

CHAIRMAN'S NOTES

It is concerning to report the instances of damage to the Society's sculpture in Priory Park, both appear to be vandalism. Repairs are in hand and should be covered by insurance. We ask all members to report any unruly activity in the Park.

The Society was contacted by members concerning the planned Ward Boundary changes within the Borough. We have written to the Ward Boundary Commission urging the retention of the Meadvale and St John's names and a more sensitive boundary to protect this historic and interesting village community. We are pleased that Reigate and Banstead Council have revised their recommendations to take the concerns of local residents into account.

We are greatly concerned that RBBC has withdrawn considerable support from Heritage Open days which means that many talks and displays at the Town hall will no longer take place. We understand that this decision was taken by the executive and approved by the Mayor. The Society has written to express our disappointment at this decision taken at such a late stage, just as the brochure was going to print. However, there are many events, talks and walks taking place at other venues throughout the Borough between 6th and 9th and 13th to 16th September. Details of everything are to be found in the excellent brochure and fliers which are available at libraries, shops and venues throughout Reigate, Redhill, and Merstham as well as Banstead, Kingswood, and Horley. The brochure can also be found on the Reigate Society website.

The planting of elm trees in Memorial Park, Redhill in memory of Eddie Waller and funded by his family, has had to await more suitable and wetter autumn weather as they would not have survived the long hot summer. The project is in hand with RBBC's Tree Officer and we will publish details in due course via the website: www.reigatesociety.org.uk

The Reigate and Banstead DMP Plan is now scheduled for independent inspection for the Secretary of State by a member of the Planning Inspectorate. The hearings start on 30th October 2018.

The closure of Reigate Garden Centre and proposed residential development of the site means the loss of yet more commercial property and employment. Heathfield Nurseries on Reigate Heath has also closed and residential development is also planned here. All this will put ever greater pressure on our green spaces.

Traffic problems, parking and road works continue to be a concern within the Borough as does the poor condition of many of our roads.

Michael Doughty Acting Chairman

SECRETARY'S NOTES

The 66th AGM of the Society was held on Monday 9th July at the Colman Redland Centre. We held a minute of silence to remember John Angel and John Chittenden both of whom had died during the year. Their dedicated work on behalf of the Society is sincerely appreciated by the Society and acknowledged in previous reports. The minutes of the 65th AGM in 2017 were approved and the Annual Report and Unaudited Accounts for the year 2017/18 were accepted.

With regard to the election of Chairman and Secretary, Michael and Bridget Doughty were willing to fill the roles as Acting Chairman and Secretary and this was accepted by the meeting. Michael explained that this would be the case until the end of December. In the event that there are still no volunteers to fill the roles of Vice Chairman, Chairman and Secretary then it will be necessary to begin the process of winding up the Reigate Society.

Robert Bogin continues as Treasurer and Registrar. The Council members retiring by rotation were John Cumberland, Sean Hawkins, David Paxman and Ian Stronge who were all re-elected. Alan Smith had retired from the Council after very many years and his support for the Society is greatly appreciated. Following the business of the AGM Dr Zully Grant Duff gave an interesting and enlightening presentation on 'Partnership in Local Government'. Members then enjoyed simple light refreshments and a social gathering to complete the evening.

We have not yet prepared a printed Reigate Society programme card for the year ahead. However, we do have dates booked for the year as follows:

Members Evening is on Monday 15th October.
7.30 for 8pm at the new venue: Redhill and Reigate Golf Club, Pendleton Road, Redhill. The ticket application form is attached to this newsletter so please send in your applications as soon as possible.

The first Open meeting is on November 12th at the Colman Redland Centre at the new time of 8 p.m. and our speaker is Jayne Dickinson, Principal of East Surrey College.

The next Open Meeting will be Monday 3rd December 8p.m. at the Colman Redland Centre with a talk entitled 'Railways around Redhill' by our speaker, Bruce Healey.

Open Meeting January 21st 2019 at 8pm
Open meeting February 25th 2019 at 8pm
Open Meeting March 25th 2019 at 8pm
2019 AGM 8th July 2019 at 8pm

As yet there are no speakers arranged for the 2019 dates. If you have suggestions for topics or speakers then please let me know. Better still, please offer your services to the Society as Programme Secretary!

Website and Facebook

The RS Facebook is now up to 100 'likes'.

Mrs Bridget Doughty (01737) 240974

TREASURER'S NOTES

Funds currently stand at £9322.96. The increase in funds for the year starting April 2018 is £3964.57 however much of the subscription income has been received whereas many of the expenses have not yet been paid out so this is a misleading figure. Subscriptions are £758 down on last year however in the year 2017, subscriptions in excess of this shortfall were received from September to November.

The current MINIMUM RATES are as follows:

| | |
|--------------------|-----|
| Individual Members | £10 |
| Family Members | £15 |
| Corporate Members | £30 |

Robert Bogin (01737) 248018

REGISTRAR'S NOTES

The number of members stands at 473 comprising 156 single memberships, 145 family memberships, 20 corporate and 6 others.

Since April there has been a net loss of 72 members and 52 memberships. This is mainly due to removal of members who had not paid their subscriptions for year ending March 31st 2018.

There is a subscription form for 2018-2019 membership at the back of this Newsletter for those who do not pay by standing order. There is also a Newsletter by email request form which is a very cost effective method of delivery for the Society.

Robert Bogin (Registrar)

Data Protection Notice

Home addresses, telephone and email addresses of all members of the Reigate Society plus a record of annual subscription payments are held in an electronic database by the Registrar. This file is password controlled and all prudent security measures are in place against outside access. These details are held in order to keep a record of payments and for delivery of newsletters. These details are not passed to any third party. Details of payments received are held in an electronic file by the Treasurer. 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 at the beginning of the new membership year. Payment of your annual subscription is assumed to be approval of your data being held as described above.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

ARCHITECTURE & PLANNING

CHAIRMAN: SIMON WALTER (01737) 243

As the year has progressed Reigate town centre has continued to change.

The large number of Italian restaurants has proven unsustainable, with Prezzo closing in July and Carluccio's earmarked for closure on Christmas Eve. Social media rumours that a branch of Nando's was to open on the former Prezzo site have been denied by the company. At the former picture-framing shop called The Gallery an application has been made to open a cafe of the same name. A link to the premises' former function will be retained by inviting artists to exhibit work for sale on its walls. On Church Street, the Valentina delicatessen and restaurant has stood empty for a year, but a licensing application has now been submitted for a tapas bar. The former Mint Velvet site on the High Street (next to the current store) remains unoccupied, but a new branch of Jo Malone has recently opened a few doors along. In the Grade II listed former Knights store development in Bell Street, the first of the new apartment conversions will go to market this month.

There is mixed news for Reigate gardeners and DIY enthusiasts. In spite of the recent announcement that a number of Homebase stores will be closing, the Reigate branch will remain trading. In South Park, the Reigate Garden Centre held a grand closing down sale this summer as planning permission has now been granted for 17 houses to be built on the site. In Flanchford Road, the former Heathfield nursery site will, we are told, be the subject of various applications for residential development, although formal applications have yet to be submitted.

Not all residential schemes have met with success, however, such as the application to create six flats at the rear of 77 Bell Street, which was refused on the grounds that they were "cramped over-development of the site" harmful to the area's character. Also refused was the application to construct a block of seven apartments to the rear of 36 Reigate Road, which had met with objections from Reigate and Banstead Highways, Refuse, the Tree Officer, the Reigate Society Architecture and

Planning Committee, and 149 neighbouring properties.

After three attempts to gain planning permission, McDonalds has finally gained approval to expand and upgrade its Salfords drive-thru restaurant. The planning officer found that detriment to the Green Belt was outweighed by benefits including job provision and restoration of the locally-listed building.

Buckland Lake Park was given the green light to provide outdoor recreational activities, a cafe and picnic area. The lake is already used by open-water swimming groups, and for stand-up paddling and fishing but the further restoration of the former quarry pit should be a benefit to local residents.

In other park news, we are sad to report that the Reigate Society 60th Anniversary sculpture in Priory Park has been vandalised, with both the brick plinth and sculpture itself sustaining damage. They will be repaired in due course. On a happier note, the grass area which had been damaged by the Christmas fair has since recovered.

We encourage you to consider nominating a project from the Borough for the annual Civic Awards. A project must demonstrate a high standard of design and make a positive contribution to their area. All nominations should have been completed within the past 12 months. Anyone who would like to nominate a project should contact the Chairman by post or email simon.walter1957@gmail.com. Nomination forms and full details are available on our website, and judging will take place in the next few weeks.

REDHILL COMMITTEE report**“PLANNING WALKS IN OCTOBER”**

Your Redhill Committee is still working to improve the planners' Development Management Plan (DMP) at <http://www.reigate-banstead.gov.uk/DMP>

Amongst policies for employment areas, town and local centres, infrastructure, transport, amenities and “green infrastructure”, this plan selects preferred sites for building most of the new homes required for the next 15 years.

Where should these new homes go? In the Green Belt or in existing urban areas, or both? And what types of dwellings should be built?

These decisions will affect our roads, schools, shopping centres and natural environment, not to mention pollution and what it feels like to live in our area.

We're planning a series of “planning walks” to show what these changes could mean – these will be participatory walks along the lines of the Central Redhill walk we did last September.

Please note these Saturday mornings in your diary – we'll be publicising details nearer the time:

11am-1pm on Saturdays 13, 20 and 27 October, and Saturday 3 November.

These dates overlap the start of the Planning Inspector's Examination of the DMP in November.

A Planning Inspector has been appointed to examine the DMP in public at the Town Hall from November 1st. We hope to present our arguments **against** unnecessary development in our Green Belt and **for** better design policies for the higher density housing that is planned in town.

We see no need to overwhelm Redhill Town Centre with more tower blocks.

To meet the government's housing targets, the planners propose multi-home Sustainable Urban Extensions (SUEs). You can read some of the latest “master plans” put forward by developers for these SUEs:

- Gallagher Estates' vision for the Copyhold site on the north side of the A25 to the east of Redhill: http://www.reigate-banstead.gov.uk/downloads/file/4434/rbbc_representor_0139_1_redhill_vision

- Berkeley Estates' plan for the Hillsbrow site on the south side of the A25 going east out of Redhill: http://www.reigate-banstead.gov.uk/downloads/file/4452/rbbc_representor_0136

The planners also propose major sites in Merstham, South Park and Woodhatch.

The Inspector has a quasi-judicial role. She's there to make sure the planners follow the rules and stay consistent with the Core Plan they adopted in 2014. So we can't just object on principle – for example, to oppose any Green Belt development. Instead, we have to show how the plan isn't (yet) **positive, justified and effective**, and also **consistent** with national policy.

For example, is the evidence strong enough to justify “Sustainable Urban Extensions” (large new housing estates) up Redstone Hill? Or to “safeguard” for future housing a huge area of Green Belt both east and south of East Surrey Hospital (the mis-named ‘Redhill Aerodrome site’)?

Anyone can attend the DMP Examination, so come along and support us – contact me for dates and times, or for any further information.

Meanwhile, your committee members continue to engage the council and responsible property owners about improving our town centre, including street cleaning and recycling, traffic flows and cycling, green corridors and public art.

Do let me know what you'd like to see improved.

Ian Stronge
redhill.chairman@reigatesociety.org.uk

TRAINS

The new Southern/Thameslink timetable had major problems when it came into operation in May. Much of the blame for this was put onto Network Rail for delivering the timetables too late to realise that there would be crew rostering problems although the Department for Transport and Southern/Thameslink also deserve a share of the blame. An amended timetable was introduced in July which seems to have worked reasonably well.

The Community Rail committees for Reigate to Reading and for Reigate to Tonbridge are attended by a member of the Transport Committee. GWR are occasionally running 2 car trains on the Reading line which is a retrograde step in view of the overcrowding on some services. We are promised dual mode diesel/electric 4 car trains for the line by autumn 2019. The introduction of a 3 train per hour service in each direction between Reading and Redhill is on hold pending investigations by Network Rail into safety of level crossings and for a rail capacity investigation in the Reigate area. Through both Community Rail forums, we are making the position of Reigate level crossing clear, opposing the extra service because of the resultant road congestion. Our comments have been 'taken on board' at both meetings but we are not sure how much effect this will have.

The former goods shed at Hockley Business Park is still under threat. The developers have submitted a revised planning application.

ROADS

Summer is the high season for roadworks and there have been a number of road closures in the borough. The number of potholes is still far too high with the A25 remaining as one of the worst examples.

Plans to widen the A23 in Hooley to cut the jams have been opposed by local residents. The alternative of a roundabout at the top end of the M23 has been put forward as a counter suggestion.

PLANES

There appears to be an increase in noise over some parts of Reigate from Heathrow routes.

BUSES

From 1st September, there are a moderate number of timetable changes with the following notes taken from the Surrey County Council website:

100: will have extended night services.
 324: Revised route operating Horley Air Balloon to Horley Row via Vicarage Lane. No longer serving Hookwood – see replacement service 622 serving Hookwood, Mill Lane and Lee Street.
 357/657: Revised timetable. Journeys no longer operate via Queensway in Redhill. Saturday service introduced between Caterham Station and Redhill / Reigate to replace withdrawal of service 424 from Timperley Gardens area on Saturdays.
 00, 420, 460 and 820: changes to 'improve reliability'.

422: New service operating hourly Mon – Sat between Reigate, Meadvale, Woodhatch, Dovers Green, Westvale Park, Horley, Gatwick Airport and Crawley. In conjunction with service 424, gives two buses per hour from Westvale Park to Horley town centre.

424: Revised route operating Mon – Sat hourly Redhill, Earlswood, East Surrey Hospital, Meadvale, Woodhatch, Dovers Green, Westvale Park, Horley, Smallfield, Copthorne and Crawley. Passengers from Timperley Gardens area of Redhill can use enhanced service 357 operating Mon – Sat. Woodhatch areas will be covered by new service 422. Will no longer serve Whitebushes.

622: New schooldays only service replacing service 324 in Hookwood and operating Crawley, Hookwood, Westvale Park, Dovers Green, Meadvale, Reigate and St Bede's School, Redhill.

NATURAL AMENITIES**CHAIRMAN:****COLIN BURBIDGE (01737) 245264**

Little seems to have changed outwardly since this time last year as far as management of open spaces in the borough is concerned. There are still no Management Plans in place for Reigate Heath or Earlswood and Redhill Commons and one can only speculate at what plans there might be for Priory Park. A recent report about Finsbury Park highlighted the question of whether a park should be a pleasure ground or a profit centre? This

immediately highlighted parallels with RBBC and what is happening to our own green spaces. We should all be asking the same question and be very careful to ensure that we don't lose some valuable assets for the sake of 'a quick buck'.

Waste Strategy. It is understood that the amended plan is likely to be submitted to the Secretary of State during the autumn.

The Reigate Society

President: Nicholas Owen

Chairman: Michael Doughty, Garthlands, Sandy Lane, Reigate, RH2 8QU.

Tel: 01737 240974

Hon. Secretary: Mrs B Doughty, Garthlands, Sandy Lane, Reigate, RH2 8QU.

Tel: 01737 240974

Hon. Treasurer: Robert Bogin, Townsend House, 64 Church Street, Reigate, RH2 0SP.

Tel: 01737 248018

CORPORATE MEMBERS

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

| | | | |
|--------------------------------------|---|------------------------|--|
| All About You (Lingerie) Ltd | 19b High Street RH2 9AA | (242860) | Lingerie, Hosiery & Swimwear |
| Care Homes of Distinction Ltd | Wray Park, 55 Alma Road RH2 0DN | (248245) | 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 RH1 2JX | (772611) | |
| Franchise Accounting Services Ltd | 48 Nutfield Road, Merstham RH1 3EP | (649839) | Accountancy |
| Holmesdale Building Society | 43 Church Street RH2 0AE | (245716) | Local building society(mortgages & investments) |
| La Barbe Restaurant | 71 Bell Street RH2 7AN | (241966) | Restaurant & outside catering |
| Micklefield School | 10 Somers Road RH2 9DU | (242615) (224211/2) | Independent preparatory school boys & girls aged 2 1/2 to 11 |
| Reigate Architects | 59 Nutley Lane RH2 9HP | (222099) | Architecture & sustainability |
| Reigate Grammar School | Reigate Road RH2 0QS | (222231) | Grammar School |
| Reigate Heath Golf Club | Reigate Heath RH2 8QR | (226793) | |
| 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 Albert & Alexandra School | Gatton Park RH2 0TW | (649050) | Boarding school for boys & girls Aged 7 to 18 |
| Stanton Construction | 1 Castlefield Road RH2 0SA | (227430) | Development & construction service to the health 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 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 |

SUBSCRIPTION FORM

NAME(S):

ADDRESS:

.....

EMAIL:

I enclose our subscription for 2018/2019

Individual £10

Cheques to 'The Reigate Society'

Family £15

Corporate £30

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

NEWSLETTER BY EMAIL REQUEST FORM

I would like to receive the Reigate Society Newsletter by email in future

NAME(S):

EMAIL ADDRESS:



MEMBERS' EVENING

MONDAY 15th OCTOBER 2018 7.30pm for 8.00pm.

REDHILL and REIGATE GOLF CLUB, PENDLETON ROAD, REDHILL.

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.B.DOUGHTY.GARTHLANDS, SANDY LANE, REIGATE, RH2 8QU.

NAME(S):.....

I AM A MEMBER.....

Telephone:.....EMAIL:.....

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

Remittance Total Cheques: The Reigate Society.

MEMBERS' EVENING MONDAY 15th OCTOBER 2018

REDHILL and REIGATE GOLF CLUB, PENDLETON ROAD, REDHILL

7.30P.M. FOR 8.00P.M.

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