



The Civic Society  
For Reigate & Redhill  
[www.reigatesociety.org.uk](http://www.reigatesociety.org.uk)



**QUARTERLY  
MAGAZINE  
No 134  
MARCH 2024**

## **EVENTS IN REIGATE & REDHILL**

16-18 May Reigate Tunnel Beer Festival

14-16 June Reigate Summer Festival

12-14 July Pub in the Park, Reigate

22 Sept Run Reigate

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## **RS CHAIR NOTES – PIPPA MARTIN**

I am honoured to be appointed Chairman of the Reigate and Redhill Society and am confident that with the loyal support of the membership the Society has a secure future

## **SECRETARY'S NOTES – JANE ARTIS**

Next Open Meetings to be held on Zoom or Face to Face as noted

NB Dates and topics may be subject to change.

18<sup>th</sup> March 2024 Bridges of London – Chris Green – ZOOM online meeting.  
Link will be sent one week before the date

20<sup>th</sup> May 2024 To be confirmed

24<sup>th</sup> June 2024 AGM & Members' Meeting

### **Date of Next Council Meeting**

Monday 13<sup>th</sup> May 2024 at Reigate Community Centre

## **TREASURER'S REPORT at 05/02/2024 –ROBERT BOGIN**

The Society year 2023-2024 shows a good level of net income. Membership income currently stands at around 20% less than 2022-2023. The net cost of the Civic Awards evening was £680. We are not anticipating any further exceptional expenses in this year and there is a healthy balance in the accounts.

There was no Heritage Open Days 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 378 comprising 104 single memberships, 124 family memberships, 19 corporate and 7 others. Thus a total of 254 memberships. 46 members included in above totals had not paid their annual subscriptions at 05/02/24. Reminders have been sent out.

## **NEWS IN BRIEF**

Planning permission refused for the Redhill 'Gasholder' site

Reigate Priory Junior School move to Woodhatch Place is back on the agenda

From the December timetable change, the 2 trains per hour in each direction from Reading will both terminate at Gatwick Airport.

Events coming up

Borough's 50th Anniversary this year

New Reigate Summer Festival in June

## ARCHITECTURE AND PLANNING GROUP – TIM LEE

### Planning applications & developments

Along Reigate High Street, the old NatWest building is now occupied by Magnet kitchens and there is a planning application currently in to refurbish the old HSBC branch building into retail space. The Barons building, one of the areas oldest buildings at the end of Church Street is continuing to be refurbished and the reason for the length of the works is that they are having to follow strict instructions from John McNally and it is good to see the developers are doing things correctly and working well with the council.

There is generally a drop off in terms of the amount of development in Redhill and Reigate as developers are not wanting to progress sites due to the current economic climate.

The new padel courts at Reigate lawn Tennis club have been completed but the club will have to wait to fully open them for use as there was an admin error in the planning application which means the council need a period of time needed to rectify that correctly before they can be used.

### Redhill Station development

Since their previous planning application and consultation with various groups and residents, Solum have amended their design slightly in terms of reducing the height of the residential block above the station including improvements at street level, cycling and bus improvements as well as an improved entrance design for the Redstone Hill Station entrance.

Our Chair is arranging a private consultation to discuss these changes prior to issuing which the APC will attend and offer our help in these discussions.

### The New Priory School

There are currently discussions going on between the residents and school users on changes to the planning application that was rejected by the Surrey County Council Planning group. It is believed that plans are to be revised and drawn up for another planning application to be submitted in the not so distant future.

### The Civic awards 2024

Last year's Civic awards 2023 presentation evening took place at the Reigate Manor Hotel where it was great to see so many RRS members and was deemed to be a great evening.

We would like to request nominations for this year's award for projects completed recently or in the recent past that our members deem worthy of nomination.

Projects can range from outstanding buildings to public sculptures, and we will draw up a short list from the nominations to be judged later this year.





## ARCHITECTURE AND PLANNING GROUP (continued) – TIM LEE

### The role of the Architecture and Planning Group

To shine a bit more light on what the APC does, we wanted to lay out our aims and methods in this report which hopefully explain in a bit more detail the role and responsibility of the group. These aims and methods were revised by the group in 2021 and can be found on the RRS website under the Architecture and Planning group tab.



[Architecture & Planning](#)

#### Aims

- To encourage a high standard of design in new architecture and alterations to important and other relevant buildings
- Vigilance towards sustainability, human and civic values
- To promote dialogue in matters of topical, local, regional, and national planning and environmental policy
- Comments on draft proposals for County and Borough structure plans.

#### Methods:

- The group meets monthly with reference to society members' recommendation to discuss and comment on current planning applications which have been drawn to its attention
- To invite from members, nominations to review and recognise distinctive projects for the Reigate and Redhill Society's annual Civic Awards
- To liaise with key Borough Planning, Conservation and Green Spaces officers to understand initiatives and requirements
- To review existing conservation areas, their potential for enlargement and new proposals
- To welcome, invite and appreciate the support or involvement of corporate members

The group consists of members with strong local interests or professional knowledge. New group members are always welcome.

Updated Autumn 2021

### New Chairperson required:

As I have now stepped down from my role as chair of the society, I am still looking for someone to come forward to take over the role of Chair of the APC. The new Chair preferably needs to have experience working within the construction, design, planning or environmental areas and is passionate about protecting and future proofing the quality of the built and natural environment and heritage of the past for future generations.

Please reach out to me if you are interested in joining the group and also taking on the role of chairperson.

## REDHILL GROUP– PIPPA MARTIN

The climate continues to be challenging but the Chairman is optimistic for the future. Andy Nash oversees the Belfry with dedication and flair.

The Harlequin remains closed but it is reported that it may reopen in April. The Council organised an attractive circus tent in the Memorial Gardens and the Chairman attended the Pantomime performance of Beauty and the Beast in December. The Library has suffered the same fate and is closed indefinitely but Horley and Reigate libraries are extending their facilities to Redhill residents.

St Johns the Evangelist hosted an inspirational Christmas concert and St Matthews continues to stage weekly concerts on Thursdays of world class music.

The Planting of a Service tree to celebrate the Reigate and Redhill collaboration will now be suggested to the Borough.

The Surrey Mirror reported on February 1<sup>st</sup> that antisocial motorists were parking in the pedestrian centre to which Councillor Essex and aspiring Conservative MP Rebecca Paul submitted their objections.



Residents complained that pigeons were being fed in the centre and causing a public nuisance.

Vehicles are often parked in the pedestrianised zone and on double yellow lines in Redhill (Image: David Wallace)

Redhill has been transformed by The Light complex offering many leisure activities including a climbing wall, ten-pin bowling, axe throwing, mini-golf, interactive darts, an amusement arcade, a six-screen multiplex cinema and the Posadero Lounge



## **TRANSPORT GROUP – BRUCE HEALEY**

At Gatwick Airport Station, there is an extensive history display in the northern of two station concourses for which the Reigate and Redhill Society can claim much credit. There is a moderate history behind this.

As Chairman of the Transport group, I was asked to join the local Community Rail Partnerships (CRP). Reigate has two of these, one running from Reigate to Reading and the other from Reigate to Tonbridge. Sharon Grey, the line manager for the second of these asked me to draft a railway history poster for Redhill Station. This sets out the role of Redhill in the Dunkirk evacuations. With a third of a million troops arriving randomly at Kent ports, the railways were tasked with shipping these troops out immediately. At various stations along the way, they were provided with refreshments with the WVS taking a central role in this. Most troops needed to be returned to Aldershot or Salisbury and all trains were directed up through Tonbridge and Redhill. Because of the layout at Redhill Station, this required a reversal. It was decided that steam engines would be changed at Redhill which logically became the centre of the whole operation. The railways were short handed because of military recruitment and also because the process of evacuating children was under way. The railway evacuation of Dunkirk is little remembered because nothing major went wrong. Some engine crews worked a 24 hour shift. The poster commemorating this can be seen on Redhill platform 3.

Following that, Sharon Gray asked me to work on a history poster for Reigate. One of the Reigate signalmen has a number of relevant images and one poster became two which can be seen either side of the door in the booking office.

In May 2023, the Arun Valley CRP (which runs from Gatwick to the South Coast via Arundel) were in discussions with the Gatwick Airport Station Manager about a display for a large area of unused space to open at the same time as the expanded southern station concourse. I was asked to get involved. The original brief was for 16 A0 sized panels of which I was to produce 11. With the history of the area before the airport (Gatwick is old English for Goat Farm), the racecourse, the railway and the airport it was not a problem to find enough material but a lot of work to set it out. As a large number of A0 sized panels, this would not have looked that good and fortunately, professional graphic designers were employed and they set the display out as a much larger number of smaller displays.

The content I was not involved in covered the 2020-2023 rebuild of the southern concourse and the work to widen platforms 5 and 6 and move platform 7 eastwards.

## TRANSPORT group – BRUCE HEALEY (continued)

The history display was unveiled in November 2023. All history posters can be viewed on the website at

[https://www.reigatesociety.org.uk/about/railway\\_posters.php](https://www.reigatesociety.org.uk/about/railway_posters.php)



From left to right Paul O'Brien Station Manager of Gatwick Station, Rowena Tyler Line Manager for the run Valley CRP, Angie Doll Chief Operating Officer of GTR trains and Bruce Healey.

## WEBSITE & FACEBOOK- BRUCE HEALEY

Facebook: presently has 755 likes and 839 followers.

<https://www.facebook.com/p/The-Reigate-and-Redhill-Society-100064867353379/>



Recordings of all past talks can be found here

[https://www.reigatesociety.org.uk/meetings/meeting\\_notes.php](https://www.reigatesociety.org.uk/meetings/meeting_notes.php)



### HOW TO READ QR CODES

QR codes give you quick access to websites without having to enter or remember a web address. You can use the Camera app to scan a QR code. From the Home Screen, Control Centre or Lock Screen of your mobile phone or tablet, open the Camera App so that the QR code appears in the viewfinder. Your device will recognise the QR code and display a notification. Tap the notification to open the link associated with the QR code. If you require help with this, visit your local library.



**Do you live in a Leaky Home?**

Energy Action Redhill and Reigate is a community benefit society that is on a mission to make buildings in East Surrey more sustainable. Our main project is "The Leaky Homes Roadshow", currently in its second year of operation. Trained Energy Champions, equipped with thermal cameras, will survey your home to find out where you are losing heat. We can offer smart packs of energy-efficiency materials and individual suggestions on how to keep your home warm.

After publicity on the BBC, over 100 households have registered for a survey in Reigate & Banstead. The motivation for taking part varies. Some people are struggling with the price of energy and want to save money on fuel bills. Others have specific issues, such as a cold or draughty room. Many are environmentally aware and are looking for ways to reduce their carbon footprint. Learning about the energy efficiency of your home can address all these areas.

The energy surveys are free of charge as we are part of the Surrey-wide Local Energy Advice Demonstrator (LEAD) project funded through Surrey County Council. UK Power Networks are funding the energy-efficiency smart packs and loft insulation.

To find out more and request a survey, please visit our website [earr.co.uk](http://earr.co.uk)

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>



<https://www.reigatesociety.org.uk/Walks/>





## CORPORATE MEMBERS.

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

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**GATTON PARK OPEN DAYS**  
**12.00-5.00 pm**

Many of these days feature activities for children but there is plenty of space to walk and enjoy the open spaces. Gatton Hall is open for the sale of refreshments.

3 March

7 April

5 May

2 June

7 July

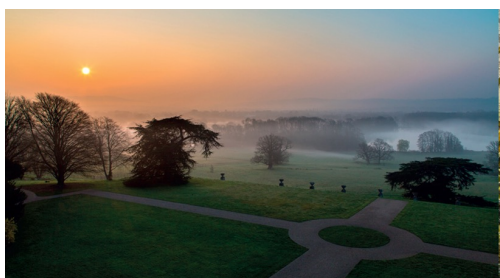
4 August

1 September

6 October

3 November

1 December



<https://gattonpark.co.uk/visit/opening-times/>

**REIGATE CAVE TOURS**



Guided Tours of both the Tunnel Road Caves and Barons' Cave will be available in 2024 on dates below  
*Unfortunately the Barons' Cave is really not suitable for those with significant mobility difficulties.*

11th May - 8th June - 13th July

10th August - 14th September

Pre booking is essential

[https://reigatecaves.org.uk/?page\\_id=28](https://reigatecaves.org.uk/?page_id=28)

