



Newsletter No. 122 December 2018

CHAIRMAN'S NOTES

The Reigate Society remains an important voice and conduit of information for our local area. Recently we have been contacted via the website by a previous resident whose father did some valuable research work for the past Chamber of Commerce. We have been able to connect them to today's Business Guild who are keen to learn more of the history of business in the Borough and we hope to ensure the preservation of some important historical resource. Other contacts include a group wishing to visit from outside the area to conduct a walk in Reigate to appreciate its architecture and history. As Redhill's latest phase of development takes shape the town's history and the preservation of amenities for the local residents become of increasing importance. There is still much for the Society to do.

The Members Evening this year on October 15th was held at a new venue this year, the Redhill and Reigate Golf Club, Pendleton Road, Redhill. This was an enjoyable and successful evening. The buffet was excellent and very good value at just £12.50 a ticket (cost price) including a welcome drink. You will read more of the Civic Awards and presentation elsewhere and I hope you have seen the article in the Surrey Mirror (Nov 1st pages 32 – 33).

We were also pleased with Mark Davison's article in the Surrey Mirror on October 18th (pages 24 – 25) which gave an excellent history of the Society with several pictures. It also presented the ongoing work of the Society today and its urgent need for new officers to come forward.

Redhill's history was founded on the railways and we look forward to Bruce Healey's talk on 'Railways around Redhill' on Monday 3rd December. The printed guide for the Iron Railways Walk is now available thanks to Bruce with Suzanne Stronge and Mad Ideas the printers.

We are pleased to see that work has now begun on the Angel at Woodhatch and will monitor this development closely.

I have been actively seeking new members and people who will take the Society forwards and consider taking on the positions of Chairman, Vice Chairman and Secretary. As yet the quest is still ongoing. Some positive ideas and suggestions have been offered, however, the urgent need is for practical administrative help. We have been pleased to develop connections with East Surrey College, one of our Corporate Members and look forward to co-operating further. We would also welcome more dialogue with other Corporate Members in an effort to broaden activities and to explore possibilities for supporting the Society for the future.

The Society continues to voice concern for our local environment and recently I have written to RBBC to express our concerns on a licensing application for a Beer Festival and Entertainment in Priory Park. Our representation included 7 recommendations to the Council to ensure the protection of the park from damage and misuse.

Michael C.Doughty Acting Chairman

SECRETARY'S NOTES

We hope this newsletter will arrive to you before Christmas. Perhaps we should call it the 'Winter Newsletter' in case delivery has to happen in January! The preparation, collation, printing and distribution involves a number of people and occasionally deadlines need to be a little flexible. We are grateful to the teams of distributors who hand deliver newsletters across the Borough, saving postage costs and also keeping an eye on their local area at the same time..

On October 25th a meeting of the Council of the Reigate Society took place at the Holmesdale Natural History Museum. In addition to reports from the committees the September Heritage Open Days were discussed. This year HODS was spread over two weekends and it was felt that this had an adverse effect on numbers attending, especially for those venues opening on the second weekend. This was the same date as the Reigate Marathon which closed many roads in the area. Venues should look carefully at the dates for 2019 which cover 10 consecutive days 13th to 22nd September. For further information should visit the national website at www.heritageopendays.org.uk.. As part of a HODS working Group the Society's part for the past two years has been the brochure. A small number of us then provided distribution of thousands of fliers and some 5,000 brochures across the Borough. At this stage it is unclear if we can continue this involvement especially as it seems the Town Hall's support will be lacking. Venues or individuals wanting to run an event register themselves with the National Heritage Open Days organisation and are responsible for their own arrangements. The Reigate Society supports the opening of The Undercroft in West Street led by Alan Mortlock and helpers. Other Reigate Society members are involved as individuals with walks and talks and at many of the venues.

The November 12th Open Meeting was a presentation by Jayne Dickinson, Principal and

Chief Executive of East Surrey College, The subject was East Surrey College – an exploration of the life and times of a local vocational college' and was a lively and informative evening. We have been warmly invited to hold one of our Open Meetings at the College and have a tour of their prestigious building. We will try to arrange this early in 2019. Watch out for news on the website: www.reigatesociety.org.uk. Also look out for a poster. At present topics and speakers are not confirmed for January and February.

Future dates:

21st January 2019 – Open meeting 8p.m. Speaker and topic TBC

25th February 2019 – Open Meeting 8p.m. Speaker and topic TBC

7th March 2019 – Council Meeting 7.30 p.m.

25th March 2019 – Open Meeting –'Jeremiah Colman of Gatton Park' Speaker Alan Mortlock.

The Reigate Society is a member of the Surrey Hills Society, We have a membership card and I can pass this to the custodianship of a member who would like to keep up to date with their events on behalf of the Society. Help is needed: I continue to appeal for a new Secretary.

Website and Facebook

The website has been rehosted on to a different server. The user should not notice a difference.

Bridget Doughty

(01737) 240974

TREASURER'S NOTES

Balance of funds is £7543.40 which shows an increase of £2185 for the year to date. Subscriptions stand at £4209 against last year £4319

Last year there was a sculpture cost of £522 but this year only £72 repair bill Insurance has not yet been paid for the year which was £283 last year

This year to date there have been no lecture fees whereas last year they totalled £264 There was a reduction of £225 for hall hire and no programme has been printed to date

The current MINIMUM RATES are as follows:

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

Robert Bogin

(01737) 248018

REGISTRAR'S NOTES

Total number of memberships is 329 consisting of
477 individual members
Single memberships are 156
Family memberships are 147
Corporate memberships are 20
Other memberships 6

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

(Acting 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: TIM LEE (01737) 243540

In October, Simon Walter stood down as the chair of the Architecture and Planning Committee. We thank him for over two years' hard work, and look forward to his continued input and support. Tim Lee RIBA takes over as chair and is relishing the opportunity to get involved in discussions over local planning decisions.

There were a number of contenders for the Architecture and Planning Civic Awards this year. Two awards and one commendation were made at the Members' Evening dinner in October. The commendation was given to Reigate Parish School for their new extension which enabled it to convert from Infant to Primary provision. The construction and detailing were felt to be unfussy and well executed. An award was presented to St John's for a new facility providing a range of interior spaces for Church and community use. The galleried entrance and double-height top-lit entrance lobby create a welcoming approach, while the traditional

design and materials complimentary to the original church building. The second recipient of an award was the new Harrison Centre at Reigate Grammar School. This large modern building acts as a point of focus in the centre of Reigate Grammar School's large campus. Clearly an expensive building, the quality of materials, detailing and construction inside and out are of a very high standard. Manually and electrically operated ventilators on opposing sides of the narrow plan form provide effective natural cross-ventilation. The building is set back on its triangular site behind an apron of semi-public land incorporating hard and soft landscaping. This provides a pedestrian link across the campus space to stop and relax and an enhanced setting to the existing war memorial.

A number of war memorials and lychgates in the Borough have been awarded Grade II listing marking the centenary of the World War I armistice. These include the St John's Redhill War

Memorial, lychgates at Emmanuel Church, Dover's Green, and St Andrew's Church in Reigate, as well as the Merstham War Memorial on School Hill.

There is no slow-down in the pace of change to Reigate High Street with Carluccio's (which was due to close at Christmas) having already cleared its tables and chicken chain Nandos to replace Prezzo pizzeria. Happily, the plans submitted for Nando's signage make provision for repairing and restoring the front elevation. Jo Malone and The Gallery cafe have recently taken up residency, while the address of the former Mint Velvet store is now registered to Hadleighs, a newly-incorporated watch retailer.

In Reigate's Priory Park, plans have been submitted for three-day music, food and beer festival. Earlier in the year an application for a 'blanket licence' was unanimously quashed by

councillors on the authority's licensing committee. The Architecture and Planning Committee is concerned with putting a break on 'inappropriate' activity, regardless of whether or not it is a commercial proposition. Permission to operate an ice rink this year has been denied, after extensive ground-repair works following last year's installation. Also in Priory Park, the Reigate Society 60th Anniversary sculpture has now been repaired following an act of vandalism.

Slightly further afield, Gatwick airport has published a draft master plan which allows for dozens of extra flights every day. Controversially, the airport has held six public exhibitions, of which only one, in Horley, is close to Gatwick. A spokesman for local pressure group Communities Against Gatwick Noise Emission accused the airport of being underhand by holding events in Brighton and Croydon, as opposed to locally.

REDHILL

CHAIRMAN: IAN STRONGE

(REDHILL.CHAIRMAN@REIGATESOCIETY.ORG.UK)

TOWN CENTRE

Now the enlargement of Sainsbury's is complete, other tall buildings are going up around Redhill Town Centre.

Opposite the station, a residential tower replaces the nightclub (originally the 1938 Odeon Cinema, closed 1975). Just south along Marketfield Way, Solum are building a smaller block to replace the Youth Hall. The Council's own redevelopment of Marketfield Way car park and the adjoining High Street shops is supposed to start next year, once a Compulsory Purchase Order has displaced reluctant freeholders.

Beyond Reading Arch Bridge, a planning application for another large residential block is anticipated for the (mainly) Council freeholds along Reading Arch Road.

Further south along Brighton Road: (a) opposite the petrol station, Furness House is to be converted from offices to 72 1- and 2-bed apartments; (b) an application seeks to replace units at the corner of Brook Road with a block of 48 flats; (c) the promoters of 4 residential blocks for 49 1-and 2-bed apartments on Hockley Industrial Centre by the rail bridge on Hooley Lane (won on appeal two years ago) are now applying to add a further 11 flats.

Finally, having let their 2014 permission lapse, Solum are preparing to re-apply to build residential blocks for 300 flats on the station car parks either side of the railway line.

Smaller developments have increased accommodation above the shops along the High Street as it turns into Cromwell Road, and the Abbot Public House is to be converted to residential with an extra floor added.

Opposite the station, a residential tower replaces the nightclub (originally the 1938 Odeon Cinema, closed 1975). Just south along Marketfield Way, Solum are building a smaller block to replace the Youth Hall. The Council's own redevelopment of Marketfield Way car park and the adjoining High Street shops is supposed to start next year, once a Compulsory Purchase Order has displaced reluctant freeholders.

So long as the Borough is forced to chase the government's mandatory housing targets, it's welcome to have these new developments on brownfield sites within the urban area, rather than in the surrounding Green Belt. But it's regrettable that Council Planners have abandoned any attempt at a Town Centre Master Plan. Instead, developers are being allowed to build high and shiny with little thought for the overall effect on the town centre, little regard for design quality and still less for "green infrastructure".

There's still an opportunity to create a coherent Master Plan for low-rise, high density development across the area running south from Reading Arch Bridge to the Mill Street cross roads, rather than accumulate an uncoordinated set of large residential blocks.

Our Town lies along a watercourse within a valley surrounded by green hills, with a valuable history of light industry and some notable heritage buildings. Where are the protected views and green corridors that would allow us to enjoy these benefits? If our Town Centre is to host a vibrant economy, it should be a pleasure to walk to and from a crossroads that offers more than a pub or café lunch for office workers and a weekly shop for those who can afford Sainsburys.

GREEN BELT

Meanwhile, the surrounding Green Belt remains under threat. In November, a Planning Inspector held an examination in public of the Council's Development Management Plan (DMP). The DMP follows on from the 2014 Core Plan by identifying individual development sites, and the infrastructure and amenities to support them.

At the hearing, the developers continually represented an apparent shortfall in housing completions (it depends how you count them) as a reason to allow more "flexibility" to build in the Green Belt without waiting to complete available (but less straightforward) brownfield sites in the urban area.

Disappointingly, the planners seemed willing to water down our Council's long-standing policy of insisting on brownfield first before releasing any of the identified Green Belt sites - Copyhold, Hillsbrow, East Surrey Hospital, and the so-called "Redhill Aerodrome" Garden Village.

Following the Inspector's examination, there will be a brief opportunity to comment on their final draft of the DMP in the next few weeks. Please do.

Thank you to those who joined us for our planning walks. There will be more in the spring. Don't wait till then to tell your Redhill Committee what to preserve and what needs improving – just email.

TRANSPORT

CHAIRMAN:

BRUCE HEALEY (01737) 24057

TRAINS:

The revised Thameslink timetable has settled down; the services deleted in June are intended to have been reinstated by the December timetable update.

We have some assurances from the Community Rail Partnership meetings that prior to introducing three trains per hour each way between Reading and Redhill, the issue of congestion at the Reigate level crossing will be discussed at a Surrey County Council meeting.

Victoria Station will be closed to Southern trains between 23 December and 2 January. Work also continues on improving the infrastructure between Three Bridges and Brighton. On Saturday 16 to Sunday 24 February 2019, no trains will run between Three Bridges and Brighton or between Three Bridges and Lewes. There will be other weekend closures up to May 2019.

Consultation has started into improving capacity through East Croydon. Two extra platforms are proposed there with a greater number of approach tracks. Additional grade separated junctions are proposed north of East Croydon and South of Purley. The additional platform at Reigate to accommodate 12 car Thameslink trains is allied to this scheme. We understand that should Platform

3 at Reigate go ahead that there will be a modest increase in car parking spaces rather than the originally planned reduction.

From time to time, a project called HS4AIR promotes itself. This privately proposed initiative would be a new high speed line which would run from Ashford International Station to HS2 via Gatwick and Heathrow Airports. The suggested route would run to the west of Dorking. Details can be found on the internet. This is still at the proposal stage, the scheme has not been presented to Parliament.

ROADS:

The County Council have been busy resurfacing roads in the area. We wonder why it takes until mid-summer to start addressing the previous winter's potholes.

GATWICK:

Proposals to use the main taxiway as a second runway have been raised. If permitted, this will increase the number of flights without increasing the footprint of the airport. As with most such proposals, the surrounding infrastructure will be expected to cope with the increased traffic.

BUSES:

No change since the last report.

NATURAL AMENITIES

CHAIRMAN:

COLIN BURBIDGE (01737) 245264

It is understood that the amended **Waste Strategy** plan is unlikely to be submitted to the Secretary of State before winter/spring 2019.

A new Countryside team is emerging since Cllr Fulton has become the portfolio holder. Lee Wilcox is the leader and changes have been most evident on Reigate Heath where proper work programmes

are now being followed. As a result a winter push is planned by RACV and it is understood that funding by Natural England is to continue. However little seems to have changed outwardly since this time last year as far as Earlswood and Redhill Commons are concerned where the trend towards it becoming an urban park appears to continue.

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

Note that 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 for 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: