



The Civic Society
for Reigate, Redhill and Merstham

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CONTENTS	
Chairman's notes	2
Secretary's notes	3
Treasurer's notes	3
Registrar's notes	3
COMMITTEE REPORTS	
Architecture and Planning Committee	3-4
Redhill Committee	5
Transport Committee	6
Website	6
Corporate Members' List	7
Membership form	8

Chairman's notes - Tim Lee

As we come to the end of 2021 and look forward to the Reigate Society's anniversary year of 2022 my hope is that we will be able to continue the life of the Society satisfactorily. I am very grateful to Robert Bogin and Jane Artis for their time and efforts over the course of the last year when I have struggled to manage the expectations of my role.

Live zoom events

Back in April I talked about the need for the Society to be more relevant and in touch with all residents of the area and be actively involved in the conversations that are currently happening on social media and online. I believe that the live zoom events that have been held on varying subjects with varying guest speakers have been a great success in this respect and huge praise and thanks must go to Pippa Martin, Chair of the Redhill Committee for a great open meeting recently held at the Harlequin theatre putting the spotlight on Redhill's past, present and future. This event was the first in person meeting for a while and, whilst I was unable to attend, I heard that it went very smoothly. I understand there is certainly more to discuss and questions to be answered coming out of that meeting and I hope that we can do that in future open meetings.

The next live zoom event is scheduled for February 2022 and I hope that, dependent on any future government restrictions, we can find an appropriate and worthy live venue to hold members' and open meetings.

The 70th anniversary of the Society in 2022

I believe 2022 could be an important year for the Society both in looking back and celebrating its longevity but also looking forward to see how we can continue to be relevant as a Civic Society. I propose that all committees consider as an agenda item at their meetings any ideas to mark this recognition and a future vision moving forward. It would be great to refresh the Society's "corporate colours" and logo with reference to the years 1952 – 2022 and outwardly promote this in public forums. The replacement of the sculpture in Priory Park with something appropriate and hard wearing could also represent and mark 2022.

The Natural Amenities Committee

This committee is still currently dormant but should be revived with renewed connection with the Green Spaces Department of Reigate Borough Council. This needs someone or some people to take up this mantle soon to help protect our green spaces.

The last year has been a real challenge for many of us but I look forward to the continuation of the Society for the benefit of its members and the places where we live and work.

Secretary's Notes – Jane Artis

Programme of meetings

Meetings – Taken place 2021. All by ZOOM unless otherwise specified

15	February	Planning – ‘What is it and what does it do?’
22	March	Surrey Hills Society
17	May	London Green Belt Council
05	July	Society for The Protection of Ancient Buildings
12	July	AGM
18	October	REDHILL – Past Present and Future (Harlequin Theatre)
08	November	A City of London Walk

Meetings for the coming year 2022

14	February	REIGATE – Future of Level Crossing
11	April	REDHILL – Follow up from 2021 open meeting
25	June	Possible event in Priory Park TBC
4	July	AGM
19	September	TBC
12	December	TBC

The Civic Awards will be reintroduced in 2022. Nominations will be welcome.

Registrar's Notes – Robert Bogin

Number of members stands at 464 comprising 149 single memberships, 143 family memberships, 21 corporate and 7 others. Thus total of 320 memberships. We have had 25 new members since last April 9 of whom (15 members) have joined since the Harlequin talk. Of the 320 memberships, 212 receive their Newsletters by email, 48 by post and 69 by hand delivery (currently posted). 9 memberships receive their copies by email and post.

Treasurer's Notes – Robert Bogin

We are halfway through the current year 2021-2022 and we have a healthy level of net income which is less than last year due to the costs of removal and disposal of the sculpture in Priory Park. Society funds stand at a good level however there is still a potentially substantial cost to replace the sculpture. We are still awaiting an invoice from the Harlequin for the hall hire and technical services relating to the Redhill talk on 18th October. No other major expenses are foreseen for the remainder of the year. Subscriptions for the year 2021-2022 are running at around £660 less than 2020-2021 however substantial payments are generally received in January and it is difficult to apportion these to particular Society years.

Website & Facebook– Bruce Healey

There have only been a few routine changes to the website. Facebook currently has 550 ‘likes’ and this figure is growing gradually.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Architecture and Planning Committee - Tim Lee

APC Chairman's Notes May-November 2021

Committee meetings continue online:

Committee meetings continue to be held via zoom partly due to slight concern over the future Covid restrictions and partly due to the Samaritans' meeting room being refurbished and not available to rent. We are now therefore looking for a new physical venue for meetings from January 2022. The answer may lie through discussions with the corporate members of the Reigate Society for use of some of their floor space.

Key points of interest:

There is still long-term concern over the future use of some key buildings in the area. The White Lion on Linkfield Street, Redhill is permanently closed and its future uncertain after the refused planning application to convert it into residential units. The development of the Angel pub in Woodhatch has been very slow raising concern over the condition of parts of the roof and external walls which could cause weather damage. This has improved but progress is still very slow which could be due to budget problems, supply lead times and cost of materials due to Brexit. The NatWest building on Reigate High Street has been subject to a change of use planning application to retail but no one has occupied it to date. Barclays Bank is also due to close soon which will leave another prominent building on the High Street empty.

The Pilgrim Brewery is currently subject to a campaign and petition to save it within the context of the estate where it is located being in the process of being purchased by developers. There are fears that the developers may close the Brewery to convert the buildings for maximum profit. The Brewery is an extremely important part of the history and community of Reigate and Redhill and while the committee cannot get involved in the legal sale of the site, individually we have shown our support for their campaign to save it.

The future of the Priory building is still subject to discussion but due to Covid and complications with the planning for the new school on the old Canon site, Surrey County Council has stalled with their plans for the Priory School to move out. The APC will continue to keep in contact with Mark Brunt of the Borough Council and continue to present ideas within a development plan that will facilitate future thinking around the building.

The APC page on the Reigate Society website has been updated and the images refreshed to bring it up to date with our current ethos and operations.

As part of the 70th anniversary year of the Reigate Society, the APC will try to finalise ideas for the replacement of the sculpture in Priory Park. There have been some ideas discussed already and it would be good to mark 2022 with whatever is decided for the installation.

Architecture and Planning Committee (continued)

Campaigners who fought controversial plans for a new crematorium are celebrating after the scheme was thrown out by Reigate and Banstead Borough Council's planning committee. However, the Council's commercial ventures arm, which made the application to build and run the facility, has not ruled out an appeal or the return of another scheme on the site in the future.

Civic Awards 2022:

The awards will continue in 2022, the 70th Anniversary year of the Reigate Society. It is hoped that there will be a healthy list of nominated buildings and projects from the last three years to consider. We would urge our members to give thought to any projects or buildings completed since 2020 of great architectural quality and/or Civic quality for nomination for the 2022 awards.

The APC will be undertaking a thorough refresh of the judging criteria and categories before judging the nominations, such as the possible introduction of more 21st Century criterion such as sustainability and energy efficiency.

Redhill Committee – Pippa Martin

Strenuous efforts were made over the last few months to organize a public meeting at the Harlequin Theatre entitled "Redhill Past Present and Future".

On the 18th October at 7.30 to an audience of nearly 400 Dr Gerry Moss gave an illustrated talk on Redhill's Past and Helen Neve covered the Present. Cllr Richard Biggs of Reigate and Banstead Borough Council talked about the Future and answered questions from the audience. Nicholas Owen hosted the meeting and the Redhill Committee Chairman, Pippa Martin, introduced the speakers and talked about her hopes for Redhill. The feed-back has been good and Jane Artis handed out cards with information about the aims of Reigate Society and how to join. The Chairman sent a Press Release to the Surrey Mirror which was printed in Community News on Thursday 4 November edition.

Kerry of Fruit and Roots in the market reported there had been problems with another vegetable stall appearing in the market. Apparently, Tudor who organize the market had been bypassed by the council.

Committee meetings have all been conducted by telephone conference.

Transport – Bruce Healey

Road traffic levels seem to be rapidly approaching pre-pandemic levels while use of public transport lags considerably, particularly in rush-hour. Rail timetables are getting back to pre-pandemic levels while buses appear to be running a full service.

Air travel is still very depleted with levels of use only returning slowly. Gatwick Airport is running a consultation into turning their main taxiway into a second runway. The Reigate Society is responding negatively; the extra staff required would further strain local infrastructure and the extra parking proposed would cause yet more green land to disappear.

The upgrade to Gatwick Airport Station is ongoing. The project was ahead of schedule due to good progress during the pandemic lockdowns only to be pulled back by difficulties in obtaining building materials. The introduction of the 4 car class 769 trains for the Gatwick to Reading services is slipping at the rate of one month every month.

We are getting conflicting reports on the progress of Reigate Platform 3. On one hand we are hearing that the project will start in 2 years and on the other that it is delayed for a cost reduction exercise or even deferred indefinitely. Network Rail are confident that the cost-benefit ratio for this scheme is extremely healthy and seem confident that it will go ahead. However, the Department for Transport might have other ideas as they want to spend their money in the north to 'level up'. We need to regularly check with Network Rail that plans for the improvements to the railway signalling for the level crossing to reduce the times the gates are down are still bundled with the Platform 3 project.

The Society is trying to elevate the subject of Reigate Level Crossing. GWR trains are reintroducing their 3 trains per hour service with a long term expectation of 4 trains per hour. We expect they even further in the future the line will be used for other services. For example the newly formed Transport for South East have proposed an Ashford to Reading service to alleviate the M25. A meeting has been held with Gareth Owen (Crispin Blunt MP's aide) and Victor Lewanski (Surrey County Councillor) to recommend one study to look at improving the road traffic flow and another for a long term solution with a ball-park costing. Further meetings are anticipated.

At the end of October, Reigate Station unveiled a series of artworks to brighten up the station. The College has provided some photos for the underpass. In the booking office there is a photo of Flying Scotsman passing through the station taken by a member of the Reigate Photographic Society and there are some flags and tickets in a display cabinet. Also in the booking office, there are two history posters provided by myself with help from a Reigate Signaller, images of which can be found linked to the Transport page of the website.

CORPORATE MEMBERS

All phone numbers prefixed 01737 and addresses Reigate unless otherwise stated.

Adam's Gallery www.adamsgallery.co.uk	42a High Street, Reigate RH2 9AT	225677	Art gallery
Crow Watkin www.crowwatkin.co.uk	14 Bell Street RH2 7BE	245886	Independent estate agents, surveyors & valuers
Dunottar School www.dunottarschool.com	High Trees Road RH2 7EL	761945	Independent secondary school
East Surrey College www.esc.ac.uk	Claremont Road, Gatton Point RH1 2JX	772611	College of Further Education
Franchise Accounting Services Ltd franchiseaccounting.co.uk	48 Nutfield Road, Merstham RH1 3EP	649839	Accountancy
Micklefield School www.micklefieldschool.co.uk	10 Somers Road RH2 9DU	242615	Independent preparatory school for boys & girls aged 2 1/2 to 11
Rayners Commercial www.raynerscommercial.com	14a Bell Street RH2 7BG	222835	Chartered Surveyors and Commercial Property Agents
Reigate Architects reigatearchitects.co.uk	24 Holmesdale Road RH2 0BQ	243540	Architecture & sustainability
Reigate Grammar School www.reigategrammar.org	Reigate Road RH2 0QS	222231	Grammar School
Reigate Heath Golf Club www.reigateheathgc.com	Reigate Heath RH2 8QR	226793	Heathland golf course
Reigate Priory Cricket Club www.reigatepriorycc.co.uk	Park Lane RH2 8JX	244477	Cricket club with senior & junior sections
Reigate Priory School www.reigate-priory.co.uk	Bell Street RH2 7RL	245065	Junior school
Royal Albert & Alexandra School www.raa-school.co.uk	Gatton Park RH2 0TW	649050	Boarding school for boys & girls aged 7 to 18
Skin Architects www.skin-architects.co.uk	32 Howard Road RH2 7JE	210457	Chartered Architects
Stanton Construction www.stantonconstruction.co.uk	1 Castlefield Road RH2 0SA	227430	Development & construction service, public & commercial sectors
Stentor Music Co. Ltd www.stentor-music.com	Albert Road North RH2 9EZ	240226	Manufacturers and distributors of musical instruments
Stoneman Funeral Service www.stonemanfunerals.co.uk	Doran Court, Reigate Road RH1 6AZ	763456	Funeral directors & memorial craftsmen
TWM Solicitors LLP www.twmsolicitors.com	40 West Street RH2 9BT	221212	Solicitors
White & Sons www.whiteandsons.co.uk	24 High Street RH2 9AY	222600	Independent estate agents, surveyors and valuers
WS Planning & Architecture www.wspa.co.uk	5 Pool House, Bancroft Road RH2 7RP	949872	Chartered Town Planners and Chartered Architects

Membership Application

Annual Membership Rates: Individual£10.00
Family£15.00
Corporate£30.00

I/We apply for Individual Family Corporate

membership/renewal of the Reigate Society (tick as applicable)

Name(s): Mr Mrs Miss Ms Other

.....

Address

..... Postcode

Email:..... Telephone.....

I enclose a cheque for £..... payable to The Reigate Society

I enclose a completed Banker's Order Form

I have paid by direct transfer to: The Reigate Society

HSBC Reigate Sort code: 40-38-10 Account number 70690538

(use your surname and form number as reference)

Name of person completing form:.....

Signature: Date:

Please send completed form with cheque (if chosen payment method) to:

Robert Bogin, Townsend House, 64 Church Street, Reigate RH2 0SP

Tel. 01737-248018 Email: robert.bogin@btinternet.com

DATA PROTECTION NOTICE

Payment of your annual subscription establishes a contract between yourself and the Reigate Society. We will provide regular Newsletters delivered to you by email or paper version to your address. You are entitled to attend all meetings of the Society including the Annual General Meeting and the Society will advise you of all such meetings.

In order to fulfil our obligations to our members, the Registrar of the Society maintains an electronic database of members' home addresses, telephone numbers and email addresses plus a record of annual subscription payments. This file is password controlled and all prudent security measures are in place against outside access. These details are not passed to any third party nor are they used for any purpose other than to fulfil our contractual obligations to our Members. Details of payments received are held by the Treasurer of the Society in an electronic file. 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 within three months of the end of that membership year and the contract between the Member and the Society will end. If any member has any questions concerning the above or wishes to end their contract with the Society, they should advise the Registrar in writing or by email message.

Questions will also be answered by the Registrar, Robert Bogin, on 07989-408834.