



THE REIGATE &
REDHILL SOCIETY
Est.1952



The Civic Society For Reigate and Redhill

[Website](#)

www.reigatesociety.org

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NEWSLETTER No 130 OCTOBER 2022

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RS CHAIRMAN'S NOTES – TIM LEE

It was great to see so many of our members join together for our AGM and members evening on 12th September. We are thankful to Spencer Copping who come to talk to us about the Reigate Business Guild and to our President, Nicholas Owen for his few words.

At the AGM we voted to change two important elements of the Society in its 70th anniversary year. Firstly the constitution was revised to both update it to reflect modern practices and to slightly refine the wording. Secondly, and more impactfully, the name of the Society was changed to The Reigate and Redhill Society. This represents a historical shift for the Society which recognises the close existence of our two towns. It also reflects the fact that many of the members of the Society live in Redhill and rightly have a strong passion for the town as residents. The green spaces and green belt that we, as a society, fight so hard to protect, encompasses both towns and the Society has also for some time reviewed planning applications and development in Redhill.

Earlier in the year we celebrated the fact that the society shared its 70th anniversary with the reign of Queen Elizabeth II with our poster displayed as part of the Platinum Jubilee celebrations in the Reigate tunnel. It was extremely important for us as a society to also mark Queen Elizabeth's passing this year with a moment of silence and reflection at the beginning of the AGM meeting.

Live zoom events

Our series of live zoom events continues on 31 October when our guest will be Lucy Shea from Banstead Common Community Conservators. Following that, we have one other event on 12 December, subject TBC.

Finally, I am very happy to say that the brick seating which was formally the base for the sculpture in Priory Park has had a new plaque installed to mark the 70th anniversary and the brick well within the centre of the seat has been levelled properly to mitigate for water collecting and pooling within it. A big thank you to Robert Bogin and Jes Chandler of Stanton Construction for successfully making this happen.

SECRETARY'S NOTES – JANE ARTIS

The Civic Awards will be reintroduced in 2023. Nominations will be welcome.

Programme of Meetings

31st October – Zoom Talk by Lucy Shea Clerk to Banstead Common Conservators
See page 6 for meeting link

12th December – Zoom Talk about Recycling in the Borough – to be confirmed

TREASURER'S NOTES – ROBERT BOGIN

There is a net deficit for 2022-2023 to date which stands at -£1200. The main reason for this is the Heritage Open Days brochure cost which was £2362. Advertising in the brochure brought in £900 however the promised donations of £1450 from 3 local Councillors has not materialised despite a number of reminders. We must consider this as an unpaid promise and the Society is unlikely to produce the brochure in 2023.

The other exceptional costs was £795 regarding the memorial plaque in Priory Park with some further cost to come relating to the brick floor to prevent pooling of water within the arc of the seat. The actual cost to install the plaque was donated by Stanton Construction.

The Members' Meeting/AGM showed a net cost of -£158.

The balance sheet figure is still healthy despite these costs. Subscriptions are running at 32% less than full year last year but subs will keep coming in until the end of the year

COMMITTEE REPORTS

ARCHITECTURE AND PLANNING COMMITTEE – TIM LEE

The Priory School:

The planning application for a new Priory school on the south part of the Woodhatch place site has been submitted by Surrey County Council. The Architecture and Planning Committee and the Green Spaces Group liaised and put together a joint document which was submitted as part of the public consultation period on the application. The comments can be made available on request or by viewing the application on the Surrey County Council's application portal.

At a recent meeting, the Reigate and Banstead Council's planning committee met to discuss and approve their objection to the application. During the meeting, the idea was discussed to keep the school on the Priory building site with the development of the rear 1950's buildings and bypassing strategies for the public right of way. It is interesting that the Borough Council views this as an important alternative to moving to Woodhatch Place and this may have impact on the APC's discussions about what will happen to the Priory building once the school leaves. The APC is still concerned about the building's future and will endeavour to continue the work with the Business Guild and others in the coming weeks.

The Angel Pub:

The Angel Pub development seems to have slowed to a halt recently, however scaffolding has started to be erected around the pub which may signify a re-ignition of work on the building which is well overdue.

Other points of interest:

The old Nat West building on Reigate High Street will be inhabited soon and Pret-A-Manger is moving into the old Barclays building on the corner of Church Street and Bell Street.

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

REDHILL COMMITTEE – PIPPA MARTIN

The last Redhill Committee Meeting was held on 23 May 2022 and the Chairman hopes to hold the next in early November.

It is an historic moment for Redhill that the Civic Society is now called REIGATE & REDHILL SOCIETY reflecting the changes in the Borough.

The Chairman feels more optimistic about the future of Redhill.

Successful local communities thrive on collaboration and happily we are making progress.

Andy Nash, Manager of the Belfry, heroically continues to face the many challenges of the retail industry. Recently the Redhill Business Guild met with the developers at the Harlequin Theatre.

Spencer Copping, Chair of the Reigate Business Guild, agrees that the two Guilds could profitably collaborate.

The Harlequin is thriving after the Covid struggles. It has been pleasantly redecorated and is a centre for local activities.

On 5 October John Capon, retired theological correspondent at the Daily Telegraph, gave a fascinating talk entitled "REDHILL – A CENTURY OF CHANGE" 1920s to the 2020s. It was very well attended. The Books of Condolence for the death of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II were beautifully presented. The excellent presentations from the National Theatre have been restored and East Surrey Performing Arts were seen rehearsing for their November performance.

Borough Councillor Sue Sinden, has been meeting local groups in discussions about tree planting and greening the Borough.

County Councillor, Jonathan Essex reports that the future of the Salvation Army Citadel is being monitored by a surveyor.

REDHILL COMMITTEE – PIPPA MARTIN (continued)

The library has a friendly and helpful staff and hosts the monthly University of the 3rd Age lectures and many events for children. On Monday 10th October at 10 am Jacky Power, poet and psychotherapist is performing in the library. She has appeared at International Conferences and at the Edinburgh Fringe where she received 5 star reviews. This is sponsored by Reigate and Banstead Council.

The Pilgrim Brewery has reopened the Hatch Pub and it seems popular. It is interesting to note that there is a Facebook entry in Pubs and Breweries of Redhill from Richard Symonds – photo c1904 Cutforths Brother's Brewery. Reffells Bridge! Must be where the fish shop is now.

The Chairman visited Sainsburys to suggest that the store might like to house a local museum in the restaurant which closed this year. It is to be closed for a year for refurbishment and reopen as a Pop Up venue. Bruno the French manager has left and has been replaced by Mark.

Busy Beans, a Turkish artisan cafe serving specialist coffee, has opened on the corner of the High Street. The market is more cheerful. Tony sells good plants and flowers. Frank has made his fruit and veg stall quite attractive and is keeping cash in the system by taking no cards. Fatima the gloriously colourful seller of irresistible African and Nepalese fashion returned to the market this week for a few days.

New Broadband has been painlessly installed in local roads.

The Chairman met the Da Vinci Construction Director, Howard Pyle, the Commercial Director, Peter Bird and the Project Manager, Phil Davy on 7th October. They confirmed that the scaffolding on the Marketfield Way Development would begin to come down in week commencing 10th October and that the cinema complex would go ahead.

The Chairman suggests that a Gingko Biloba tree would be appropriate as a symbol of friendship, longevity, hope and peace in memory of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II and the historic renaming of the Society. The Chairman telephoned and visited the Council offices for their advice.

The Chairman recommended a Platinum Jubilee award to the YMCA for outstanding service to the community.

GREEN SPACES GROUP – MARTIN BACON

Since the relaunch of the Natural Amenities Committee as the Green Spaces Group, we have established a clear brand and maintain an active online presence. Connecting with local Facebook groups allows us to reach significant numbers of residents. Our key communications, such as our mowing policies and the Reigate Society's response to the Reigate Priory Junior School planning application, achieve, as a consequence, thousands of online engagements. We sense our growing following is helping to generate dialogue, and position the GSG at the centre of the conversation on green issues in the area.

The early summer was dominated by the grass mowing policies and actions of Reigate and Banstead Borough Council. The Council is wishing to have a more nature-friendly grass-cutting regime in the Borough, a policy which GSG very much supports. However, the policy has been introduced without the necessary expertise and staff resources to support it, proper local public consultation and a prompt customer care response. Where the grass has been kept long, it has been cut too soon for any real biodiversity benefits. Indeed in some places the grass has been scalped.

As a result we wrote to the Chair of Neighbourhood Services suggesting the Council provided a digital map on its website showing which areas will be mowed, when, how and to what extent, together with the rationale behind its practices. She replied that there were not enough resources to do this. We suggested in response that the project be taken in small bites starting with the area covered by the Society and that the Group would give both advice and support to the project. This idea was also rejected. Instead the Council is intending to appoint a consultant to review its green spaces strategy. We hope there will be public participation in that work. The matter is complicated by the fact that Surrey County Council are to take back highway grass-cutting. We are seeking a meeting with top Council officials to ascertain the details of what is actually proposed in these changes.

GREEN SPACES GROUP – MARTIN BACON (continued)

Progress on the review and update of the management plans for Redhill and Earlswood Commons is slow. The present draft plan is welcomed as a start for public dialogue but there is evidently a lack of ambition to tackle the backlog of problems for nature in these areas especially considering the crisis which our natural world is in. Active enforcement of the bye-laws would help in the interim to reduce inconsiderate and damaging activity to nature by motor vehicles, horse-riders and dog walkers especially on Reigate Heath but we are not hopeful of it happening.

The Group played a significant role in framing the Society's response to the planning application for a five-form school on land at Woodhatch Place submitted in August. We are concerned that issues of biodiversity are being overlooked. We are also worried that Surrey County Council has already removed a lot of established woodland.

One ray of hope for our natural world is that Natural England through Surrey County Council is proposing starting work on a Local Nature Recovery Strategy for our area towards the end of the year. We are intending to find out more details of this work and to play our full part in its evolution.

We are continuing to build contacts and understanding with a number of local groups active in green spaces or nature. Our Chair gave a talk in July to the Woodhatch Green Spaces Preservation Group and has arranged for Lucy Shea to give a talk on 31st October next, by zoom, to Society members about the work of the Banstead Conservators. We have also offered our advice and support to the Woodhatch Green Spaces Preservation Group in the progression of their proposed Community Orchard and also the Friends of Merstham Parks and Greens in their work.

We have actively supported the work of the Friends of the River Mole (FORM). They have managed to get the River Mole Catchment Partnership to take a more vigorous position in relation to the pollution in the river which was the subject of a Society zoom talk in May. FORM has opened up dialogue with the severely depleted Environmental Agency and Thames Water which is a major polluter. We are hopeful of getting a more comprehensive and transparent water quality monitoring system to hold all organisations to account. Our local Councillors are strangely quiet about this pollution on our doorstep.

We are meeting the Redhill Committee in the near future about the content of a greening strategy for Redhill Town Centre. It is surprising that such a strategy was not formulated together with the regeneration scheme which is due to be completed soon.

Overall we find there is much ignorance about the challenges our local natural world is facing both in towns and the countryside. There is also much political indifference and certainly a lack of passion for the green spaces which are the jewels in the crown for our area. Our aim is to change that and we would welcome active support from members of the Society in our mission.

Our live links are set out below. 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>

REGISTRAR'S NOTES –ROBERT BOGIN

Number of members stands at 428 comprising 132 single memberships, 135 family memberships, 20 corporate and 7 others. Thus total of 294 memberships. We have welcomed 7 new members (5 memberships) since April 2022. Of the 294 memberships, 216 receive their Newsletters by email and 93 by post (some receive both)

TRANSPORT COMMITTEE – BRUCE HEALEY

General

Usage trains and planes seems to be stable at around 60%-70% of pre-pandemic levels.

Buses:

There were a few minor changes to the timetables in September. Surrey County Council have agreed to procure and finance 34 hydrogen fuel cell buses at a cost of £16.4m. These are expected to appear next year.

Air:

Not much extra to report.

Rail:

The work on Gatwick station continues broadly on schedule and should complete in about a year. GWR trains expect the class 769 units to start filtering into service from December onwards. There are still doubts that these trains have enough power to keep time on some of the steep inclines on the line. There have also been reliability issues which accounts for their very late entry into service.

Reigate Station is due to become step free. Replacing the step into the booking office requires widening of the pavement and of the doorway. This work is to be completed by GTR Trains rather than Network Rail.

Network Rail is expected to start a study into 'decarbonising the North Downs Line' next year. This might mean alternative fuels or electrification. They are also to start another study to look at improving the layout at Redhill to accommodate Kent to Gatwick trains. For us, this would improve journey times into Kent.

GWR trains expect to continue with the 2 trains per hour each way service to Reading well into 2023. This is good news for the level crossing motorists. 3 tph will only be reintroduced when passenger levels recover sufficiently.

The Reigate Platform 3 project has been separated from the East Croydon improvements both of which are awaiting Government funding decisions.

The present level of rail strikes is doing nothing to improve the numbers of passengers.

Surrey Mirror

The Surrey Mirror published a somewhat inaccurate article of our Level Crossing campaign on 9th October. The website has been updated to point out the deficiencies in the report (see News on the home page), Facebook also has a similar correction.

WEBSITE AND FACEBOOK

Relatively few website changes recently although the change of Society name and logo will require work throughout the site but should not be too taxing depending on the decisions of the Council meeting.

With no inputs from the Society, there have been no updates on Facebook.

NEXT MEETING – BY ZOOM

Banstead Common

Time: Oct 31, 2022 19:15

[Meeting Link](#)



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

Art gallery

01737-225677

Crow Watkin

www.crowwatkin.co.uk

14 Bell Street RH2 7BE

Independent estate agents, surveyors & valuers

01737-245886

Dunottar School

www.dunottar.surrey.sch.uk

High Trees Road RH2 7EL

Independent secondary school

01737-761945

East Surrey College

www.esc.ac.uk

Claremont Road, Gatton Point RH1 2JX

01737-772611

College of Further Education

Micklefield School

www.micklefieldschool.co.uk

10 Somers Road RH2 9DU

01737-242615

Independent preparatory school for boys & girls aged 2 1/2 to 11

Rayners Commercial

www.raynerscommercial.com

14a Bell Street RH2 7BG

01737-222835

Chartered Surveyors and Commercial Property Agents

Reigate Architects

www.reigatearchitects.co.uk

24 Holmesdale Road RH2 0BQ

01737-243540

Architecture & sustainability

Reigate Grammar School

www.reigategrammar.org

Reigate Road RH2 0QS

01737-222231

Grammar School

Reigate Heath Golf Club

www.reigateheathgc.com

Reigate Heath RH2 8QR

01737-226793

Heathland golf course

Reigate Priory Cricket Club

www.reigatepriorycc.co.uk

Park Lane RH2 8JX

01737-244477

Cricket club with senior & junior sections

Reigate Priory School

www.reigate-priory.co.uk

Bell Street RH2 7RL

01737-245065

Junior school

Royal Albert & Alexandra School

www.raa-school.co.uk

Gatton Park RH2 0TW

01737-649050

Boarding school for boys & girls aged 7 to 18

Sawkings Architects Ltd

www.sawkingsarchitects.com

1 The Quarry, Betchworth RH3 7BY

01737-845580

Chartered Architects

Skin Architects

www.skin-architects.co.uk

32 Howard Road RH2 7JE

01737-210457

Chartered Architects

Stanton Construction

www.stantonconstruction.co.uk

1 Castlefield Road RH2 0SA

01737-227430

Development & construction service, public & commercial sectors

Stentor Music Co. Ltd

www.stentor-music.com

Albert Road North RH2 9EZ

01737-240226

Manufacturers and distributors of musical instruments

Stoneman Funeral Service

www.stonemanfunerals.co.uk

Doran Court, Reigate Road RH1 6AZ

01737-763456

Funeral directors & memorial craftsmen

TWM Solicitors LLP

www.twmsolicitors.com

40 West Street RH2 9BT

01737-221212

Solicitors

White & Sons

www.whiteandsons.co.uk

24 High Street RH2 9AY

01737-222600

Independent estate agents, surveyors and valuers

WS Planning & Architecture

www.wspa.co.uk

5 Pool House, Bancroft Road RH2 7RP

01737-949872

Chartered Town Planners and Chartered Architects

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.