



THE REIGATE &
REDHILL SOCIETY

EST 1952



The Civic Society For Reigate and Redhill

[Website](#)

www.reigatesociety.org.uk

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NEWSLETTER

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RS CHAIRMAN'S NOTES – TIM LEE

Standing down from my role:

Several crisis meetings on the future of the society have taken place and we are still no closer to finding my successor as chairperson.

I am continuing into November, but a replacement has to be found ASAP otherwise the Society is at risk of closing.

Further to filling this role, we are investigating strategies of attracting a younger membership and people with the correct skills etc to take on social media, PR and organisational aspects of the Society.

I trust that we will find the right people soon before the Society grinds to a complete halt.

TREASURER'S REPORT at 20/11/2023 –ROBERT BOGIN

Net income for 2023-2024 stands at £660. Membership income stands at £2312 against £3670 last year. The net cost of the Civic Awards evening was £480. We are not anticipating any further exceptional expenses in this year and there is a healthy balance in the accounts.

There was no HODS brochure in 2023 other than a 5 page venue listing which was printed in house.

REGISTRAR'S REPORT – ROBERT BOGIN

Number of members stands at 426 comprising 117 single memberships, 140 family memberships, 21 corporate and 7 others. Thus a total of 287 memberships. A number of members had not paid their annual subscriptions at 20/11/23. Reminders have been sent out.

There has been a drop in membership of 44 members, 34 memberships in the last year. We have only had 1 new member in 2023

SECRETARY'S NOTES – JANE ARTIS

2024 Next 2 Open Meetings to be held on Zoom.

NB Dates and topics may be subject to change.

15th January 2024 – The History of Hospitals in the Local Area
an illustrated talk written by Derek Darwent

18th March 2024 – To be confirmed

Date of Next Council Meeting

Monday 5th February 2024 at Reigate Community Centre

ARCHITECTURE AND PLANNING COMMITTEE – TIM LEE

The Civic awards 2023

This year's Civic awards 2023 presentation evening took place on Monday 25 September 2023 at the Reigate Manor Hotel where it was great to see so many RRS members. The awards and commendations were presented to the following: -

Commendation for The Angel Public House - This was presented to Alex White of Andrews Estate Agents on behalf of Mountgreen Ltd.

An award for The Merstham Hub – Presented to Mark Brunt one of the Trustees.

An award for the YMCA sports building extension – Presented to Ian Burks – CEO of YMCA East Surrey.

Conservation Area extension consultation:

The APC has met to discuss the changes and extensions to the conservation areas around Reigate and Redhill. The points arising from this discussion will be sent to John McInally to aid with their consultation process.

New chairperson required:

As I step down from my role as chair of the society, I will also be stepping down as chair of the APC. The committee consists of substantial knowledge in construction, architecture and engineering with several past chairpersons still as members. We do need someone to step in with relevant planning and/ or architectural experience to take on this role.

REDHILL COMMITTEE – PIPPA MARTIN

In June The Light and The Rise opened in Redhill which has significantly altered the appearance and the ambience of the Centre. It has been enthusiastically welcomed by families especially as the summer was rather cold and damp. The climbing wall and bowling alleys have proved excellent attractions and the cinema greeted by the young with enthusiasm. The paving of the pedestrian areas is patterned and imaginative giving the centre a spacious optimistic feel. Arriving from the Station late at night is no longer a scary experience. The small Tesco store captures the commuters arriving from the train or bus. Despite the summer strikes the Network rail staff remained cheery and helpful. Although Redhill is a transport hub it takes 3 hours to get to Brighton by bus. The market is lively with very colourful and cosmopolitan stalls

REDHILL COMMITTEE (continued)– PIPPA MARTIN

The Busy Beans has good artisan coffee and cakes and the Posidero Lounge pretty tables outside and cosy sofas inside with modern décor and a wide variety of dishes on offer. The management survived early difficulties and the staff are young and attentive.

The H Samuel site remains unoccupied but Poundland has quickly replaced the Wilko store which after 75 years of family ownership could not compete with the modern retail industry.

The Belfry continues to thrive under the excellent management of Andy Nash. The spooky pumpkins of Halloween and the festive Christmas decorations enhance the cheery atmosphere. It is a warm and welcoming haven when the weather is cold and dreary. Organic food stalls are welcomed as are local organisations and societies. The shopping Mall is the core of Redhill. While the Harlequin is closed due to RAAC there is a pop-up office on the upper floor dealing with enquiries and bookings. A second survey of the roof is on track but the Harlequin is unlikely to reopen before April. The striking Big Top in the Memorial Garden is staging the pantomime Beauty and the Beast from 8th December.

Construction of residential building has commenced in Brook Road and at the old Ambulance Station. Redhill, Dorking, and Epsom ambulance stations have been replaced by a centre at Banstead. Simon Elson has reinstated the brass plaque on the Monument at Redhill Common. It mysteriously reappeared on his doorstep!

The Chairman was interviewed by Peter Stewart of The Planet Reigate Podcast. The podcast is exclusively about towns and villages in RH1, 2 and 3. They walked round the centre and she described her vision for Redhill. Website link is : <https://theplanetreigatpodcast.com>

The Chairman visited Buckland Carpets at the bottom of Grove Hill Road and was fascinated by the old photographs on the counter. The last member of the Buckland family sold the business 13 years ago. The new owners would like to reinstate the trees but appreciate that customers need to park in front of the shop. It was suggested that a memorial tree might be planted on the border between 2 properties. They agreed to consult their landlords.

REDHILL COMMITTEE (continued) – PIPPA MARTIN

The Chairman had originally suggested that to mark the change of name of Reigate Society to Reigate and Redhill Society a Gingko Biloba tree – friendship tree be planted but in view of the Coronation of King Charles III and his dedication to “service” a “ True Service Tree” Sorbus domestica be planted on the border between Redhill and Reigate.

TRANSPORT COMMITTEE – BRUCE HEALEY

Roads: The ongoing work on the M25 junction with the A3 at Ripley continues to cause delays. Weekend road closures are promised during 2024. The works are not due to complete until Summer 2025. Large areas of heathland are disappearing under concrete, however, the completed works will improve traffic flow. Some money saved from the cancellation of HS2 is promised for fixing potholes.

Railways: The North Downs line was closed between Reigate and Guildford between 11th and 17th November for a number of infrastructure improvements. At the time of writing, there was hope that the industrial dispute with the RMT union might be resolved but the dispute with ASLEF continues with industrial action expected on Wednesday 6th affecting Southern and Gatwick Express.

In the December timetable update, GWR will extend the trains terminating at Redhill on to Gatwick Airport giving 2 trains per hour in each direction. There are no short term plans to reintroduce the pre-Covid 3 trains per hour in each direction between Redhill and Reading and while this is bad news for rail travellers, it is a relief for Reigate level crossing users.

As has been reported in the media, the threat to close booking offices has receded, the likelihood is that this subject will resurface or result in fewer hours open. We would recommend using the booking offices at every opportunity to give less reason to reduce this service.

On Tuesday 21st, the new concourse at Gatwick Airport Station opened. The station has two concourses, the northern one was added in the early 1980s. The original (southern) one has been expanded and now has access to Platform 7 which was previously only accessible from the northern concourse. There is a history display of the area in the northern concourse.

Facebook: The Transport Committee is now posting regular updates on the Societies Facebook page.

.WEBSITE & FACEBOOK- BRUCE HEALEY

Facebook: presently has 746 likes and 830 followers.

GREEN SPACES GROUP (GSG) – HELEN NEVE

Redhill Greenaissance project – about to initiate meetings with SCC plus a review of possible financial support

Solum Redhill Station Development – we understand that the planning application will not go to committee until next year; awaiting amendments from applicant

Meeting (zoom) with RBBC councillors and staff – meeting took place on Thursday 28th September with Morag Williams and Cllr Moses.

Great Big Green Week – aim to participate in 2024

Group membership – we have a new ‘consulting member’ – Simon Collins

Social Media

No key posts but we continue to post regularly

Other activities have been:

Meeting with Paul Harvey, Events and Marketing Officer for the Gatton Trust on Monday 25th September

Group email to all RRSoc Chairs on 7/10/23 re 29th October deadline to register as interested party regarding Gatwick Second Runway Application.

Circulated update on location of new Community Orchard in Woodhatch

Community Outreach: feedback on GGS meeting with RBBC meeting to interested parties

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>

CORPORATE MEMBERS.

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|---|--|
| Adam's Gallery www.adamsgallery.co.uk 42a High Street, Reigate RH2 9AT Art gallery 01737-225677 | Robinsons www.robinsonsmb.com 1 Bancroft Rd, Reigate RH2 7RP Chartered Surveyors, Commercial Property Sales, Lettings, Valuation & Management 01737-229200 |
| Crow Watkin www.crowwatkin.co.uk 14 Bell Street, Reigate RH2 7BE Independent estate agents, surveyors & valuers 01737-245886 | Royal Albert & Alexandra School www.raa-school.co.uk Gatton Park, Reigate RH2 0TW 01737-649050 Boarding school for boys & girls aged 7 to 18 |
| Dunottar School www.dunottar.surrey.sch.uk High Trees Road, Reigate RH2 7EL Independent co-educational school for students aged 11-18 01737-761945 | Sawkings Architects Ltd www.sawkingsarchitects.com 1 The Quarry, Betchworth RH3 7BY 01737-845580 Chartered Architects |
| East Surrey College www.esc.ac.uk Claremont Road, Gatton Point, Redhill RH1 2JX 01737-772611 College of Further Education | Skin Architects www.skin-architects.co.uk Hope Lacy, 20 Ringley Avenue, Reigate RH2 7ET 01737-210457 Chartered Architects |
| Micklefield School www.micklefieldschool.co.uk 10 Somers Road, Reigate RH2 9DU 01737-242615 Independent prep. school for boys & girls aged 2 1/2 to 11 | Stanton Construction www.stantonconstruction.co.uk 1 Castlefield Road, Reigate RH2 0SA 01737-227430 Development & construction service, public & commercial sectors |
| Rayners Commercial www.raynerscommercial.com 14a Bell Street, Reigate RH2 7BG 01737-222835 Chartered Surveyors and Commercial Property Agents | Stentor Music Co. Ltd www.stentor-music.com Albert Road North, Reigate RH2 9EZ 01737-240226 Manufacturers and distributors of musical instruments |
| Reigate Architects www.reigatearchitects.co.uk 24 Holmesdale Road, Reigate RH2 0BQ 01737-243540 Architecture & sustainability | Stoneman Funeral Service www.stonemanfunerals.co.uk Doran Court, Reigate Road, Reigate RH1 6AZ 01737-763456 Funeral directors & memorial craftsmen |
| Reigate Grammar School www.reigategrammar.org Reigate Road, Reigate RH2 0QS 01737-222231 Grammar School | Unusual Expo www.unusualexpo.com 07831-882527 Exhibition & Event Design |
| Reigate Heath Golf Club www.reigateheathgc.com Reigate Heath RH2 8QR 01737-226793 Heathland golf course | TWM Solicitors www.twmsolicitors.com 40 West Street, Reigate RH2 9BT 01737-221212 Solicitors |
| Reigate Priory Cricket Club www.reigatepriorycc.co.uk Park Lane, Reigate RH2 8JX 01737-244477 Cricket club with senior & junior sections | White & Sons www.whiteandsons.co.uk 24 High Street, Reigate RH2 9AY 01737-222600 Independent estate agents, surveyors and valuers |
| Reigate Priory School www.reigate-priory.co.uk Bell Street, Reigate RH2 7RL 01737-245065 Junior school | WS Planning & Architecture www.wspla.co.uk 5 Pool House, Bancroft Road, Reigate RH2 7RP 01737-949872 Chartered Town Planners and Chartered Architects |



‘Promote heritage, protect green spaces & shape the future’

What are the aims of the Reigate & Redhill Society?

- Conserve and improve the environments of Reigate, Redhill and surrounding areas
- Encourage a high standard of planning and architecture
- Prevent unsuitable alterations to important buildings
- Better and improved local transport services, road layouts and parking facilities
- The retention and improvement of existing open spaces and support for the setting up of new ones

Join now to support our aims. Membership from £10 per annum

For further information visit our website

[Reigate & Redhill Society Website](#)



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[RRS Facebook Page](#)