



# THE REIGATE SOCIETY

The Civic Society for Reigate, Redhill and Merstham

Newsletter No. 107

December 2013

## CHAIRMAN'S NOTES

### WE NEED YOU!

Following my appeal for a **Society Representative on the Reigate Business Guild** (for which candidates are still needed urgently) and mention of possible upcoming vacancies, we will be in need of candidates for the following in the coming months;

**Vice Chairman**

**Programme Organiser**

**Hon Treasurer**

**Auditor**

**Publicity Officer**

**Heritage Open Day Organiser**

If you are interested in any of the above vacancies then either contact me on

[mortlockar@gmail.com](mailto:mortlockar@gmail.com) on the number below or any of the Officers of the Society. Please see our website for contact details (<http://www.reigatesociety.org.uk/contact/>) so we can discuss where your interests lay and where your talents can be best utilised.

None of the above positions are particularly onerous or time consuming and the current incumbent will be available to brief you on the details and work with you to ensure a smooth transition. It is very important that we fill these vacancies to continue the smooth running of the Society.

If you are concerned about the high profile planning issues that have been publicised in the

local papers, or indeed any of the other planning issues that could affect our local environment then make your voice heard by joining our Architecture and Planning Committee, again contact details are on our website.

On that note, at our recent Members Evening the winners of the 2013 Reigate Society Awards were announced. A fine selection of local recently completed projects, more details of which are given in the Architecture and Planning Committee report. Also a very informative and entertaining talk on the Bluebell Railway was presented by Bruce Healy at our new venue, The Reigate Manor Hotel.

We have noticed, with considerable regret, that the work on The Priory is proceeding at a snails' pace and more problems seem to be coming to light. Despite letters to the Local and County Council we have not been able to ascertain what the current plans are for the repair and restoration of this historic building. However, we will persevere to obtain some answers.

Work on the sculpture to mark our 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary is proceeding and **Stanton Construction** (one of our corporate members) will be installing the base for us in the next few weeks, for which we are most grateful.

Finally I would also appeal to our members to spread the word about what we do and how we keep a close watch on all the planning, both local and borough wide, transportation, natural amenities and other issues that could affect our local environment. If you know of any local club, society or organisation that would be interested in a talk on our activities and ideals then please contact me.

**Alan Mortlock**

**01737 244407**

## SECRETARY'S NOTES

A successful and well-attended Members' Evening was held at The Reigate Manor Hotel on

October 7<sup>th</sup>. The new venue was popular and saw an increase in those attending which was pleasing

to see. This is the only social get together of the membership when there is time to get to know other members hear their concerns and receive ideas.

The high point of the evening is the awarding of the Society's Civic Awards.



Candidates for these awards are put forward by the members of the society and others and judged the society's Architectural and Planning Committee together with an independent architect. This year there were three projects that received awards, details of which are in the Architecture and Planning Committee Chairman's report. The presentation of the Award Certificates was followed by a finger buffet and by Bruce Healey's very entertaining and informative talk "The History of the Bluebell Railway".

This new venue can take increased numbers but of course as a buffet is involved pre-bought tickets

enable the organiser to ensure that there is enough food for all!

We are now starting our 2013/2014 series of Open Meetings with our first talk on the Surrey Air Ambulance at the Reigate Baptist Church, Sycamore Walk this November. This is followed on 2<sup>nd</sup> of December by Jennifer Roberts' talk "G.F.Watts and the Watts Gallery", in the Woodhatch Centre. All talks start at 8.15pm. We look forward to seeing you there.

Please do log onto our website [www.reigatesociety.org.uk](http://www.reigatesociety.org.uk) which is regularly updated and will keep you in touch with all that is going on. You can also send in your queries via the website and the web master will direct them to the correct person so that you will receive an answer as soon as possible.

There is a huge need for a Civic Society here in the area, and when responding on behalf of the membership to an issue, the size of the membership is a significant factor in registering our stance on that issue; so encourage your friends, neighbours and fellow borough residents to join. The Reigate Society welcomes all who agree with its aims and raison d'être whether they see themselves as just supporters, active members or doers.

**Mrs Michèle Damer** (01737) 243513)

**Email:** [heathfieldstables@dial.pipex.com](mailto:heathfieldstables@dial.pipex.com)

## TREASURER'S NOTES

ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTIONS were due from the 1<sup>st</sup> April 2013 and the current MINIMUM RATES are as follows:

Individual Members	£8
Family Members	£12
Corporate Members	£25

Those of you who pay by bankers order should ensure that your Bank has the correct instructions for your subscription payment.

There is a payment form on page 6.

**Charles Wragg** (01737) 210640.

## REGISTRAR'S NOTES

Although we have lost 4 members since the last Newsletter, it is encouraging to report that 13 new members have joined. We welcome:

**Mr & Mrs J Camden**  
**Mr J Earley**  
**Mr A Gowan**  
**Mrs D Gregory**  
**Mr I Horseman**  
**Mr & Mrs J Manfield**

**Mrs B Neatby**  
**Mr G Soper**  
**Mr & Mrs J Stevenson**  
**Mrs G Swan**

Our membership numbers are important in supporting the Society's influence on the various bodies that have a hand in shaping our environment.

Approximately 240 copies of this Newsletter are delivered to members by hand by some 40 distributors and we are most grateful for their willingness. At the same time, 70 copies are sent by post and 160 by e-mail. If any members currently receiving a paper copy would like it by e-

mail, so saving paper, postage and distributor's effort, please let me know – by e-mail!

**David Gardner**

**(01737) 244148**

**E-mail: [davidsjg@yahoo.com](mailto:davidsjg@yahoo.com)**

## HERITAGE OPEN DAYS

This year's Heritage Open Days event in the Borough was very successful in spite of the weather. The Brochure, (which the Society has been co-ordinating, designing and distributing for the past 7 years), was produced by MadIdeas the company who produced the 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Incorporation of Redhill and Reigate Brochure. This proved advantageous as we did not have to find funding for the brochure printing nor design it. MadIdeas sold advertising space in the brochure to cover the costs. The timetable for production was slightly changed and the HODS Brochure was distributed from the middle of August rather than from the beginning of July but this did not cause any problems.

Some of the venues received increased visitors and I think that was due to some venue organisers arranging extra press coverage themselves and also organising special interest activities on the days they were open.

Thanks are due to all those volunteers who enabled venues to be opened, and walks to take

place. The walks I have had feedback about were very popular and it would be good to include more, so if you know of, or could lead a walk anywhere in the Borough, which would highlight an area's history, please use the contact details below.

Additional venues are also needed, so if you know of an interesting building with history which could be approached please contact: the Hon. Secretary.

Email: [heathfieldstables@dial.pipex.com](mailto:heathfieldstables@dial.pipex.com)  
Tel: 01737 243513.

Is there anyone reading this who would be interested in being part of a small group of people taking this forward?

**Mrs Michèle Damer**

## COMMITTEE REPORTS

### ARCHITECTURE & PLANNING

CHAIRMAN: GWYTHYR JOYCE (01737) 249434

The excitement over the annual Civic Awards is now well behind us however we can look back with some pleasure at a very interesting selection of projects, and it is gratifying to have seen such a high quality in both the modern and restoration categories. As usual, all of the award winners can be viewed on our website where pictures are provided along with a description.

Of great interest this year for me, was my introduction to 'Southern Comfort', which is an annual meeting of Civic Societies in the South East, held at Guildford. I attended with Alan Mortlock and while our numbers were not great overall at the meeting, the quality was good, with people coming from a variety of locations, some even attending from the Isle of Wight. The day was spent discussing core issues of the National

Planning Policy Planning Framework and its effect on Green Belt, problems with membership decline, and protection of historic buildings. These three are issues our society would put high on a list of concerns, and it was something of a relief to find all societies attending were in the same boat. Other matters we talked about related to the way in which each of our societies worked, and how they were trying to attract more members of the public to join, and to be active members on the various committees. We hope to adopt some of the ideas in future and no doubt you will be seeing them soon. A brief report on the event will be published in due course.

Major issues in the development of parts of the Borough continue behind the scenes in the hands

of the planning authorities, most notably in Redhill at the Station Car Park site along with Marketfield Way and the road and paved spaces tying the two together. The Redhill Committee are very much to the fore in keeping a close eye on this, while A&P helps where appropriate.

As previously reported, Core Strategy Local Plan discussions under the Government Inspector Martin Pike took place in May 2013 when along with many other interested groups we aired our significant concerns over the effects of large population growth and expansion into Green Belt. The Hearings are to be reconvened in early December when clarifications are to be sought first, on the reliability in the Borough's delivery forecast for housing, in particular the North Downs Area, second on the mechanism for enabling a changed way of delivering more homes if the forecast delivery is not achieved, and third, clarification of releasing small sites in the Green Belt. We will be taking an interested role in this and expect to attend the hearing.

Unfortunately the Reigate Priory repairs are taking considerably longer than expected, and we are informed by the various parties involved in this project including the Borough and County

Councils with English Heritage that the delay is due to unexpected problems discovered in the building fabric. This is understandable in such an old structure however as a consequence temporary Portakabin classrooms have been placed in the school grounds to bridge the school accommodation needs until when the project is completed, hopefully next year.

Concerns over Reigate Signal Box's future continues, however we believe we have a longer timescale before it will cease being used, possibly 2017, and also we have found an interested party who may be able to make use of the building as a going concern when it becomes vacant.

To conclude this A&P contribution to our newsletter, I again appeal to anyone interested in joining our A&P committee. This involves meeting once a month for a couple of hours. Fortunately we have an active new member though due to business commitments he cannot make it an official position. As a professional his input has been a great help, and so anyone else interested in our aims and objectives will be very welcome to our meetings on an occasional basis or 'full time'.

## REDHILL

CHAIRMAN: GERRY MOSS (01737) 765508

After all the discussions, consultations and meetings the first phase of the Balanced Network conversion to a two-way road system around Redhill centre has started. A start has been made to add a third lane in Station Road in the approach to the Lombard roundabout. When the two-way system starts this will be one lane South and two lanes North, one to continue North the other to turn into Princess Way.

A new proposal is for more raised tables for busy crossings. All of the existing controlled crossings will have raised tables. In addition new ones will be made at the junction of Gloucester Road and the Lombard roundabout, Clarendon Road and London Road, and Warwick Road and Queensway. It is less clear if there will be one at Ladbroke Road and Princess Way, and St Anne's Drive and Noke Drive.

A welcome development is the start to the resurfacing of the A25 in Hatchlands Road. It is no longer a balance between dodging potholes versus other cars. Eventually all of the A25 within the Borough will be resurfaced.

Another change in progress is the Wayfinder Project. Although, at the time of writing, nothing is visible much work has been done planning the location of wayfinder maps, the details to be shown on the maps and the shape and size of the signs. These will replace the existing signposts and will not be prone to many of their problems. These royalty free maps are designed to be easily updated and replaced if there are changes in key landmark shown. Each map is orientated so that it shows the way ahead. This is part of a wider project in Surrey which also includes Woking and Guildford. Each town will have a distinctive style to the signs.

The planning application by Solum for redevelopment of the Station car parks has been accepted by the Borough. The building of a Waitrose supermarket and flats on the main car park will result in the taxis rank and pick-up/drop-off point moving to the East side by platform 3. We were assured that the new multi-storey car park will be built first to replace the existing facilities on the West side. It will be built on the existing car park behind the Toby Jug (Lakers) and alongside the line to a point nearer the station exit.

A consultation has been made on changes to Redhill Station Road East. This proposal involves making it pedestrian only. It will mean that the existing disabled parking will not be accessible so it is proposed to make three new parking bays in a new road from Marketfield Way which will also provide a new access to the Marketfield car park (to be the multi-screen cinema). The junction of Marketfield Road and Cromwell Road will be closed.

The Society has been consulted on a long proposed conservation area in the historic core of Redhill town centre. It tries to cover all of the older buildings on the South side of Station Road East (16-38a), the North side of Station Road West

(25-49) and a few other adjacent older buildings. The Society supports this proposal and hopes that it will also include 2-12 High Street where the facade was preserved when they were redeveloped several years ago. It will provide greater control of inappropriate signage and possible redevelopment.

It is planned to make a start on the Memorial Park improvements next February. It should be finished late in summer 2014. This will include a new play area, café, toilets and improved sport zone including a trim trail. The sensory garden will move to the old children's playground and a new access from London Road made at this North-West corner.

## TRANSPORT

CHAIRMAN: JOHN CHITTENDEN (01737) 242328

Further consideration has been given to the closing date for the core strategy consultation bearing in mind the reports previously submitted to the Local Authorities. .

An Executive Summary of those REPORTS which have been submitted previously to the Local Authorities has been submitted to briefly review all matters directly or remotely connected with the

Transport infrastructure in order to continue our participation in the debate on addressing identified expansion problems.

Additionally an objection has been made to the LDF on the grounds that there does not appear to be an effective LOGISTIC or CONTINGENCY plan for the needs of the new LEP populations

## NATURAL AMENITIES

CHAIRMAN: COLIN BURBIDGE (01737) 245264

**Wray Common** At a recent meeting between council officers and the Society it was agreed that the grass cutting regime introduced for the past summer had generally been a success and will be continued for next year. Following discussions with the contractors slight modifications to the differently mown areas will be introduced which should benefit all parties and further improve the biodiversity of the Common.

**Earlswood Common.** There is still a parking issue at Reigate School. Although the Council have built a bund and erected wooden posts to prevent parking on the Common these are not close enough to the road to prevent all illegal parking.

There has been a planning application to extend the buildings at the Earlswood Recycling site. A large tall warehouse type building is proposed which would have a considerable impact on the area. This seems to be somewhat at odds with the designation of the areas surrounding the site (Earlswood Common, New Pond Farm, Petridge Wood and Felland Copse) as a Biodiversity Opportunity Area.

**Priory Park.** Towards the end of September the Friends of Priory Park was officially brought to the end of its life. Under its constitution any remaining funds would have to be transferred to an organisation with similar aims. Those funds were handed to the Society to assist with our mission of protecting the best interests of the Park

**The Reigate Heath Management Steering Group** at the moment has representatives from Natural England, the Council (Robin Davis and Ian Wright), Reigate Heath Cricket Club, Reigate Heath Golf Club, Reigate Area Conservation Volunteers, Reigate Heath Riders Group, Friends of Reigate Heath, Reigate Hill FC, Surrey Archeological Society, The Reigate Society, and also has a volunteer Technical Advisor and local vet who advises on dog fouling issues. The Chairman of the group is Councillor De Save. Reigate Heath continues to be a complicated natural amenity to manage. The Reigate Heath Work Programme Autumn 2013 – Summer 2014 (year 3 of 5) has been drawn up and is scheduled to be displayed on the Noticeboard by the Heath car park. The work plan is also available on the Council's website.

Another group, Reigate Heath Residents Association, has been formed so anyone who lives in "the properties and land comprising Flanchford Road to north of the junction with Clayhall Lane, Bonnys Road, Reigate Heath, Heathfield, Trumpets Hill Road, Sandy Lane, Buckland Corner, Buckland Road, Cliftons Lane, Colley Manor Drive and Colley Lane" is automatically a member. The aims of this new group are "the protection of the character of the Area of Interest, the promotion of the common interest and safety of the residents of the Area of Interest, the fostering of good neighbourhood relations including organising social events and ensuring effective liaison with relevant authorities" Contact details: [gus@gusgregory.com](mailto:gus@gusgregory.com).

As the management of the Heath continues the following prioritised surveys will be carried out when funding is available: Botanical survey of acid grassland especially the sports pitch, Hymenoptera, Reptiles, Moths (on-going through the Friends of Reigate Heath), Bats, Fungi, and Birds. There has recently been a meeting to discuss signage on the Heath. The Reigate Area Conservation Volunteers continue to help implement aspects of the management plan and are always seeking volunteers to help. A map of ancient trees on the Heath is to be drawn up.

The Reigate Society continues to ensure that this natural and precious amenity is available to all residents.

**The Reigate Society**

*President:* Nicholas Owen

*Chairman:* Alan Mortlock, 3 Gatton Close, Reigate, RH2 0HG. Tel: 01737 244407

*Hon. Secretary:* Michèle Damer, Heathfield Stables, Reigate Heath, Reigate, RH2 8AA. Tel: 01737 243513

*Hon. Treasurer:* Charles Wragg, 3 Weald Way, Reigate, RH2 7RG. Tel: 01737 210640

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**Please send completed form to:**  
**Charles Wragg, 3 Weald Way, Reigate RH2 7RG**

(NL 107)

## CORPORATE MEMBERS

Note that all addresses are of Reigate town and all telephone numbers have the code 01737, unless otherwise stated

	<b>Address</b>	<b>Business</b>
Bakers Radio Ltd	6 Western Parade, Prices lane RH2 8AU (240543 / 242322)	TV, Electrical Retailers
Care Unlimited	Chaldon Rise Mews, Rockshaw Road, Merstham RH1 3DE (645171 / 646266)	Care Homes
Care Homes of Distinction Ltd	Wray Park, 55 Alma Road RH2 0DN (242778)	Care Homes & Property Development
Crow Watkin	14 Bell Street RH2 7BE (245886)	Independent Estate Agents, Surveyors & Valuers
Dunottar School	High Trees Road, RH2 7EL (761945)	
East Surrey College	Claremont Road, Gatton Point, Redhill RH1 2JX (772611)	
Iain Johnston	4 Chart Lane (244160)	Podiatrist
Michael Jones & Associates	Crossway House, 8 London Road RH2 9HY (245610)	Engineering Consultants – Building Services
Keymex Ltd	59-61 Bell Street RH2 7AQ (240171)	Domestic Appliance Sales, Service & Repairs
Holmesdale Building Society	43 Church Street RH2 0AE (245716)	Your local Building Society for all your mortgage and investment needs
La Barbe Restaurant	71 Bell Street RH2 7AN (241966)	Restaurant & Outside Catering
Micklefield School	10 Somers Road RH2 9DU (242615 / 224211 / 224212)	Independent Preparatory School for boys and girls age 2 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub> to 11
Ormerods	Suite 4, Chapter House, 33 London Road RH2 9HZ (0208 686 5000)	Solicitors
Reigate Architects	59 Nutley Lane, RH2 9HP (222099)	Architecture and Sustainability
Reigate Heath Golf Club	Reigate Heath, RH2 8QR (226793)	Golf Club
Reigate Priory Cricket Club	Park Lane, RH2 8JX (244477)	Cricket Club with senior & junior sections
Reigate Priory School	Bell Street RH2 7RL (245065 / 240229)	
Royal Alexandra & Albert School	Gatton Park, RH2 0TW (649050)	Boarding school for boys and girls ages 7 to 18
Stanton Construction	1Castlefield Road RH2 0SA (227430)	Development & construction service to industry, public & commercial sectors
Stentor Music Co Ltd	Albert Road North, RH2 9EZ (240226)	Manufacturers and Distributors of Musical Instruments
Stoneman Funeral Service	Doran Court, Reigate Road, Redhill RH1 6AZ (763456)	Funeral Directors & Memorial Craftsmen
TWM Solicitors LLP	40 West Street RH2 9BT (221212)	Solicitors
White & Sons	24 High Street RH2 9AY (222600)	Independent Estate Agents, Surveyors & Valuers