

ACTING CHAIRMAN'S NOTES – MICHAEL C.DOUGHTY

During the past year I have worked to attract new members who are willing to take on some of the positions within the Society. This has been met with some success and encouraged me to continue as Acting Chairman. Last year Simon Walter resigned as Chairman of the Architecture and Planning Committee after several years of sterling work for the Society and he continues to participate as an active member. Tim Lee took on the post of leading the A & P committee and at the AGM he gave an update on the continuing work of the committee in fostering and encouraging good development whilst also guarding against unsuitable proposals. Also at the AGM Bruce Healey gave a lively report of the transport issues in the Borough. The proposed increase in the number of trains per hour through Reigate, which will increase the length of time for each level crossing closure and exacerbate the town's traffic problems, remains an issue of great concern. Bruce will continue to press the Society's case for action in addressing the level crossing issues. Members at the AGM engaged in an avid discussion of the parking problems particularly on residential roads near the stations. We will write to the Council to address these issues and to consult residents on parking limits or residents only parking in their area.

This year several members expressed their appreciation of the very good printed Annual Report. The content, of course, is presented by the Society and we also thank our President, Nicholas Owen, for his particularly relevant message. The design of the Annual Report was the work of Jonathan Spearman who has provided excellent photographs to express the ideas and reports included. We thank him for his efforts on the Society's behalf.

I encourage all members to consider offering to assist on the Society Committees: Architecture and Planning, Transport, Natural Amenities and Redhill. Read their reports and contact the Chairmen whose contact details are contained in the Annual Report.

ACTING SECRETARY'S NOTES – BRIDGET M.DOUGHTY

The 67th AGM of the Society was held on Monday 8th July at The Colman Redland Centre and the Annual Report and Accounts for 2018/19 were approved. As there had been not yet been a response to the appeal for volunteers for the posts of Chairman, Vice Chairman and Secretary Michael and Bridget Doughty agreed again to continue as Acting Chairman and Acting Secretary. Robert Bogin continues as Treasurer and Registrar. Ian Stronge and Simon Walter had resigned from Council and they were both thanked for all the extensive work they had undertaken for the Society. Ian Vernon was elected to the Council and Gerry Moss, Bruce Healey and Michael Knight, who retired by rotation, were re-elected. Philip Hyman was confirmed as Examiner of the Accounts. Under AOB concerns had been raised about the St David's Pavilion at the site of the Fire Service HQ in Wray Park Road. This was supported by acrow props. I have subsequently received a reply to my enquiries and the reason for this is that the very hot summer weather in 2018 had caused land sinkage in several areas on the site and the acrow props were being used to protect this historic building from possible damage. The Surrey Fire Brigade Headquarters is to be closed but at present there are no plans for the site and the actual closure and removal of offices date is not expected within two years. The Fire Station itself remains in Reigate. Other concerns were raised about the sails of the Wray Common Windmill which had not yet been reinstated. This work had been expected in 2019. We will check on this further.

ACTING SECRETARY'S NOTES (continued)

The programme of meetings for the year ahead has not been completed. Despite several chasing e-mails and telephone calls I am still awaiting confirmation of Speakers for three of the dates. However, I am pleased to advise that Mark Davison, local historian and journalist of Surrey Mirror fame, has agreed to be our Speaker at the Members Evening.

MEMBERS EVENING is on MONDAY 28th OCTOBER 2019 Please note this date as it is changed from that given at the AGM. This is because we want to avoid a clash with the Cranston Library lecture. After considerable work in visiting and assessing other venues we are going back to Reigate Manor Hotel who have agreed the same cost as 2017. I hope as many of you as possible will come to this event to support the Society's Civic Awards Presentation and to enjoy a very good social evening. The application form for tickets with full details is attached so please complete and forward with payments as noted as soon as possible.

Open meetings. As yet I do not have confirmation of topics and speakers for the Open meetings, however, please make a note of the dates and check the website for information in due course. The meetings are at the Colman Redland Centre at 8p.m. on the following dates:

Monday 2nd December 2019

Monday 20th January 2020

Monday 24th February 2020

Monday 23rd March 2020

Bridget Doughty

Tel:01737 240974

e.mail: mandbdoughty@btinternet.com

TREASURER'S NOTES – ROBERT BOGIN 01737-248018

We are only 5 months into the current year and most expenses occur in the latter half. Hence we have positive income of just under £2000 in the year to date. Membership subscriptions are running at just over £800 less than last year however most of this will come in by the end of the year. Reserves stand at just over £8000.

REGISTRAR'S NOTES – ROBERT BOGIN

Number of members stands at 458 comprising 141 single memberships, 144 family memberships, 20 corporate and 8 others. Thus total of 313 memberships. A number of members were removed from the database having not paid their 2018-2019 subscriptions by 30th June 2019



MEMBERS' MEETING
Monday 28th October 7.30 for 8.00 pm
Reigate Manor Hotel

Tickets £13.00 includes first drink and finger buffet.
Ticket application form on page 8 of this Newsletter

COMMITTEE REPORTS

ARCHITECTURE & PLANNING - CHAIRMAN: TIM LEE 01737-243540

Planning applications:

A planning application has been refused to convert The Grade II listed White Lion pub in Linkfield Street into three self contained apartments and construction of two new four bedroom semi detached houses following its sudden closure in September last year. The pub dates to the 16th Century and was thought to have been the longest-running drinking establishment in the town.

An application for a change of use to the Three Horseshoes Inn Public House Ironsbottom from A4 public house to C3 residential has also been refused following many objections.

A Prior approval application for the demolition of the Longmead Adult Education Centre on Holland Close has been Objected to by the Borough Council. The Borough Council has requested that all opportunities to retain the building through conversion and refurbishment or partial redevelopment and façade retention should be explored fully prior to any demolition proceeding.

The Committee has submitted their concerns to Reigate and Banstead Council regarding an application under permitted development for the conversion of Quadrant house in Redhill opposite the station. This led to a statement from the Chairman being published as part of an article in the Surrey Mirror. This application has highlighted once again the lack of design and architectural quality of some permitted development conversion schemes for larger buildings without being held to account by design and space standards that a scheme under full planning would be. This is an issue that should be continued to be raised at a national level and the Committee are keen to pursue this in the coming months.

Other local Architecture and Planning news:

During the course of this year we have seen yet more departures from the high street of banks and small shops and businesses. The NatWest building remains empty. Sports Direct are closing the Reigate branch of Jack Wills in the Grade II Listed building 'The Barons'. Santander also closed their Reigate branch on 13th June 2019. This means that some of the most iconic and historical buildings in Reigate are now empty and the committee are keen to open the debate further about how these historic buildings can be occupied with sustainable uses in the future.

New arrivals to the High Street are Nandos, moving into the old Prezzo unit on 17th April after a planning application was approved for the refurbishment works. Carmona Tapas and Grill restaurant has opened up in the former Valentina delicatessen on Church Street.

Both the Red Cross Inn and The Blue Anchor pubs have re-opened after a short closure earlier this year, operated by the same landlord. The new leaseholder, Mike Nicholls, is a familiar face in the area, having run The Limes pub in Merstham for two years before it was demolished in 2018.

The Knights Yard development of six flats located on the upper floors of the Knights building above Waterstones and Oliver Bonas are now being marketed.

The fountain in the sunken garden in Priory Park will be fully operational soon after being out of action since last autumn due to vandalism. Also in Priory Park, the playground has re-opened recently after a six week closure for refurbishment. The new playground now boasts a re-designed and improved Grey Lady ship, a four tower climbing frame, 'Priory Castle' and a smaller two tiered climbing frame 'Priory Gatehouse'. Elsewhere there are now nine swings, two types of climbing net, a multi-seesaw, a wheelchair-accessible roundabout, an extra zip wire and the retained summer splash play area installed two years ago.

Hop Stop, the independent beer shop has opened a branch in the former La Lanterna building at 73 Bell Street.

ARCHITECTURE & PLANNING (continued)

Buckland Lake Park has continued to provide outdoor recreational activities, a cafe and picnic area as well as the lake already used by open-water swimming groups. It is still due to open fully to the public in 2020 following its temporary opening during the May school half term holiday.

With the help of the committee's members, we aim to have a revised and updated description to be published on the Reigate Society website describing the roles, tasks and responsibilities of the Architecture and Planning Committee. This part of the website has not been updated for many years and a review of what is currently displayed is being undertaken.

Finally, it is getting close to that time of year when we encourage all members to consider nominating a project from the Borough for the annual Civic Awards 2019. A project must demonstrate a high standard of design and make a positive contribution to their area. All nominations should have been completed within the past 12 months. Anyone who would like to nominate a project should contact the Chairman by post or by email to:

tim@reigatearchitects.co.uk or to the Reigate Society at enquiries@reigatesociety.org.uk

Nomination forms and full details are available on our website.

TRANSPORT - CHAIRMAN: BRUCE HEALEY 01737-240577

Buses:

There was a 'Bus Surgery' in Redhill on 28th June where the public could express their opinions about Metrobus and Southdown bus services. One suggestion was that the 422 Reigate Station to Crawley service could be extended northwards to terminate at Kingswood giving a better service on Reigate Hill. There were no promises that this would be implemented but the reaction was positive.

Roads:

The M25 junction 8/A217 interchange is due to be upgraded. The following is quoted from the Highways England website:

Work is proposed to start in September 2019; and completion expected in September 2020.

Works will include:

upgrading the traffic signal installation throughout the junction

adding an extra lane on the A217 northbound approach

widening into the existing verge and extending the anti-clockwise exit slip road

adding an extra lane on the north circulatory section of the roundabout

widening lanes on the east and west bridge section of the roundabout

improving road signs and markings

widening and realignment on the A217 southbound to two lanes that merge prior to Wray Lane

Reigate Level Crossing:

GWR Trains are expected to implement their 3 trains per hour service in May 2020. This will result in the gates being closed more often exacerbating the traffic problems.

For about 2 years, the Reigate Society has been campaigning at the Reigate to Reading Community Rail Partnership (CRP) meetings to have something done about the traffic problems prior to this implementation. Earlier this year, the CRP formed a sub-committee to consider this problem together with the similar issue with the level crossing at Betchworth. A Surrey County Council traffic representative attended and implied that they had not been aware of the planned increase in rail traffic.

Presumably as a result of this meeting, there will be a high level meeting in October between Network Rail, GWR trains, Reigate Council, Surrey County Council and other interested parties. None of the members of the CRP have been invited. MP Crispin Blunt has been informed of the Reigate Society's stance which is that Mr Blunt should contact the Department for Transport (who set the requirement for the increased rail service) to insist that a traffic Impact Analysis is performed, that no increase in rail service is implemented until the analysis is complete and that if the analysis shows that more people are adversely affected by the increase in service than are advantaged by the greater number of trains, that the 3 tph service should not go ahead until sufficient improvements are made to give us a situation no worse than the present.

It would seem that the right meetings are starting to happen albeit at least 2 years late.

TRANSPORT (continued)

Reigate Level Crossing: (continued)

There are two possible improvements. Firstly and more simply, the pedestrian crossing should be made traffic light controlled. Motor vehicles approaching the present crossing do so slowly in case pedestrians want to cross; with traffic lights, the flow would be faster. Also with traffic lights, the flow of traffic would be halted less often. Secondly, there should be changes to the railway signalling such that trains approaching from the west do not need to have the gates closed for as long as the present three and a half minutes. This has been discussed with Network Rail and the change is not viable with the present signalbox technology. Network Rail expect to include this signalling change with the anticipated Reigate Platform 3 which is now high on their list of priorities.

Trains:

GWR trains are expecting to have the 4 car refurbished trains in service by May next year. These will be dual mode diesel and electric but will be used in diesel mode only on the electrified sections until the electric supply is improved. The new trains will be less powerful and will therefore work to a slightly relaxed timetable.

Former Redhill Goods Shed at Hockley Business Park:

Hockley Business Park is now closed and the former goods shed is in the process of being demolished.

Gatwick Airport:

Nothing new to report.

WEBSITE & FACEBOOK

The number of Facebook 'likes' continues to grow slowly. Our Facebook entries provide a useful reminder of Reigate Society activities.

REDHILL COMMITTEE

ACTING CHAIRMAN: GERRY MOSS g.p.moss@qmul.ac.uk

The Committee has met to plan for its future. At this stage we need more members. We are hoping more members who are interested in Redhill and its development will be willing to join us. We meet a few times a year and need as many as possible to comment on developments and to suggest improvements for Redhill. If you are interested do contact the writer.

I hope members interested in the history of Redhill saw the excellent display in the Belfry organised by John Capon for Redhill175 (the 175th anniversary of the railway coming to Redhill). As part of the celebration the Belfry is donating 175 trees to be planted in the Borough. Anyone interested in a tree should see the leaflets available on the second floor of the Belfry.

In June the first Redhill Summer Festival was held in the Memorial Park. Many local organisations were represented. With good weather it was enjoyed by a large number of people.

It is nearly two years since the Waller Cinema was closed for refurbishment. Concern has been expressed at the prolonged closure. It is to be hoped the problem with the new seating will be resolved so that it can soon reopen.

There has been no progress in the planned development associated with Redhill Station. Since the withdrawal of Waitrose, Solum are reconsidering their options and state they will consult further when new proposals are prepared.

The attractive flowers in the planters in Station Road at the junction with Queensway are welcome. Other locations should be found for more flower beds and trees in Redhill.

NATURAL AMENITIES - CHAIRMAN: COLIN BURBIDGE 01737-245264

Natural Amenities is taking a break at this time. There is little to report at present further to the report published in the Annual Report for the year 2018/2019 published for the AGM in July.

SUBSCRIPTION FORM

NAME(S): _____

ADDRESS: _____

EMAIL: _____

| | | |
|--|------------|-----|
| I enclose our subscription for 2019/2020 | Individual | £10 |
| Cheques to 'The Reigate Society' | 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. This brings savings of postage and stationery costs to the Society.

NAME(S): _____

EMAIL ADDRESS: _____

Data Protection Notice

Home addresses, telephone and email addresses of all members of the Reigate Society plus a record of annual subscription payments are held in an electronic database by the Registrar. This file is password controlled and all prudent security measures are in place against outside access. These details are held in order to keep a record of payments and for delivery of newsletters. These details are not passed to any third party. Details of payments received are held in an electronic file by the Treasurer. This file is password controlled and all prudent security measures are in place against outside access. These details are held in order to reconcile payments received against membership records. The details of any member who does not pay their annual subscription within the membership year in question will be deleted from the Membership database at the beginning of the new membership year. Payment of your annual subscription is assumed to be approval of your data being held as described above.

CORPORATE MEMBERS

All phone numbers prefixed 01737. Addresses are Reigate unless otherwise stated.

| | | | |
|-----------------------------------|--|--------|---|
| 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 | Independent secondary school |
| East Surrey College | Claremont Road, Gatton Point, Redhill RH1 2JX | 772611 | College of Further Education |
| Franchise Accounting Services Ltd | 48 Nutfield Road, Merstham RH1 3EP | 649839 | Accountancy |
| La Barbe Restaurant | 71 Bell Street RH2 7AN | 241966 | Restaurant & outside catering |
| Micklefield School | 10 Somers Road RH2 9DU | 242615 | 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 | Heathland golf course |
| Reigate Priory Cricket Club | Park Lane RH2 8JX | 244477 | Cricket club with senior & junior sections |
| Reigate Priory School | Bell Street RH2 7RL | 245065 | Junior school |
| Royal Albert & Alexandra School | Gatton Park RH2 0TW | 649050 | Boarding school for boys & girls aged 7 to 18 |
| Skipton Building Society | 43 Church Street RH2 0AE | 245716 | Local building society (mortgages & investments) |
| Stanton Construction | 1 Castlefield Road RH2 0SA | 227430 | Development & construction service, 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 |

REIGATE SOCIETY MEMBERS' EVENING

**MONDAY 28th OCTOBER 2019 7.30 pm for 8.00 pm.
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?

Telephone:.....EMAIL:.....

I/We apply for tickets @ £13.00 per head.

Remittance Total

Cheques: The Reigate Society

REIGATE SOCIETY MEMBERS' EVENING

**MONDAY 28th OCTOBER 2019 7.30 pm for 8.00 pm.
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 ARE AVAILABLE AT THE CASH BAR.
THIS IS A TICKET ONLY EVENT