



**Newsletter No. 123    April 2019**

## **CHAIRMAN'S NOTES**

The work of the Reigate Society continues to be relevant and having a voice in the changing times of the local area remains as important today as it has always been in the life of the Society. We were reminded of this by our President, Nicholas Owen, at our January Open meeting where he shared with us a Society Annual Report of several decades ago.

Although we have yet to find a new Chairman and Secretary, I have spoken to several individuals who have expressed interest and I will continue to pursue discussion about the future leadership.

I have been pleased that we have been able to fill the Society calendar of Open meetings for the 2018/19 year with such a good variety of subjects and have received many positive comments from members and others who have attended. We have also received support and encouragement from several of our Corporate Members. Please continue to publicize the Reigate Society to friends, neighbours and work colleagues and encourage them to consider the possibility of being involved in the leadership of their Civic Society. You will see from the reports in the newsletter examples of the local issues where the Society can have a voice. There is much scope to develop the Society further but this needs more volunteers.

We are sorry to know that Ian Stronge has resigned as Chairman of the Redhill Committee and also as a member of the Reigate Society Council. We thank him for his active participation and for organising and leading Redhill Town walks promoting green corridors and good design ideas for the area. The Redhill Committee will be meeting to find a new Chairman in due course.

I have heard from Nigel Ellis of RBBC that the planting of elm trees in the Memorial Park in Redhill which are in memory of Eddie Waller is expected to take place during April when weather conditions are most suitable.

We continue to monitor the protection of 'The Angel' in Woodhatch which is now being converted to residential accommodation. This is one of the oldest buildings in Reigate. Similarly The White Lion, said to be the oldest pub in Redhill dating back to the 16<sup>th</sup> Century, has closed and planning permission for residential development has been applied for. The White Lion is also being closely monitored by the Society. A careful watch is kept on our Green Spaces, too, so that natural habitats as well as recreational amenities for all local residents are maintained and protected. We hope to promote better communication with our local Council, Reigate and Banstead, and also Surrey County Council so that the local voice can be heard.

**Michael C.Doughty    Acting Chairman**

## SECRETARY'S NOTES

Despite having no printed programme for the Society for 2018 to 2019, our Open Meetings have taken place and have been very well attended. Thanks to our Speakers we have had a varied and most interesting series of talks. Bruce Healey's talk in December on Railways Around Redhill was a very popular topic. In January Alan Mortlock brought the personality and work of Jeremiah Colman of Gatton Park to life.

Then, in February, 8 to 10 Bell Street, Reigate, or the Knights building as we often refer to it, was the subject of a detailed talk by Sarah Sullivan, historic building and conservation specialist, who was actively involved in the uncovering of the historic features of the site before its renovation and redevelopment. As the numbers were expected to be high for the February meeting we had to find another venue and fortunately St Mary's Church Centre in Chart Lane was available. Well over 100 people attended and the evening was very successful. Society information and membership forms were distributed to many potential new members. We were grateful for the assistance given to us by the St Mary's team in preparing the chairs and clearing away afterwards. The March meeting on 25<sup>th</sup> promises to be informative and entertaining with Sean Hawkins giving us a portrait of Early Ballooning in Surrey.

Thank you to all Speakers.

We have been able to publish some of our news in the Surrey Mirror which helps to spread the word about the Society to potential new members. It was also encouraging to see the interesting article on Hilary House in Warwick Road, Redhill produced by Gerry Moss, which featured prominently in the Surrey Mirror a short while ago.

I am grateful to those members who have helped to publicize our Open Meetings. All members are also asked to keep in mind the need to find new and younger members, particularly anyone interested in taking a leadership role in the Reigate Society

A Reigate Society Council meeting was held on 7<sup>th</sup> March.

The Annual General Meeting of the Reigate Society is to be held on Monday 8<sup>th</sup> July at the Colman Centre at 8p.m. The Agenda and Annual Report are expected to be with you at the beginning of June.

### Website and Facebook

Nothing to report.

**Bridget Doughty**

**(01737) 240974**

## TREASURER'S NOTES

Funds stand at £7055 of which £684 relates to subscriptions for year 2018-2019. A donation of £300 was received from the family of Eddie Waller which is to finance tree planting in Redhill Memorial Park. The cost of these trees will be met in 2019-2020 so this donation has been shown as a current year receipt in advance. Net funds for 2017-2018 are therefore £6071.

This represents an increase of £713 which is a satisfactory result.

The current level of subscriptions is up £541 on the previous year.

The current MINIMUM RATES are as follows:

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

**Robert Bogin**

**(01737) 248018**

## REGISTRAR'S NOTES

Number of members stands at 484 comprising 158 single memberships, 149 family memberships, 21 corporate and 6 others.

Of these, 88 members (63 memberships) have not paid their subs for 2018-2019.

Reminders will be sent but in the absence of payment, their memberships will cease. We have gained 9 new members in the last year.

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: TIM LEE (01737) 243540

Tim Lee, the new chair of the Architecture and Planning Committee has now fully taken over from Simon Walter, and continues to lead discussions on local planning applications and quality of the local built environment. Following on from the awarding of two awards and one commendation for last year's Architecture and Planning Civic Awards at the members' evening dinner in October, the Architecture and Planning Committee are continuing to look for suitable candidates for this year's award. Nominations of quality designed and built buildings completed this year are welcomed. Planning applications: Plans to cut the size of a tarmac runway and taxiway at Redhill Aerodrome

have been submitted to Reigate and Banstead Borough Council, three-and-a-half years after it was extended without planning permission. The Planning and Architectural Committee had no further comment against this application. A planning application has been refused for an illuminated sign and small awning to Bills Restaurant on Bell Street. The Conservation officer raised objection to the sign as harmful to the character of the Conservation Area due to its obtrusive character and non-traditional nature. It has been the opinion of the Architectural and Planning Committee that a few opportunities to provide the required amount of affordable housing

have been passed in some recent multiple unit applications submitted. This was echoed in an article by Surrey live that stated that just four per cent of large housing developments granted planning permission in Reigate and Banstead in the last five years has met the affordable homes target. This will continue to be monitored by the committee on future developments of over 15 units in the future. The Committee will try to strengthen connections with the planning department at Reigate and Banstead Borough Council in order to make sure that the Committee is given the opportunity to comment on all relevant planning applications. This may mean setting up regular meetings with the Planning Department to review the algorithm that is applied to the selection of applications. A planning application has been lodged in February by a developer to convert The Grade II listed White Lion pub in Linkfield Street into three self-contained apartments and construction of two new four bedroom semi-detached houses following its sudden closure in September last year. The Committee will be discussing this application in their next meeting on Monday 18th March. The pub dates to the 16th Century and was thought to have been the longest-running drinking establishment in the town. Plans for the extension and redevelopment of the empty

Abbot pub in Redhill opposite the Redhill railway station have been unanimously approved by Reigate and Banstead Borough Council's planning committee. Other local Architecture and Planning news: The High street has continued to be a subject of change as the Blue Anchor pub in West Street, and the Red Cross Inn in the High Street, closed on Friday 11th January 2019 with the company owning them, Akita Investments Limited, going into liquidation. The pubs new operators have since reported that they will be back open soon. The Redhill & Reigate Golf Club will close at the end of March 2019 after 130 years. It was Surrey's second oldest golf club and the clubhouse, which is privately owned and a separate entity, will continue to operate as a venue. Assurances have been given by Reigate & Banstead Borough Council, who own the land that the Redhill & Reigate Golf Club course will not be built on. Finally, on behalf of all members of the Architecture and Planning Committee, I would like to express our gratitude to Ian Stronge for his hard work and diligence in his role as Chair of the Redhill Committee over the past two years. We wish him all the best for the future.

## REDHILL

At present the Committee is 'taking stock' of its position following the recent resignation of the Chairman, Ian Stronge, due to time pressures. There was no meeting in January and therefore little to report since the last newsletter. We hope there will be more news available in advance of the production of the Reigate Society Annual Report in June.

We can report that, thanks to the work of Gerry Moss, Sainsbury's Store in Redhill does now have a bag recycling bin and used batteries bin.

Whilst the following is not a Reigate Society project, members will be interested to know that there has been an exploratory meeting of several interested parties to discuss the potential of a 175 years celebration of Redhill. The idea is popular and a planning group has been formed but it is not known if enough practical help will be available to follow up on this. However, it is encouraging that both The Belfry and The Harlequin have expressed interest in providing space for a 'Museum of Redhill'.

This year's National Heritage Open Days are being expanded to run for ten days from 13-22 September. The theme is 'People Power'.

## TRANSPORT

**CHAIRMAN:**

**BRUCE HEALEY (01737) 24057**

Southern/Thameslink services seem to have settled down with the new Peterborough/Cambridge services operating largely to plan.

The upgrade of the Brighton line, which required a 9 day closure between Three Bridges and Brighton/Lewes in February passed off with little fuss apart from a rail replacement bus hitting a tree and injuring some passengers. There is still some more to do but basically the work is complete and we should be able to look forward to

fewer 'rail replacement bus' days.

The implementation of the 3 trains per hour service between Reading and Redhill is still pending. The Reigate Society are pressing for changes to the signalling system which would mean that despite the two extra trains each way, the gates would only be closed for approximately the same amount of time each hour. It is far from certain that we will get this change as it is being resisted by Network Rail. The 3 trains per hour service is still some way off as Network Rail need

to implement safety improvements at a number of foot crossings to allow the extra trains to go ahead.

The proposal from Gatwick Airport to use their taxiway as an additional runway seem to have gone quiet.

The company Buses Excetera buses were reported to have gone out of business. Route 489 between Merstham and Leatherhead appears to have stopped running and a number of school bus services are also affected.

## NATURAL AMENITIES

CHAIRMAN: COLIN BURBIDGE (01737) 245264

It is understood that the amended **Waste Strategy** plan will probably be subject to an inquiry during the autumn of 2019.

The new Countryside team has continued to evolve but it has become clear that Borough Groups are now resourced by Officers.

As a result Group members have been reminded that membership has responsibilities and accountability and should not act outside the Management Plans.

**Reigate Heath Steering Group** is under revision. The new staff are integrating well and work on the ground is proceeding nicely. The Management Plan (MP) is now in at least its 4<sup>th</sup> version and is still not a useable plan which the Executive were pushing to adopt in early March.

On **Earlswood Common** The golf club is in administration and the future of the course is yet to be resolved. This committee has adopted the view that as most of the Common is safeguarded under various protection orders the open areas should remain as such because the environmental and wider community benefits would far outweigh the continuing presence of the golf course.

## 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):.....

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.....

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I enclose our subscription for 2018/2019

Individual £10 .....

Cheques to 'The Reigate Society'

Family £15 .....

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

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