We continue to monitor developments around the area. The proposals to develop Park Pit, off the A25 west of Reigate, as a recreation centre is of concern.

We still urgently need nominations for Officers of the Society: Chairman, Vice Chairman and Secretary will be required before the AGM in July 2018.

Michael Doughty

01737 240974

SECRETARY'S NOTES

We are now well into the 2017/2018 Reigate Society year and had our first Open Meeting of this year's programme on 13th November. Peter Phillips gave an illustrated talk on Urban Ugliness particularly in the Reigate area. This was attended by about 40 people including representatives of the local Council. The talk stimulated a

considerable amount of further discussion of all the issues raised. We are now looking at the town with eyes opened to the need for improvement in so many features of the 'streetscape' which are in great need of care and attention. It is clear that we should all demand better and I hope that many people will be motivated to exert influence

wherever possible to seek improvements in design, construction and maintenance of signage, and street furniture, as well as more trees and greenery within the town areas of Reigate and Redhill. The next Open meeting on 4th December is a talk on our local Caves by Peter Burgess of the Wealden Cave and Mine Society. At the January 22nd Open Meeting we welcome Vince Gallo of the Reigate Beekeepers Association. The Open meeting talks begin sharp at 8.15pm so it is a good idea to arrive before this to ensure you can park and get a seat. Thank you to those who help setting up and clearing away at these meetings.

In October the Members Evening was greatly enjoyed by those who attended. There were only 45 people this year. Two Civic Awards were presented. Jes Chandler of Stanton Construction collected the certificate for 10 – 11 Flanchford Road Reigate, the former Reigate Heath Garage. Mark Bright of Lodgecrest Ltd collected the certificate for the new/refurbishment project at 2 – 10 Cromwell Road, Redhill. Details of both these projects can be viewed on the Society's website www.reigatesociety.org.uk. Following the buffet supper Kenneth Bare, Vice Chairman of the Surrey Hills Society, gave us an excellent talk on The Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty within which we are situated. We were disappointed that numbers for this event were much reduced on the previous year. The Reigate Manor has provided an excellent venue at very reasonable cost but there will be an increase next year and changes are being considered. In order to attract more Members to join in this event we could consider changing this event to another part of the year.

I will finish as Secretary at the AGM in 2018 and we must have someone to take over this position. Please consider if you could assist the Society in this way and get in touch to discuss. We also

require a Programme Organiser. Work begins early in the new year to plan the dates for the next year's meetings and search out ideas for the talks even though the programme is not finalised and printed until the Summer.

The Heritage Open Days held in September were very successful. Thank you to Michael Hellings and team for opening the Undercroft and promoting the Reigate Society at this historic venue. On behalf of local residents and visitors to the area we thank all the volunteers, many of whom are Reigate Society members. HODS is now under the leadership of a working group including The Town Hall, representatives from all the venues as well as from Reigate Society. Thank you to Suzanne Stronge on her continued involvement in HODS and especially with the talks and walks which have proved very popular. The excellent HODS brochure was the result of considerable hard work by Robert Bogin, our Treasurer and Registrar, Beverley Barry of the Town Hall and Mad Ideas, the printers.

Website and Facebook

Work will shortly get under way to make the website friendlier for mobile phone users. The number of Facebook 'likes' continues to grow slowly.

Mrs Bridget Doughty

01737 240974

TREASURER'S NOTES

Funds = £5909 up £875 for the year however there are further known expenses of around £700 due before April. With further subscription receipts which come in on an ongoing basis, there will be a positive income for the year.

Subscriptions received to date = £4044 last full year £5001

The expenses for this year have been less than 2016-2017 which showed a very high level due to the erection of the sculpture in Priory Park. In addition, the costs of the HODS brochure were covered by advertising whereas in the previous year there was a cost of £1234.

The current MINIMUM RATES are as follows:

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

Robert Bogin

01737 248018

REGISTRAR'S NOTES

553 members represented by 385 memberships

191 single
168 family
20 corporate
6 other

New members in: 14 members represented by 8 memberships

1 single
6 family
1 corporate

Members lost: 15 members represented by 12 memberships

At 1st December, subscriptions had not been received for 100 memberships 137 members. Some of these will come in over the next month however I expect to remove 39 memberships 50 members who have not paid for the last two years

unless we receive payment in the next two months.

If you have received a letter from me in the last few weeks and do not wish to continue your membership, I would appreciate a call or a note to confirm this so that we can avoid further expense to the Society.

There is a subscription form for 2018-2019 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 222099

The Architecture and Planning Committee has been supporting the Redhill Committee in drawing the attention of RBBC and the local community to the poor design of the new Sainsbury's development. For more detail, please see Ian Stronge's report for the Redhill Committee. We were pleased that our letter to the Surrey Mirror generated a good degree of debate and involvement from local residents. Back in Reigate, there was good news for shoppers as it was confirmed this month that Waterstones booksellers and Oliver Bonas clothing and homeware will be opening branches in the former Knights department store in spring 2018. The Committee is confident that the historic buildings are being converted and refurbished with sensitivity. Bell Street has already seen a restaurant franchise open this month as Wagamama opened for business, following their successful appeal against a planning refusal. The planning inspectorate overturned the Council's refusal on the basis that shoppers would stay in town longer if there were more options to have a meal, and the restaurant certainly appears to be enjoying popularity at the moment. October saw the Architecture and Planning Civic Awards, and this year two presentations were made. 2-10 Cromwell Road in Redhill saw previously run-

down shops and residential accommodation above transformed into a modern, attractive building. The scheme provides much-needed housing and incorporates nicely-modulated and cleanly detailed external cladding. The result is an attractive building which has contributed significantly to the regeneration of this part of Redhill. In Reigate, the Committee felt that the renovation, refurbishment and conversion of the Reigate Heath Garage buildings on Flanchford Road had been sensitively handled, with careful design, workmanship and choice of materials. The Committee has been following with interest the proposals for Mount Pleasant, the former artists' residential home on Coppice Lane. This house was originally the home of Sir Francis D'Arcy Cooper, the chairman of Unilever, and was built to the designs of James Lomax Simpson, the Unilever architect, responsible for the model village of Port Sunlight. The house bears a resemblance to his Port Sunlight buildings and although not locally listed is of significant interest. Sir Francis D'Arcy Cooper was to be arrested by the Nazis at his Reigate residence if they invaded England as Unilever, the largest foreign company in Germany in the 1930's, assisted in the escape of numerous Jewish families and employees from Germany at this time. A number of applications

have been made to demolish the house and replace it with alternative housing schemes. The Architecture and Planning Committee feels that the demolition of an architecturally significant building should be resisted. We would prefer the existing building to be retained and converted. The roof design of the proposed block of flats contains large flat-roof elements and is rather clunky. We were therefore relieved that the latest planning application was refused on the basis that “the proposed development, by virtue of the size and scale of buildings, when combined with the intensification of use and extent of surface car

parking, would be harmful to the openness of the Metropolitan Green Belt”. In July, the Government published its decision on night flight rules for the next five years, and the Gatwick Area Conservation Campaign was disappointed that there is to be no reduction in the number of night flights. The GACC chairman claims that the noise quota will permit a 60% increase in noise levels during the winter. As the ambient noise levels in the rural areas surrounding Gatwick are lower than around Heathrow, each night flight causes more disturbance.

REDHILL

CHAIRMAN: IAN STRONGE

A Surrey Mirror reporter phoned to ask our Committee’s opinion on the new Sainsbury’s. Hmm. On the one hand...and on the other.

On the one hand it’s good to see investment in Redhill Town Centre, which has seemed a bit run down in recent years. On the other hand, how do these new developments – of which Sainsbury/The Gym/Travelodge is the first to be completed - contribute to the character of Redhill and the liveliness of the town centre?

In times of “austerity”, it’s perhaps too much to find department stores aspiring to the iconic architecture that once distinguished Selfridges. Even so, it would be better to build something with a little more regard for its surroundings.

In the end, we replied:

“It’s good Sainsbury’s has opened at last, but does being bigger make the weekly shop any different? The new building looms over the northern gateway to Redhill in a way the Kingsgate office building in the south managed to avoid. There’s another difference: Kingsgate brings workers into Redhill to spend money in the local economy. How will Sainsbury’s 550 parking spaces help bring shoppers into the rest of the town centre economy? We invite Sainsbury’s to get fully connected with the local community.”





This was not included in the article, but comments from the Architecture and Planning Committee were:

<http://www.getsurrey.co.uk/news/surrey-news/redhill-sainsburys-superstore-called-unattractive-13914994> .

Despite running a “gated shopping mall”, the Belfry’s manager is always keen to take part in town centre initiatives. The Belfry hosts a Remembrance Sunday service and co-sponsors the Redhill Business Guild which has been busy promoting the revived thrice-weekly street markets on Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays. We wish the street traders all success in bringing more customers to the town centre.

At the station, Southern Railways, irrespective of their operational woes, contributes to the Sussex-based Community Rail Partnership www.sussexcrp.org, which has recently expanded to include the North Downs Line to Guildford, and the Tonbridge Line to the east.

Working alongside Redhill YMCA as “Station Partner” that’s their volunteers’ photos on the subway wall, as well as fellow partnership members the Reigate, Redhill and District Rail Users Association www.rdrua.org.uk, and the Reigate Society’s own Transport Committee, we hope to direct attention beyond the stations toward the impact that railway cuttings and embankments make on our streetscapes.

We also support emerging initiatives to develop a local Railway Heritage Trail.

Meanwhile, we await Solum’s new planning application for their station redevelopment – their previous planning approval lapsed after 3 years with no result. It is rumoured they may include the former youth centre behind Liquid and Envy – it would be good to see a new amenity for the community on this site, preferably joined up to the town centre as well as the station.

How about building a High-Level Walkway from the Station Car Park on Redstone Hill across to the new Marketfield Way development? That was one suggestion from those who came on our Redhill Walkabout at the start of September. Designed as an attraction in its own right, a Walkway could bring new visitors to the town while helping to connect the periphery across our ring road to the centre. And down below, alongside Marketfield Way, could Redhill Brook be liberated from its concrete culverts to become an ornament to the town once again? I’ve seen at least one Edwardian postcard showing children playing on a footbridge over the Brook, perhaps the one on the footpath that runs past Warwick School from Noke Drive to Cavendish Road.

We shall be publicising these and other ideas to inspire and develop other imaginative solutions that can distinguish Redhill. In the spring, we shall hold more Redhill Walkabouts to explore ideas for improving amenities in and around the town centre. Please do join our walks and our discussions. We need more members to help make “Greater Redhill”. You can find out more, and take part, on the Society’s Facebook page, or by emailing me at redhill.chairman@reigatesociety.org.uk.

TRANSPORT

CHAIRMAN:

BRUCE HEALEY 01737 24057

Airports

The discussion about a second runway at Gatwick has come to the fore again with revised economics. The Transport Committee is of the opinion that the second runway at Gatwick will be built at some stage, it is just a matter of when.

The change of flight paths for planes taking off to the west but turning east is now closer to the airport. This will no doubt please some and aggravate others.

Redhill Aerodrome has a hard runway built by widening the perimeter road. The intention is to use this when the main runway is waterlogged. Retrospective planning permission has been refused. It remains to be seen what will happen here.

Roads

The M23 is to be made 4 lanes by using the hard shoulder. There will be 2 years of speed limits starting next spring.

There is a consultation page on parking on the Council Facebook page which is opened annually.

Buses

We now have an extra service, the 489 which runs an hourly service from Merstham to Leatherhead via Redhill, Reigate and Dorking.

Railways

The industrial dispute at Southern Trains appears to be nearing a solution with ASLEF and Southern agreeing terms. The ASLEF membership have voted to accept this. This leaves the RMT completely out on a limb. They were not a party to these negotiations and do not agree to any form of Driver Only Operation under any circumstances. As trains can be driven without a second crew member, the RMT strike on

Southern has little effect as few trains will be cancelled. As Southern and ASLEF are not likely to go back on their agreement assuming it is accepted by the ASLEF membership, it is hard to see what the RMT can achieve by prolonging this dispute.

Redhill Platform 0 is due to come into operation at the beginning of January. The station will be out of operation from 23rd December through to New Year's Day.

A letter sent to Network rail, MP Crispin Blunt and the Surrey Mirror about the time the level crossing gates are open received an email response from Network Rail that they will consider moving the signal for eastbound trains but so far there has not been any further indication of any decision. This could reduce the time the gates are shut by a minute per eastbound train.

The 3 trains per hour service between Reading and Redhill has no start date but it is not expected to begin in January. This will adversely affect the level crossing. This line is now part of a Community Rail scheme.

The former London & Brighton Railway located at Hockley Business Park is due to be demolished in mid-2018. Letters are being sent to heritage railway magazines to raise interest in retaining this building.

NATURAL AMENITIES

CHAIRMAN:

COLIN BURBIDGE 01737 245264

There has been some recent publicity of plans for Newcastle's parks and open spaces to be run by a charity. This has been in response to criticism from local residents that income generated from events etc. has not been directed back into the maintenance and improvement of the facility from which the income was generated. A number of other local authorities are showing interest in following suit. This may even remind RBBC that income generated from Lady Somerset's bequests to Reigate are supposed to be retained within the individual assets instead of being subsumed into general council funds.

The consultation phase of the borough's Development Plan is imminent and a response will be made when the possible impact on our open spaces has been assessed.

SCC's revised Waste Plan is now out for consultation and the committee will be submitting a response in parallel with that on the Development Plan.

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	14a Bell St RH2 7BG	245886	Independent estate agents, surveyors & valuers
Dunottar School	High Trees Rd RH2 7EL	761945	Independent school for Boys & Girls aged 11 - 18.
East Surrey College	London Road, Redhill RH1 2JX	772611	Further Education College
Franchise Accounting Services	48 Nutfield Road, Merstham RH1 3EP	649839	Accountancy
Holmesdale Building Society	43 Church St RH2 0AE	245716	Local building society mortgages & investments
La Barbe Restaurant	71 Bell Street RH2 7AN	241966	Restaurant & outside catering
Micklefield School	10 Somers Rd RH2 9DU	242615 224211	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 Rd RH2 0QS	222231	Grammar School
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	Community Junior School
Royal Alexandra & Albert 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 Rd 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 St RH2 9BT	221212	Solicitors
White & Sons	24 High St RH2 9AY	222600	Independent estate agents, surveyors & valuers

SUBSCRIPTION FORM

NAMES:

ADDRESS:

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EMAIL:

I enclose our subscription for 2018/2019

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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