



NEWSLETTER 328

MARCH 2019

Annual General Meeting

The Society's 39th AGM will be held at 7.30pm on Monday 25th March in the Osborne Room at the Hilton Metropole Hotel. Gill Wales, co-author of 'Regency Square, its history and its stories' will give an illustrated talk about the early history of the square. This will be followed by the refreshment break. The formal business of the AGM will take place at 9.00pm, as set out in the agenda below.

Agenda

- Minutes of the 38th AGM held on 19 March 2018
- Committee report for the year
- Treasurer's report and annual accounts
- Motion: To increase the business membership from £8.00 to £12.00. All other rates to remain unchanged
- Election of officers and committee
- Members' questions and comments

Refreshments will be provided and there will be a raffle with the usual fantastic prizes to help cover the cost of the meeting.

The Committee's Annual Report

Thanks are due to Suzanne Hinton, who has kept everyone up to date via newsletters, a new Twitter feed and the website, and to Nicola Floyd who has managed our Facebook pages.

Planning

This has been a relatively quiet year for planning – partly because the Planning Department seems to have been working very slowly. This was partly due to the upheaval caused by the closure of Kings House in Hove where they were based.

Alas, the ugly security shelter remains on the loading area of the BAi360, but as luck would have it, their application for a screen on the north side has in fact improved the appearance of the shelter rather than made it worse.

The developers of Russell House in Russell Mews made several attempts to have conditions relating to obscured windows and privacy screens waived. Had these applications been successful, occupants of Russell House would have been able to peer straight into homes in Regency Square and Castle Mews. These applications were all refused.

A persisting blot on the local landscape has been the former HMV store which backs on to Stone Street. Permission to develop this site at a 21-room HMO has lapsed. The application must be made again. Local residents are disappointed that an interim application for 9 self-contained flats was abandoned.

The developments at 28 Clarence Square have been very worrying. The railings disappeared and a large shed was erected in front of the heritage building. Pressure from the Society and a resident of the square has resulted in the height of the shed being lowered and an undertaking from the developer to replace the railings. The Society will continue to monitor this development.

Many thanks to Suzanne who has been very proactive in monitoring applications.

Anti-Social Behaviour

It is pleasing that overt anti-social behaviour seems to have abated in little in our area. In Clarence Square this has been largely due to the efforts of one resident who has locked the gates to the square at twilight.

Graffiti is the bane of the lives of both residents and businesses. Many private individuals are battling to paint out graffiti as soon as it appears. It must be remembered that in at least one of the squares, the cost of the correct colour paint is extremely high (some £60.00 for 5 litres). Many thanks to those who are battling this scourge.

On the other hand, covert drug dealing is still very prevalent in the area.

We are liaising with other societies who share our worries about ASB to see what can be done.

Social Events

The highlight of the year must have been a flight in the BAi360 pod for 110 members and their guests. The event, on 6 December, was courtesy of the i360 company who also erected the Regency Square Christmas Tree which had been donated by the Artists Residence.

Earlier in the year the Society celebrated the bicentenary of Regency Square by publishing "Regency Square, its history and its stories" – 140 pages of original research, racy stories and fascinating images.

Our ward councillor, Alex Philips, ably supported by her husband Cllr Tom Druitt and young Master Druitt, honoured the Society by launching the book at a public event in the square. Society Treasurer Nicola Floyd is pleased to report that sales of the book are going well.

Regency Square Garden

There is little sign of monies being made available for the improvement to Regency Square in the immediate future. The Society maintains pressure on the Council, but until funds are forthcoming from the profits of the BAi360, there will be no progress.

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The Society supports the active use of the composting bins (as well as those in Russell Square).

One local person is to be praised for litter-picking in the garden. We all owe her our thanks.

The Society is actively seeking to have locking points installed in the Regency Square bays in a continuing attempt to prevent motorcycles parking on the gardens.

Bench

Thanks to members' subscriptions and donations, the Society has funded the renovation of a bench in the middle garden of Regency Square.

Thanks

To everyone who has supported the Society over the year.

Elections

The following are standing for re-election

- Treasurer: Nicola Floyd (Queensbury |Mews)
- Secretary: Suzanne Hinton (Kings Road)
- Chair: Diana Dunn (Clarence Gardens)
- Julie Wright (Stone Street)

Standing for election

- Annabel Watson (Clarence Square)

Further nominations are invited for the committee and all three officers. Nominations must be made one week in advance of the AGM. You may nominate any member of the Society or you may nominate yourself. Please contact Suzanne Hinton (s@hinton.clara.net / 01273 321794) if you wish to make a nomination.

Society Contacts

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Income & expenditure for the year ended 28 February 2019		
INCOME	£(out)	£in
Subscriptions (including forward subs)		338.00
Donations		316.00
Functions and other		0.00
Interest		5.92
Total General Fund income		659.92
Regency Square Improvement Fund		0.00
Christmas Tree Fund		390.00
Bicentenary Book Fund		1181.43
Total inc (incl gen fund) for the year		2,231.35
EXPENDITURE		
Postage, printing, IT, etc.	40.00	
Insurance	63.53	
AGM/functions	112.93	
Other Gen Fund Expenses	00.00	
Total General Fund expenses	216.46	
Regency Square Improvement Fund	0	
Christmas Tree Fund	317.99	
Bicentenary Book Fund	3,340.52	
Total expenditure		(3,874.97)
OVERALL SURPLUS/(DEFICIT) FOR THE YEAR		(1,643.62)

Balance Sheet as at 28 February 2019	
General Fund at start of year	5,789.33
Net Income / (Expenditure) for the period	443.46
General Fund at 28 February 2019	6,232.79
Regency Sq. Improvement Fund at start of year	320.49
Net Income / (Expenditure) for the period	0.00
Reg. Sq. Improvement Fund at 28 February 2019	320.49
ChristmasTree Fund at start of year	55.62
Net Income / (Expenditure) for the period	72.01
Christmas Tree fund at 28 February 2019	127.63
Bicentenary Book Fund at start of year	510.99
Net Income / (Expenditure) for the period	(2,159.09)
Bicentenary Book Fund at 28 February 2019	(1,648.10)

Total funds (liabilities) at 28 Feb 2019	5,032.81
Cash at bank	4,846.53
Cash in hand	186.28
Total assets	5,032.81

Our general day to day income remained stable year on year, especially thanks to a few large donations from some of our business members. The main difference in the overall general fund revenues between this year and last is that the AGM raffle income went towards the bicentenary book, rather than into the general fund. A huge amount (£144) was raised thanks to the fantastic prizes donated by local businesses.

Given the focus in recent years on lowering our operating costs these have remained largely unchanged.

Our Regency Square Improvement Fund remained untouched (again!) this year as we continue to await the release of the i360 garden regeneration money from the Council.

A very generous donation by the Artist Residence meant we were able to fund a magnificent 15ft Christmas tree this year. This, combined with the assistance in erecting and maintaining the tree and its lights from the BA i360's team, meant we were again able to have a tree over the festive period. We hope to do the same again this year!

Our major expenditure this year was on publishing the Regency Square bicentenary book. While the authors generously donated all of their time and research for free, publishing costs for such a professional work are expensive. However, thanks to the support of our members who have bought the book in droves, and to its success in sales in bookshops across the city, I am pleased to report that we are well ahead of the cost recoupment schedule that the Committee expected when it took the decision to undertake this project.

Finally, as always, many thanks for your subscriptions and donations, which have enabled us to carry on with the work of the RSAS over the year.