



**The Civic Society
for Reigate, Redhill and Merstham**

Website: www.reigatesociety.org

**President:
Nicholas Owen**

**Chairman:
Tim Lee
32 Howard Road
Reigate, Surrey, RH2 7JE
Tel: 07801 372523**

**Secretary:
Jane Artis
2 Westwood Close
Reigate, Surrey, RH2 9AW
Tel: 07831 269866**

**Hon. Treasurer & Registrar
Robert Bogin
64 Church Street, Reigate,
Surrey RH2 OSP
Tel: 07989 408834**

NEWSLETTER No 129 MAY 2022

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RS CHAIRMAN'S NOTES – TIM LEE

It is nice to see the warmer weather and lighter evenings finally upon us and it is good to be able to get back to having face to face committee meetings as the government Covid restrictions have been fully relaxed.

For 2022 I believe that the Society would benefit from a refresh to help prepare it for the future. With this in mind we have been undertaking a refresh of the Society's constitution and structure. This refresh will include the introduction of new Committees, new aims and strategies as well as a new logo. Once the draft of this is finalised, it will be discussed at the next Council meeting in May and then formally approved by all members and trustees at the AGM later this year.

We will need willing volunteers from our membership and beyond with the appropriate knowledge and skills to take on the roles that are required. Thank you for all the responses to the questionnaire that was sent out to get a better idea of people's skills and expertise.

Live zoom events

In February we held a live zoom event - Planes, Trains & Buses which was a great success and these meetings continue to be well attended and on relevant subjects.

We will consider physical meetings. However, the fact is that meetings held on Zoom are useful to many people and increase attendance. For this reason, Zoom meetings will definitely continue.

The next meeting is scheduled for May 15th on River Pollution - National and Local perspectives - please see the programme of meetings below for further events.

The new Green Spaces Group

The Natural Amenities Committee has been regenerated and refreshed and is now the Green Spaces Group with a new Chairman, Martin Bacon. We are very grateful to Martin for taking this group on, forming a new membership and outlining their aims and objectives.

The group has new Facebook and Twitter pages which can be viewed for regular updates and posts. This new implementation of social media is a great example of what can be achieved and I would love to see this level of communication for other committees and the Society as a whole in order to keep us relevant to the local community. This is why we need the people with the time and correct skills to help run and co-ordinate these communication tools.

Finally, on a personal note, it has unfortunately been difficult for me to undertake the role of Chairman along with my own responsibilities as a small business owner and parent. I will therefore be looking to step down as Chairman after this year to allow someone else to take up the role who can do the job better justice. I believe that the Society has suffered with a lack of people in key roles for a while now and it would be good to see a team of people to take it forward with the new constitution in place.

The Queen's Platinum Jubilee 2022

To mark the 70th year of the queen's reign, The Reigate Business Guild are working on a project to help celebrate by asking local schools and societies to provide colourful images and artwork that will be installed within the arches of the Reigate tunnel. The Reigate society will help support this celebration by providing some artwork to go with the many other pictures from other groups and schools.

SECRETARY'S NOTES – JANE ARTIS

Programme of Meetings

- | | |
|--------------|--|
| 16th May | - Zoom Meeting River pollution - National and Local perspectives |
| 19th May | - Council meeting |
| 4th July | - Society AGM |
| 15th August | - Zoom Meeting TBC |
| 17th October | - Members meeting and Civic Awards 2022 TBC |

TREASURER'S NOTES – ROBERT BOGIN

We have completed the year 2021-2022 and net income was £1833 with Society funds at £12570. The accounts have not yet been inspected. Costs in the year included £648 to remove and transport the damaged statue in Priory Park. This is beyond economic repair and a replacement plaque is planned as the cost of commissioning a new statue would be prohibitive. Subscriptions received in 2021-2022 were £273 more than the previous year.

REGISTRAR'S NOTES – ROBERT BOGIN

Number of members stands at 461 comprising 148 single memberships, 142 family memberships, 21 corporate and 7 others. Thus total of 318 memberships. So far, 47 members (35 memberships) have not paid their subs for 2021-2022. Final reminders will be sent out and if renewals are not received by 30th June their memberships will cease. We have had 28 new members (19 memberships) since April 2021. Of the 318 memberships, 223 receive their Newsletters by email and 95 by post.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

ARCHITECTURE AND PLANNING COMMITTEE – TIM LEE

The Priory School:

The proposals for Surrey County Council's plans for the new Priory School have now been published in phase one of public consultations. The design team presented these proposals to members of the Reigate Society at a live zoom meeting. The Priory school aim to move in to the new building in 2024. The main concerns raised over the scheme related to the access to the site from Cockshot Hill, the amount of traffic currently and that will be generated, drop off and parking space onsite and off site, pedestrian safety along the pavements of Cockshot Hill and the catchment area of the new school with the location of the existing feeder schools. There will be a second phase of consultations coming soon with a little more detail on the points raised including highways surveys and reports.

With the school moving there is continued concern over the future of the Priory Building once the school has left in 2024. I have recently had a meeting with Cllr Mark Blunt and Cllr Tim Archer who are in tentative meetings with Surrey County Council that hold the 125 year lease on the building as to what they plan to do once the school leaves. As discussed with Mark and Tim, Surrey County Council must be held accountable for the future of the building and encouraged to create a community focussed building which Reigate can viably use and be proud of. We agreed to have further meetings to discuss things further as they progress with Surrey County Council and I have agreed to send them the body of work and ideas for future uses that were generated by members of the Reigate Society and the Architecture and Planning Committee.

Marketfield Way Development

Reigate and Banstead Borough Council's development in Redhill to deliver a new multi-screen cinema, bowling alley, new restaurants and shops as well as 150 residential private units to rent is due to be completed towards the end of 2022. The Light Cinema company plans to open the new cinema and entertainment venue by Easter 2023. Tesco has also taken up one of the large units on the ground floor. The residential apartments are also being internally fitted out.

Other key points of interest:

The Pilgrim Brewery was saved after more than 6,000 people signed the petition to keep it on the site that was recently bought by new owners. This is good news for Reigate with the brewery turning 40 years old earlier in the year and is the oldest craft brewery in the south east. The brewery owners have now bought the brewery which was put up for sale along with the estate it sits within by the previous owners.

ARCHITECTURE AND PLANNING COMMITTEE – TIM LEE (CONTINUED)

Other key points of interest: (continued)

The Angel pub development seems to be slowly progressing with further work being done to the new building on the site. Progress is still slow however and work to the Angel pub building itself seems to have stalled completely, at least externally. The concern remains over the condition of the pub building which needs urgent refurbishment to keep it water tight and structurally sound.

We are hopeful that the Civic Awards 2022 will be able to go ahead this year and we continue to work on a review of the judging criteria, however there is a severe lack of nominations of projects or completed buildings and due to this we may roll the awards over until the following year. I would like to again call on members who know of any completed projects in the last couple of years that they feel would be worthy of recognition, please come forward.

APC Committee meetings are now continuing face to face again and we hope that a room in the Reigate Community Centre attached with the Methodist church will be our new permanent location for meetings going forwards.

TRANSPORT COMMITTEE – BRUCE HEALEY

There is a continued slow growth in road and public transport usage. The biggest change has been the reopening of Gatwick South Terminal. The situation with regard to reinstating a full rush-hour rail timetable is still open to question.

A meeting to discuss Reigate level crossing has been held with Gareth Owen (representing MP Crispin Blunt), County Councillor Victor Lewanski and members of the North Downs Line Community Rail Partnership. The Reigate Society is lobbying for a study into the traffic on the A217 over the level crossing and another for a ball-park costing for a long-term resolution to the level crossing. Cllr Lewanski is trying to arrange a further meeting with Surrey County Council Highways department to further develop this discussion.

Network Rail are still pressing for Reigate Platform 3 although it has been considerably reduced in scope and cost. Our information is that the additional exit onto Rushworth Road has been dropped and the resignalling of the Level Crossing has also been removed from the scope. Network rail are reported to have tightened up the level crossing procedures and estimate that this could save 1-2 minutes per hour. The North Downs Line services are still basically 2 per hour in each direction owing to the ongoing work at Gatwick Airport Station (due to complete in about a year's time) and lack of demand. 3 trains per hour in each direction is expected to be reintroduced at a later date.

The introduction into service of the 4 car class 769 units on the North Downs Line seems as far away as ever. It is not clear whether the problems with the trains can be resolved.

WEBSITE AND FACEBOOK

Most effort has been in implementing changes for the Green Spaces Group. The number of Facebook 'likes' has stabilised at around 588.

REDHILL COMMITTEE – PIPPA MARTIN

On Monday 18th October 2021 the Reigate Society staged an event at the Harlequin theatre: REDHILL – PAST – PRESENT – FUTURE. Being between lockdowns it was extremely well attended. Dr Gerry Moss, long term resident, presented the past with interesting old images. Helen Neve, landscape architect, showed images of the present and Richard Biggs, Planning Councillor for Horley, talked about the Council's future plans. Nicholas Owen, the Society's President, hosted the meeting and fended questions from the audience. Pippa Martin, Chairman of the Redhill Committee, spoke for a few minutes about the importance of residents caring about the town and environment and her plans for a future Hooper exhibition of paintings and artefacts. The Hooper family were fundamental in the early development of Redhill.

Our first committee meeting of 2022 on Monday 17th January was a telephone conference. It was agreed to campaign to produce evidence to Natural England supporting the addition of an area to the east of Redhill as an Area of Outstanding National Beauty. Steve McKenna and Jonathan Essex printed leaflets with five reasons for the area's inclusion which were delivered to the relevant properties. Various societies and Facebook groups were contacted and committee members made individual submissions to Natural England with reference to rare flora and fauna. Helen Neve, landscape architect, was approached and agreed to research and make a submission.

Andy Nash, Manager of the Belfry Centre, generously agreed to host our first face to face meeting for two years in the Belfry Conference Centre on 28th February. Nine members were present and Tim Lee, Chairman of Reigate Society, attended on Zoom link. Andy reported on a further very challenging year in the Belfry. Footfall was beginning to return but some businesses had left including the banks and Topshop. He was confident that with the completion of the Marketfield Way development retail activity will flourish. The increased residential growth in the Redhill centre should encourage activity in shops and restaurants. He stated that the Belfry has adequate parking to service the new development and plans to stay open in the evening.

THE MARKETFIELD WAY DEVELOPMENT. The Borough published progress and plans on the contractor Vinci's hoardings. It states they are on target. The Surrey Mirror reported the new leisure complex is to be called "The Rise" reflecting positive change and the future. The major tenant is "The Light" which will operate a six-screen cinema set to open by Easter next year. There will also be a nine-lane boutique bowling alley and a retro arcade. 135 apartments will be sited on the upper level and there will be a Tesco Express. The council is in discussion with various businesses and restaurants. The Picture House reports sales of 70% of available apartments. The adjacent block is for rented apartments.

There have been discussions on the various government 'balanced network proposals' for transport. The committee suggested changing double yellow lines to red would relieve congestion near the station roundabout and bus station. On Friday 11th February SCC staged an Engagement Survey in the Belfry on a transport plan for Surrey 2022-2032 – one of 22 in Surrey – on reducing carbon emissions. surreytransportplan@surreycc.gov.uk

Proposals for attractive planting on the station roundabout and the possibility of sculpture were again discussed. The trees and shrubs planted in front of the Picture House were dug up as the Council objected to them being planted above the road. There has now been replanting. There have been attractive planters but there need to be more trees to combat pollution.

REDHILL COMMITTEE – PIPPA MARTIN (CONTINUED)

Since Covid there are many unoccupied buildings and together with the major construction works Redhill is looking extremely shabby. The litter is appalling. Kerry's popular greengrocery stall has gone. She has relocated to Guildford. Her stall and the flower stall run by Chris were the attractive heart of Redhill market. Chris has relocated to Epsom.

The Salvation Army Citadel is still unsold. It has been designated as a building for community use and there have been eight offers none of which the developer has accepted.

Before Covid the Belfry proposed the planting of a Ginkgo Biloba, a friendship tree, in the sports ground of Reigate Priory at the apex of the cricket, tennis and bowls clubs. The re-opening of clubs after Covid and the Queen's Jubilee make an appropriate gift from Redhill to Reigate.

A Redhill Museum was proposed. Redhill has a fascinating history and many excellent books have been written. The importance of a town's heritage, the story of its people gives a town its sense of place and belonging. As a civic society we should support this proposal. A possible venue could be the Harlequin. Owned by the Borough its role will be challenged by the opening of the multiplex. It is a fine theatre but its events are poorly advertised and booking can be difficult.

It was felt that Redhill Committee should have a more defined role with a constitution.

GREEN SPACES GROUP – MARTIN BACON

The Natural Amenities Committee was resurrected in late January after two or more years of inactivity. There are four members at present. We are seeking a specialist in nature conservation and a person to help with liaison with local active groups and our campaigns. We meet every four to five weeks.

The former Committee is now called the Green Spaces Group with new objectives, a digital presence on Facebook, Twitter and hopefully Instagram and a manifesto for action. This has been sent to all the Borough and County Councillors in Reigate, Redhill and Merstham and also candidates standing for election. The manifesto has been distributed to all Society members and we are grateful to all those who helped us put the action points together.

Our first zoom event is being held on 16th May. It concerns river pollution in the River Mole with two excellent speakers giving perspectives from both the national and local level respectively. You will be shocked by what you hear!

For updates, please follow and like GSG on:

<https://www.facebook.com/GSGReigateSociety>

<https://twitter.com/GSGReigateSoc>

<https://www.reigatesociety.org.uk/about/na.php>

Zoom Event

Monday May 15th 7.15 for 7.30

[RIVER POLLUTION - ZOOM LINK](#)



CORPORATE MEMBERS

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

Adam's Gallery

<https://www.adamsgallery.co.uk/>
42a High Street,
Reigate, RH2 9AT
Art Gallery
01737 225 677

Crow Watkin

<https://www.crowwatkin.co.uk/>
14 Bell Street,
Reigate, RH2 7BE
Independent estate agents, surveyors & valuers.
01737 245 886

Dunottar School

<http://www.dunottar.surrey.sch.uk/>
High Trees Road,
Reigate, RH2 7EL
Secondary school
01737 761 945

East Surrey College

<http://www.esc.ac.uk/>
London Road,
Gatton Point,
Redhill, Reigate, RH1 2JX
Further education college
01737 772 611

Franchise Accounting Services Ltd

<http://franchiseaccounting.co.uk/>
48 Nutfield Road,
Merstham, RH1 3EP
Accountancy.
01737 649 839

Micklefield School

<http://www.micklefieldschool.co.uk/>
10 Somers Road,
Reigate, RH2 9DU
Independent co-ed preparatory school for ages 2½ to 11.
01737 242 615

Rayners Commercial

<http://www.raynerscommercial.com/>
14a Bell Street,
Reigate, RH2 7BG
Chartered Surveyors and Commercial Property Agents.
01737 222 835

Reigate Architects

<http://www.reigatearchitects.co.uk/>
10 Somers Road,
Reigate, RH2 9DU
Architecture & sustainability.
01737 243 540

Reigate Grammar School

<https://www.reigategrammar.org/>
Reigate Road,
Reigate, RH2 0QS
Grammar School.
01737 222 231

Reigate Heath Golf Club

<http://www.reigateheathgolfclub.co.uk/>
Reigate Heath,
Reigate, RH2 8QR
01737 226 793

Reigate Priory Cricket Club

<http://www.reigatepriorycc.co.uk/>
Park Lane,
Reigate, RH2 8JX
Cricket club with senior & junior sections.
01737 244 477

Reigate Priory School

<http://www.reigate-priory.co.uk/>
Bell Street,
Reigate, RH2 7RL
Junior school
01737 245 065

Royal Alexandra & Albert School

<http://www.raa-school.co.uk/>
Gatton Park,
Reigate, RH2 0TW
Boarding school for boys & girls aged 7 to 18.
01737 649 050

Sawkings Harper Architects Ltd

<https://www.sawkingsharper.com/>
1 The Quarry
Betchworth RH3 7BY
Chartered Architects
01737 845 580

Skin Architects A112

<http://www.skin-architects.co.uk/>
32 Howard Road,
Reigate, RH2 7JE
Chartered Architects
01737 210 457

Stanton Construction

<http://www.stantonconstruction.co.uk/>
1 Castlefield Road,
Reigate, RH2 0SA
Development & construction service to
the health industry, public & commercial sectors.
01737 227 430

Stentor Music Co. Ltd.

<http://www.stentor-music.com/>
Albert Road North,
Reigate, RH2 9EZ
Manufacturers and distributors of musical instruments.
01737 240 226

Stoneman Funeral Service

<http://www.stonemanfunerals.co.uk/>
Doran Court, Reigate Road,
Redhill, RH1 6AZ
Funeral directors & memorial craftsmen.
01737 763 456

TWM Solicitors LLP

<http://www.twmsolicitors.com/>
40 West Street,
Reigate, RH2 9BT
Solicitors.
01737 221 212

White & Sons

<http://www.whiteandsons.co.uk/>
24 High Street,
Reigate, RH2 9AY
Independent estate agents, surveyors & valuers.
01737 222 600

WS Planning & Architecture

<http://www.wspla.co.uk/>
5 Pool House, Bancroft Road,
Reigate, RH2 7RP
Chartered Town Planners and Chartered Architects.
01737 949 872

Membership Application **for new members**

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

I/We apply for Individual Family Corporate

membership 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
or scanned by email to reigatesociety@gmail.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.