



Newsletter No. 109

September 2014

CHAIRMAN'S NOTES

YES, WE STILL NEED YOU!

Following my appeal in the last couple of newsletters I am pleased to report that we have found a replacement Auditor, but we still need other volunteers for the following;

Vice Chairman

Society Representative on the Reigate Business Guild

Programme Organiser

Publicity Officer

Heritage Open Day Organiser

If you are interested in any of the above vacancies then either contact me on mortlockar@gmail.com or the number below, or any of the Officers of the Society. Also you can use our website for contact details (<http://www.reigatesociety.org.uk/contact/>) then we can discuss where your interests lie and where your talents can be best utilised within the Society.

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.

Although we have not filled the Programme Organiser position we have managed to arrange talks for the remainder of this year, but none at

present for 2015. If you have any thoughts on possible speakers then please let us know so they could be included.

You will probably have seen that the Core Strategy has been adopted, which is good news in some respects, although the use of Green Belt land is still included, although as a possible last resort if no other land is available to satisfy the perceived housing needs. We will, of course, still be keeping a watchful eye on all Planning Applications. More detailed comments are given in the Architecture and Planning Report on this later in this Newsletter, but if you feel that your voice is not being heard, in this, or other planning matters, then please consider joining our Architecture and Planning Committee, so you can have a voice.

The possible additional runway at Gatwick is creating a lot of local interest and we will be getting involved with the various reviews and consultations as the infrastructure impacts will also need to be considered for the possible increased passenger numbers, employment issues and transportation.

The work on the Memorial Park seems to be progressing well and is forecast to be opened shortly. This will be a welcome improvement to this fine open space in central Redhill. Also the road scheme is progressing around Redhill and we await, with interest, perceivable signs of improved traffic flows. Demolition of the old cinema to the rear of the listed façade has started ready for its redevelopment as a retail and residential complex and it will be good to see the new developments around Redhill Station and Marketfield car park started to improve this area.

You can still receive free vouchers for limited access to National Trust sites, but applications must be made in writing. English Heritage vouchers are still available electronically.

Applications have been received for the 2014 Civic Awards, but we have extended the closing date to September, so if you know of any suitable project then please contact me or Gwyther Joyce,

the Chairman of the Architecture and Planning Committee. The application is open to all categories of building or facilities, the only stipulation is that it is completed and is located in the Borough

Alan Mortlock

(01737) 244407

100TH BIRTHDAY FOR HONORARY ALDERMAN E. H. WALLER

Eddie Waller was President of the Reigate Society from 2000 to 2005. He and his wife, Mary, took an active part in the Society and supported our events over a number of years.

He took a special interest in the Priory and its Park. In one of his annual messages to the Society in 2002 he wrote:

'We must be mindful of our roots and remember that when the Society was formed in 1952 it was specifically to preserve the Priory and the Park, to keep it open for public use and enjoyment, to resist pressure for any obstruction to access or deterioration in its quality. This remains a major policy today.'

The same holds true today, albeit one of many other issues.

At the end of August Eddie celebrated his 100th birthday and still remains a strong supporter of the Society and, although nearly blind, enjoys hearing about the various activities mentioned in our Newsletter and to be driven around the borough and recall many of the developments and sensitive restorations that the Society has championed.

On behalf of the Society may we wish Eddie a happy birthday and best wishes for the future.

Alan Mortlock

SECRETARY'S NOTES

The Society's 62nd **Annual General Meeting** was held in the Woodhatch Centre on July 7th.

The Chairman, Alan Mortlock, opened the meeting by welcoming the members to this the 62nd Annual General Meeting. There were 64 members present. He extended a welcome to the non members attending, who had come to hear the talk by Bob Ogle, entitled "Doodlebugs and Rockets" which followed the AGM. He explained that only members could vote on AGM business.

The Chairman gave the apologies of our President Nicholas Owen to the meeting and apologies from 22 members. The Chairman formally presented the Annual Report, which had already been distributed. He therefore limited his comments to some updating. He reported that the Core Strategy and Green Belt issues had been robustly taken up by the Society. He thanked all those council and committee chairman and members who had so effectively represented the Society throughout the year. He also said that the 60th Anniversary sculpture for placement in Priory Park was complete; the concrete base for the brick seat on which it was to be mounted was in place. Ibstock who were kindly supplying the

bricks had responded to the change of construction plan and really we were just waiting for the supply of bricks. He was pleased to announce there had already been some nominations for this year's Civic Awards, but there was still time for more nominations and the date on the nomination form could be ignored. Although due consideration should be paid to the time involved in nominations being received, visits to premises, decision making, and inscribing and signing of the award certificates. As those present knew, the awards will be given at the Members' Evening on October 6th.

Colin Burbidge, Vice Chairman, and Charles Wragg, Hon. Treasurer retired at the AGM, as did Claudia Payne, Programme Organiser. The Hon. Auditor, Stuart Tucker, also retired and a new auditor will soon be confirmed. The Vice Chairman's position is now vacant. No nominations came from the floor. Robert Bogin was appointed Hon. Treasurer. The remaining Officers of the Society were re-elected. Five members of the Council were retiring by rotation

Claudia Payne, Gwyther Joyce, Susan Walker, Alan Smith, Ray Lewis.
Claudia Payne, Gwyther Joyce, Alan Smith and Ray Lewis agreed to go forward.
John Angel, from the floor, pointed out that both Colin Burbidge and Charles Wragg should go forward to Council following their retirement from Vice Chairman and Hon. Treasurer respectively. They were elected by a show of hands.

Alan Mortlock, Chairman, thanked all those retiring as Officers, and from Council, for their committed work over many years for the Society.

Following the close of the meeting Alan, made a presentation on behalf of the Society to both Colin Burbidge and Charles Wragg.

There was a short break before Bob Ogley started his talk “**Doodlebugs and Rockets**”. The talk told the story of the V1 and V2 campaign in 1944 and 1945, Hitler’s unique, brilliantly conceived, indiscriminate, and short lived weapons that were launched by the Germans in the last-ditch attempt to win the war. Bob told of the orgy of terror, the defiance, the bravery and the humour of those who lived in “doodlebug alley”.

The meeting ended with Alan thanking the speaker, amid applause, for a very interesting and entertaining talk, and everyone present for attending.

Community Festival in Priory Park The Reigate Society had a stand at the Festival. My thanks to those who gave time to be on the stand during the day. We have had a presence there since the Festival began in 2006. The event was well attended despite the mixed weather. The Society repeated a free entry Quiz, which received fewer entries than last year’s. There was one correct entry. The winner was David Brown who is actually a member. Keep yourself informed with the Reigate Society it could win the Quiz!

The correct answers to this year’s Quiz, set by Alan Mortlock, are as follows:

1. Where did ‘capability Brown’ work locally?
b) Gatton Park
2. Where is the balanced network going to go?
b) Redhill Town Centre
3. What is the number of the proposed platform at Redhill station?
b) 0

Heritage Open Days 2014 takes place from 11th – 14th September. This year the HODS brochure has been co-ordinated by me, for the Reigate Society, and has been type set, designed by MadIdeas and printed by Printmates. The Brochure will be on the Reigate Society website. I am pleased to report that a member has come

forward expressing interest in taking HODS forward next year.

The Medieval Undercroft in Upper West Street will be managed by the Reigate Society again and **Michael Hellings** would really welcome offers of help for Saturday 13th September. Tel. **01737 245342**

Members’ Evening - on Monday 6th October, 7.30p.m. for 8p.m., at the Reigate Manor Hotel, off the A217 on Reigate Hill.

The format for the evening will be as that of last year’s. The ticket will include a welcome drink (a cash bar will operate after that) and a finger buffet. The Reigate Society Civic Awards will be presented, followed by the finger buffet.

The Talk ‘The Parks and Countryside of Reigate and Banstead - Parks for all’ follows that. **Speakers:** Ian Wright M.Sc., Reigate and Banstead Countryside Manager; Emanuel Flecken, a member of the Parks and Countryside team.

They will explain how the Council’s Parks and Countryside Service is rolled out across the Borough, showing what the Parks and Countryside team can do, and why they cannot do many of the things they would like to.

There will be a question and answer session following the talk.

Tickets are £12 per member and an application form for tickets is attached to this newsletter. We look forward to seeing many of you there.

Changes you will see:

1. Please do use our website you will notice a change in appearance.
2. This year we have also slightly changed our logo. The RS logo is encircled and is brick colour. The Membership Application forms, now available, show the full change and this will be carried through onto stationary, the Programme card and the next Annual Report. The award certificates will remain unchanged.
3. We have also taken the decision to have a one venue for all our **Open Meetings for 2014/2015 - the Redland Colman Centre, Croydon Road, Reigate**. These will take place on a **Monday at 8.15pm in November, December, January, February and March**. There is on site parking.
4. The Society now has a very new facebook page!

We hope you like all the changes



TREASURER'S NOTES

ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTIONS are due from the 1st April 2014 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 7.

Robert Bogin

(01737) 248018

REGISTRAR'S NOTES

Since our last Newsletter, six new members have joined the Society. We are pleased to welcome:

Mrs K V Bucknill
Mrs V Gordon-Graham
Mr & Mrs J Hull
Mr P Newman
Mr & Mrs J Rust

Unhappily, though, three members have died and one couple has resigned. We have also lost contact with five couples and four individual members over the last year. The subject of members is a recurring theme in 'Registrar's Notes' and, last time, I commented that a good sized membership helps the Society in

consultations with the authorities and other bodies with influence over the local environment.

We have produced a new and attractive information leaflet/application form and have included one with each Newsletter and Programme Card. If you are able, please use yours to inform a friend or neighbour about The Reigate Society – and encourage them to join.

David Gardner

(01737) 244148

E-mail: davidsjg@yahoo.com

COMMITTEE REPORTS

ARCHITECTURE & PLANNING

CHAIRMAN: GWYTHYR JOYCE (01737) 249434

The progress of change in Redhill is now visible not just in the preparations for the new two way traffic system but also with the appearance of new developments.

We could all be forgiven for starting to doubt the promised changes in Redhill, with Sainsbury's, redevelopment having received recommendation for approval in 2011, seemingly not making it to a start date other than to agree to a temporary car park with store at the Gloucester Road car park. The massive regeneration project with hotel and gym is intended to unlock major redevelopments on the station west car park and generally transform the whole area. However the latest idea to speed completion of the development by moving the store with parking to a restricted location at Gloucester Road car park during construction will present challenges as without easy parking at this flagship store, customers are going to be discouraged from coming to Redhill with an impact on all shops in the town.

Apart from the welcome start of work on the Memorial Park, the one ray of light can be seen with the implementation of demolition work at the old Liquid & Envy site near Redhill station. This encouraging sign of real activity behind the protected old cinema front façade is tempered with the knowledge that the approved building design is not what we wanted. It is frankly going to be a substantial and imposing mass, which will dominate the area and in our opinion will be something of an eye-sore. We have repeatedly opposed the proposal, which has been the more galling as having obtained initial permission, the developer has repeatedly re-applied for new permission which has been granted, each time increasing the building size. The only positive spin that can be made for this development is that the site was in great need of a suitable project, and our Borough does insist it needs to increase housing supply. Also, when other planned developments are completed particularly at

Redhill's west car park, the overall scale of the structures in the area will be much of a similar style, and in essence very large.

Picking up the subject of housing supply in the Borough and the potential impact that could have on the Green Belt, A&P recently published a letter in the Surrey Mirror which you may have seen and which highlighted the fundamental issue of disproportionate population growth in the Borough as the root cause of the need to plan for possible future housing development in the Green Belt. This was clearly demonstrated with a diagram taken from the Borough's own records showing comparative growth in the Borough as being substantially greater over many years than that of all other non-metropolitan areas of the South East. We are monitoring the situation and are being consulted by the Borough on defining possible areas of Green Belt development. Our overarching concern is that the wider impact of excessive population growth even if it does not take place on Green Belt, will impact the Borough infrastructure including surgeries, schools and in particular roads which as we all know are ever more congested.

Continuing on the Green Belt theme, we maintain our opposition to Redhill Aerodrome Ltd., (RAL) the owners proposing to build a new hard runway. This is a long running saga in which local councils have quite rightly rejected successive applications and this year a planning inspector threw out an appeal by RAL. Perversely this decision was taken to the High Court and overturned, however we are advised the Secretary of State is going to appeal the decision which apparently had been taken on a narrow technicality.

As usual, I have to end on the subject of our Civic Awards programme which this year has produced five interesting nominations. Further nominations are welcome so please let me have your ideas by email or post.

REDHILL

CHAIRMAN: GERRY MOSS (01737) 765508

This is very much a progress report on Redhill projects. I expect by the next Newsletter many of these projects will be complete.

The balanced network continues with work in progress at several junctions. The centre island has now been completed at the crossing over Gloucester Road by the Lombard round about. As well as the preparation for two-way traffic cycle

tracks are under construction along Marketfield Way, under the station railway bridge and Brighton Road railway bridge. These are alongside the pedestrian path, separate from the road. As a result of the loss of road under the station railway bridge there is now only one lane in each direction. The latest date for starting two-way traffic is now September.

Refurbishment of the Memorial Park is also expected to be complete in September. The new café is under construction as is the new children's play. A new entrance to the park is being built near the north west corner onto London Road.

Almost opposite the Park the old Crown Buildings in London Road are nearly completely demolished. We are promised a new office block on this site.

Work is now started on the Liquid and Envy (Odeon cinema) site. Most of the back part has been demolished leaving the front foyer standing. The Art Deco facade is being retained in the new building which will include a Tesco express and residential flats.

Although the refurbished lifts at Redhill Station are in use the new lift from the ticket office to the cross passage is not yet open. The hoarding has been removed so that the lift doors at both levels are exposed but frustratingly not yet in use.

TRANSPORT

CHAIRMAN: BRUCE HEALEY (01737) 240577

Many thanks go to John Chittenden who recently stood down as Chairman of the Transport Committee after 5 years of excellent work at the helm. John will remain a member of the committee so his knowledge and experience will not be lost.

The major news on the roads is the closure of the B2032 Pebble Hill Road from Betchworth Station northwards from 8th September to January for the replacement of 2km of water main. The published route is via the A25, A217 via Reigate to the Tadworth roundabout. This is a very long way round and will increase the traffic through Reigate. Other road works planned or under way are as follows:

Continuing gas main repairs until 1st September in Somers Road near the junction with St Albans Road, Reigate.

More gas main work in Cross Oak Lane, Horley until 7th September.

Temporary traffic lights for water main work on Emlyn Road near Brambletye Park Road, Earlswood until 1st September.

A25 Queensway, Redhill one lane closed until 6th September.

Emlyn Road, Earlswood; temporary lights until 1st September.

A217 Cockshot Hill, Reigate; there are various internet reports of gas main work to take 3 months with suggested dates from 6th October to December although signs have gone up indicating 4 weeks work from early August. It is not clear whether these refer to 2 different repairs.

Trains:

London Bridge Station is closed to Thameslink and Southern trains between 22-31 August and 27-28 September.

From early 2015 Thameslink trains will not call at London Bridge for 3 years. Trains will be routed via Herne Hill.

First Capital Connect has lost the Thameslink franchise which will be merged with the Southern franchise. Both will be operated by Govia the present operator of Southern Trains.

Timetables: there were no significant changes to local bus or train timetables in May.

Gatwick Airport:

The consultation on the revised flight paths for Gatwick ended on 14th August. Gatwick Area Conservation Campaign (GACC) has serious concerns that "the consultation document is complex, badly written and difficult for lay people to understand" and that "no maps have yet been produced showing the new arrival routes using the 'point-merge' procedure – which could affect much of Sussex and west Kent".

The plans for the additional runway show that the A23 under the South Terminal will be closed. Instead, the proposal is that the A23 will take the route of the airport slip road to a new roundabout beyond the South Terminal roundabout. The A23 would then take a new route south in a wide sweep eventually rejoining the present line of the A23 somewhere near Fleming Way, Crawley.

The Reigate Society is concerned about the additional noise and pollution generated by the additional runway.

According to the Gatwick Airport website, it appears that flights taking off to the west and then turning east now overfly the southern edge of Reigate. We are not aware of any consultation regarding this change. It also coincides with complaints about increased aircraft noise. In the Surrey Mirror, dated 31st July, there is an article where the Gatwick Chief Executive blames the additional aircraft noise on Heathrow. We have written to the Surrey Mirror to query this observation.

NATURAL AMENITIES

CHAIRMAN: COLIN BURBIDGE (01737) 245264

Priory Park.

Right of Way (ROW) from Bell Street to Morrisons. Having been approved at the last meeting of the Local Committee comprising both borough and county councillors the order has been signed. Objections to the Order could have been submitted up to late June after which the Secretary of State (SOS) can order a public inquiry depending on the number and type of objections received. It is thought that very few objections have been submitted. The SOS's decision is awaited with interest.

Repairs to the Priory building mentioned in the last newsletter continue but the current status of two structures within the school site for which planning approval was not sought is not known. The Society continues to monitor the activities on the school site.

Reigate Heath The regenerated heather in the Glade is showing what can be achieved by Ian Wright and his Countryside Team, with the help of the Reigate Area Conservation Volunteers (RACV). The works scheduled under the management plan continue with hopefully equally good outcomes.

Buckland Sand Pits. As reported in the previous edition sand extraction should have ceased by the end of August. There is no information on when the conversion of flooded pits into fishing lakes is occur.

Wray Common. The end of the second summer of the revised mowing regime is fast approaching. The two have seen widely contrasting weather patterns and this year's hay cut should not be delayed by an excess of rain. The areas were slightly modified this year to improve the area overall and aid the contractors. All involved regard the programme as a success.

Neither the expected replacement management plan for **Earlswood Common** or the promised management plan for **Redhill Common** have materialised but the new waste handling facility at the Earlswood Depot is now well under construction. It looks as if Surrey CC are to review the current Waste Plan and Reigate & Banstead are to review waste collection in an effort to increase recycling rates.

Subscription Payment / Banker's Order Form

NAME(S)

ADDRESS

Email

I enclose my subscription for 2014 /2015 Individual
(Cheques should be made payable to 'The Reigate Society') Family
(The rates are listed on page 3) Corporate

Please send me a Banker's Order form for payment of future subscriptions.

I also enclose my subscription for 2013 / 2014 Individual
Family
Corporate

(Please tick applicable)

If you are not a member and would like to join please tick here

Please send completed form to:
Robert Bogin, Townsend House, 64 Church Street, Reigate RH2 0SP (NL 109)

CORPORATE MEMBERS

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

	Address	Business
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)	
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 ¹ / ₂ 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	1 Castlefield 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

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: Robert Bogin, Townsend House, 64 Church Street, Reigate, RH2 0SP. Tel: 01737 248018



**MEMBERS' EVENING
MONDAY 6TH OCTOBER 2014 7.30P.M. for 8.00P.M.
REIGATE MANOR HOTEL, REIGATE HILL.**

**For tickets to this event please complete the top half of this form and return
the WHOLE PAGE as soon as possible with your remittance and a S.A.E.
ENVELOPE**

TO: MRS.M.DAMER, HEATHFIELD STABLES, REIGATE HEATH, SURREY RH2 8QR.

NAME(S):.....

I AM A MEMBER.

TEL. NO:

EMAIL:.....,

I/We apply for tickets @ £12.00 a head. Remittance Total

Cheques payable to the The Reigate Society.

THIS IS A TICKET ONLY EVENT



**MEMBERS' EVENING
MONDAY 6TH OCTOBER 2014
7.30P.M. FOR 8.00 P.M.
REIGATE MANOR HOTEL, REIGATE HILL**

NAME(..... S)

TICKET NUMBER(S).....

***THIS TICKET COVERS ADMISSION, A WELCOME GLASS OF WINE OR A SOFT
DRINK, AND FINGER BUFFET***

ADDITIONAL DRINKS AVAILABLE AT THE CASH BAR.

THIS IS A TICKET ONLY EVENT