

Folly



SHOP SAFE SHOP LOCAL

More than ever it is important to support local businesses and our wonderful town. The council have issued some tips when heading into town.

- 1** Stay alert, mindful of other people
- 2** Walk and cycle into town if possible
- 3** Follow the signs
- 4** Use hand sanitiser
- 5** Use Contactless payment if possible

WELCOME BACK

Welcome back to the Folly. It has been a little while since we published our last edition and there have been so many changes to the world we live in. In this edition we introduce our new chairman who was thrown into the deep end, dealing with a cycle lane improvement by Active Travel and the ongoing challenges brought to all businesses with the current Coronavirus pandemic.

Our membership is as strong as ever and we must unite to support each other going forward.



ACTIVE TRAVEL

Our Guild played a huge part in supporting the more positive aspects of the temporary Surrey County Council Active Travel measures and acted quickly to raise Members' concerns regarding the cycle lane in the town centre which closed off essential loading bays, removed disabled parking and made it very difficult for emergency services to get through the town.

Communication and at the very least notification of change is vital to enable all of us to plan for the future. We must look forward and work with key stakeholders on these projects. We have been working with Reigate & Banstead Borough Council on the Town Improvement Fund and have already taken steps in producing a Town Improvement Page (more on that later) on our website where the whole community can have their say on ways to improve the town for all.



AGM UPDATE

Although this happened a lot later this year and with less members in attendance, Our AGM went ahead on 25th June. Jes Chandler stepped down after three fantastic years as Chairman and someone who has supported and will continue to support the business community. The remaining 7 Directors will stay in position for another year.



OUR NEW CHAIRMAN

Spencer Copping has taken the reigns as Chairman of the Reigate Business Guild following the AGM in June. He has been a Director of the Guild since April 2019 and is the Planning Director at WS Planning & Architecture where he started as a Graduate Planner in 1999. Spencer is a keen supporter of the local community and will be regularly seen in town speaking to businesses. Please introduce yourself to him by dropping him an email to chairman@reigatebusinessguild.co.uk. We wish you all the best in your new role.



#REIGATEBACKINBUSINESS

The hashtag #reigatebackinbusiness has been encouraged by members to increase footfall support online for our town. It has been well supported so thank you. It has been great to see so many businesses back open and below is a selection of pictures of some of the amazing businesses we have in our town that are re-open and members. Please go and support them.



OUR NEW(ish) MEMBERS

Believe it or not we haven't released a new Folly in almost a year. A lot of our new(ish) members have properly been introduced. Welcome to you all.

The Holistic Healthcare Group
Reigate Gunmakers Ltd
Canakin
Re.Work.It
E-Innovate
Hop Stop
ISB Ltd
Hayman Executive Ltd
Hound & Porter
Principal Virtual Assistant Services
Upright Construction (South East) Ltd
The Matthews Organisation Ltd

Reigate Heath Golf Club
Reigate College
The Law Firm Group Ltd
Music Gateway
Aptus Technology Ltd
Train Aid
Grow Smiles Ltd
Balfe's Bikes
Reigate Architects
A&B Menswear Ltd
That Qwerky Place
Aldersyde Consulting
Reigate Psychology Service Ltd
Kemp Marketing Ltd
The Fabulous Photography Group
Halliwell Marks
Island House

THE POST COVID-19 RESURGENCE OF REIGATE TOWN CENTRE

On 23 March 2020, UK high streets, town and city centres effectively closed for business. Most retailers, offices, restaurants, coffee shops, cultural and leisure destinations shut their doors with only essential stores being allowed to stay open.

These enforced measures could not have come at a worse time. Pre-lockdown the high street was facing an uncertain future with the cumulative effect of the rapid growth of online shopping, rising rents and weak consumer spending all hitting hard. However, in an unexpected turn in fortune, all signs are indicating that the changes in consumer behaviour brought about by the imposed lockdown measures, have the potential to positively reshape the local high street and lay the foundation for a more resilient Covid-19 future.

When the pandemic first began to spread across the UK and government guidelines instructing the most vulnerable members of the community to shield were released, local support groups swiftly formed across the country to rally round and support those most in need. The Reigate Covid-19 Facebook support group was set up specifically to aid members of our community, providing a range of essential services for those shielding as well as highlighting the offerings of local businesses. The group quickly reached almost 3,000 members and became a vital life-line for shielding members within the community. During this period, we also saw many local food businesses swiftly adapting their usual offering to serve customers outside of their premises or offer much-needed delivery options, as well as local tailors repurposing their businesses to make and distribute PPE.



These incredible displays of community spirit, goodwill and willingness to support each other in a time of crisis, combined with the large number of people working from home, travelling less and living and shopping locally all deepened the social bond within the community and created an appreciation for a high street that many may have previously taken for granted.

It is these factors which offer the exciting potential for a post-pandemic rejuvenation of Reigate high street on a level that we have not seen before.

A growing confidence in the wealth of opportunities the high street presents is reflected in a wave of new independent businesses across a range of sectors opening up across Reigate. Recognising the importance of providing a differentiated product offering and unique experience, these new ventures offer local residents attractive environments to visit, dwell and socialise in.

Continue for a round-up of some of the new businesses Reigate is welcoming:



ISLAND HOUSE

Its ethos is centred around a vibrant neighbourhood environment with a passion for food, drink and a personal service. The menu will be fresh and changing, from healthy options to indulgent dishes. The drinks collection will feature quality coffee, homegrown cocktails and well sourced wine and beer. The restaurant will offer diners a truly magical place to hang out with enchanting spaces and brilliant music.

SJ and Johnnie, who are behind the exciting venture, grew up in Epsom and explain why they selected Reigate: "Reigate has always been a place that we've enjoyed visiting. The town itself is beautiful with stunning historic buildings and we're very lucky to be able to bring a new lease of life to this one. The community is incredibly welcoming with a bunch of great independent shops and businesses and we can't wait to be part of it".

The couple chose the striking building because it "provides the perfect opportunity to deliver a variety of experiences - our cosy, historic lounge will be the perfect place to relax with a coffee, our grand oak panelled room for dining. We have a beautiful garden which will come to life when the sun shines and a huge space upstairs for more private events".



FLINT HOUSE

Opening on the 31st July on Bell Street, Reigate's newest café and deli will serve a wide range of great quality food for eat-in or take away.

Flint House is the new venture of local Reigate resident Simon Flint, who has previously worked at top London restaurants including The Ivy and J. Sheekey.

Dishes will be prepared fresh on site using only the highest quality ingredients from local suppliers including Chalk Hills Bakery and Robert & Edwards Butchers as well as specialist suppliers from Simon's extensive restaurant contacts including Neil's Farm cheeses. Fresh coffee from award-winning Dorking-based Chimney Fire Coffee will be served. Selected produce will also be available to purchase from the dedicated in-store deli counter with Simon on hand to offer advice on creating delicious dishes at home.

The venture has been a life-long dream for Simon and he cannot wait to bring his passion for cooking and top quality ingredients to Reigate.



Sollo London and The Barn at Sollo

New independent fashion boutique Sollo London opened its doors just before lockdown selling curated and hand-picked stylish pieces ranging from clothing and handbags, to jewellery and art.

When lockdown restrictions eased, Sollo revealed its newest addition, The Barn at Sollo, a tranquil outdoor dining space tucked away behind the boutique, serving coffee supplied by Chimney Fire Coffee, tea and fresh cakes. Sollo is hiring the space out for birthdays, office functions, yoga classes and also collaborating with other local business such as The Vineking Tasting Rooms for special events.

REIGATE POST OFFICE

Opening on the Church Street site formerly occupied by Partners for Print, the Post Office makes a welcome return to Reigate High Street in August.

As we emerge from lockdown into a closer-knit neighbourhood, one where we have a renewed appreciation for local living, where we know neighbours and shop owners by name, where we care for the vulnerable and shop and socialise locally, it is these factors which put our high street in the best placed position to thrive both socially and economically for years to come.

SAFFRON SUMMER



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Multi award-winning haute Indian restaurant Saffron Summer has opened on Church Street after enjoying huge success in its inaugural site in nearby Chessington.

Oberoi Hotels trained Executive Chef Awanish Roy brings together authentic Indian food with a modern twist using local ingredients and his imagination to create a sublime offering. The varied menu reflects seasonal produce changes and includes Indian street food and Indian tapas at lunchtime as well as their special Indian roast lunch on Sundays.

AM AESTHETICS

Reigate's premier cosmetic led independent skin clinic is about to embark on an exciting new adventure at a bigger location on Church Street.

Anne-Marie, the owner of AM Aesthetics, explains "we needed to move to new premises to provide more space for offering a wider range of treatments to our patients. Having been tucked away for the past few years in Reigate, its fabulous to be part of a more vibrant part of town and will offer us the opportunity to create a beautiful space for patients to enjoy".



WHERE TO FIND THEM IN THE TOWN ...and on Instagram

Island House
45 - 50 High Street



Saffron Summer
15 Church Street



AM AESTHETICS
22 Church Street



Flint House
13 Bell Street



Post Office
13 Bell Street

Sollo London and
The Barn at Sollo
13 Bell Street



TOWN IMPROVEMENT

Reigate Business Guild are proud to support local business and are intent on improving the quality of the town centre for businesses, visitors and local residents. Since the lockdown we have seen the town with new eyes and are continually listening to and learning from all points of view to ensure that we help promote and improve the quality of Reigate Town Centre. Our Town Improvement page is a place for everyone to contribute towards these aims.



We are working with the County Council, Borough Council and local stakeholders to improve Reigate Town Centre now and for future generations. We want to hear your views and find out ways to improve the town further. Reigate & Banstead Borough Council have also asked us to take part in their own Town Improvement Fund Audit which will look at ways their funding can be put to good use around the town. To aid the debate and provide an opportunity for you to share your views we have created a simple online form below that can be used to send us thoughts on the town as it stands now and ways in which we can improve.

We have also provided web links to Reigate Business Guild Members who can assist with Health & Wellbeing along with links to local sports clubs and related businesses that can help you get and stay active. Finally, we have also provided links to a number of national and local websites aimed at providing advice on supporting your business and improving your Health & Wellbeing. If we have missed out any important links please let us know by completing the form on our dedicated town improvement page on our website.

[Visit our Town Improvement Page](#)



2020 CHRISTMAS FAYRE

It is with a heavy heart that the Reigate Christmas Fayre committee have come to the decision to cancel the 2020 Christmas Fayre due to the on-going Coronavirus outbreak. The Christmas Fayre held in Church Street, Reigate has been a hugely successful event in the towns calendar for many local businesses and residents for the last 8 years.

Christmas Fayre Chairman Caroline Clarke says "After the great success of last year's Christmas Fayre the committee were on a high. In January we were busy making plans for 2020, stalls were being reserved, entertainment booked, road closure was applied for. The whole team were working hard behind the scenes everything was coming together. Then 23rd March arrived and the country was placed in lockdown.

Arrangements were ahead of schedule so we thought the fayre would be able to go ahead as planned. As time went on and the lockdown was not easing we decided after many sleepless nights and discussions that we had to cancel the fayre for 2020 for the safety of the community.

I would like to thank the committee for their support in making this very difficult decision. But watch this space Plans are in early stages to still light up Reigate."



UPCOMING EVENTS

Member's Meeting

Online ZOOM meeting
Wednesday 23rd September
6:30pm

Member's Meeting

Monte Forte (TBC)
Wednesday 21st October
11:30am

Member's Meeting

Cullenders Parkside (TBC)
Wednesday 25th November
9:30am

Christmas Drinks (TBC)

The Vineking Tasting Rooms
Wednesday 9th December
TBC

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