



Regency Square Area Society

NEWSLETTER 134
March 1998

Annual General Meeting

The Society's 19th Annual General Meeting will be held at 7:30 pm on Thursday 26 March 1998 in the York Room at the Hotel Metropole.

Agenda

- 1 Minutes of the Previous Meeting
- 2 Chairman's Report for the Year
- 3 Treasurer's Report & Annual Accounts
- 4 Subscription Rates for 1998
- 5 Election of Officers and Committee

After the formal agenda members will be invited to raise issues for discussion.

Refreshments will be served and the evening will end with a talk by Mike Hannigan of Standard Life about the re-development of Churchill Square.

The Society's Year

Rubbish ...

There is no doubt that rubbish in the streets has been our biggest single issue again this year.

The Council is still not managing to solve the problem. They have introduced daily collections, supposedly including weekends, though these are intermittent at

best. The result is that there are almost always rubbish bags littering the streets.

They did also write a warning letter to one person for dumping rubbish, though no legal action was taken. Meanwhile, rubbish collectors are still under instruction to sort out any "non domestic" items and leave them lying in the street.

There is clearly still a problem but no solution yet.

...not Rubbish...

We have been trying to solve other problems as well. We have talked to BUPA about delivery vehicles in Russell Square and Mews.

We contacted the Post Office about regular wrong delivery of letters. We were pleased to welcome a new postman in the autumn and since then deliveries seem to be back to normal.

More recently, Society secretary, Pat McColloch has contacted environmental health officers about noisy machinery in the Metropole Hotel, which has been disturbing residents of Queensbury Mews.

... and that Conference

The Society complained strongly about the problems caused by the security measures surrounding the Labour Party Conference in September.

The Council and police seem to have recognised that the disruption to the local community was unacceptable. They have promised improvements for future conferences.

Re-generation Hiccup

Plan for the re-generation of Preston Street are going ahead. New traffic orders have just been published to make it one way northbound, with wider pavements and reduced parking.

Regeneration in Regency, Russell and Clarence Squares is now on hold. Society chairman, Brian Smith has been attending the Council's working party during the year.

At first it seemed the work could be started in 1997 but there has been a bureaucratic hiccup. So new plans and more public consultation are needed before work can start.

A Growing Society

The Society is nothing without members. This year we have seen a significant increase in our numbers. For several years we had around 100 members. During 1997/8 there were over 120.

A Sociable Society

The AGM back in March 1997 was well attended and members enjoyed an interesting talk by Steve Myall on the development of the Clifton Hill area.

Members also got together at the Beach Hotel for the Society's third prize draw to raise funds for the Regency Square Improvement Fund.

After more bureaucratic hiccups we finally got a Christmas tree in Regency Square. Fortunately there were no hiccups during the performance of carols by the Strictly Background Quartet.

As in previous years the cost of the tree itself was met by the Council, with the Society providing insurance, lights and electricity. If we want a tree next Christmas we may have to pay for everything.

The year ended with a silent auction at the West Pier club which raised over £200 for the Society.

... and Finally...

All year members (not just the committee) have worked hard for the Society.

They have stuffed envelopes, written letters, made phone calls, given donations, provided rooms for meetings, twisted people's arms, designed posters, delivered newsletters, contributed prizes, made sandwiches, climbed Christmas trees, opened wine bottles, attended meetings, banked cheques, taken photographs, addressed envelopes, sold raffle tickets, found new members ... and more.

So we end the report on the year with a big "thank you" from the members to the members.

The Society needs new committee members. If you are interested and want to know more, call one of the contacts for a chat.

Annual Accounts

1997/8 Income and Expenditure Summary

Income	£	Expenditure	£
Donations	540	Printing etc.	307
Functions (net)	177	Christmas Tree	125
Subscriptions	465	Insurance	159
Interest	17	Bton in Bloom	200
		Surplus for the year	408
	<u>1,199</u>		<u>1,199</u>

Balance Sheet

Deficit for year	408	Cash on Deposit	1,113
Surplus Bt fwd	530	Cash in hand	57
	938		1,170
Advance subs	205	Advance payments	135
Advance donations	162		
	<u>1,305</u>		<u>1,305</u>

Regency Square Improvement Fund

	£
Balance as at 1 March 1997	4,610
Contributions during the year	2,961
Balance as at 28 February 1998	<u>7,571</u>

Treasurer's Report

The Society's financial position is much improved. This is thanks largely to members who have made donations in addition to their basic subscription.

We have been able to turn last year's deficit into a surplus, in spite of increased costs. We had to double our contribution to Brighton in Bloom in order to have flowers in Regency Square this year. Insurance costs went up because the Council required increased cover for the Christmas Tree.

We have added almost £3,000 to the Regency Square Improvement fund. Apart from a bit of interest, this is due entirely to the prize draw.

The Committee is keen to encourage new members to join so no increase in basic subscriptions is proposed.

Roger Hinton, Treasurer

SOCIETY CONTACTS

CHAIRMAN Brian Smith ☎ 325175
 SECRETARY Pat McCulloch ☎ 773275
 TREASURER and NEWSLETTER
 Roger Hinton ☎ 321794

Elections

Pat McCulloch is not standing for re-election as secretary. Pat took on the role in March 1995. She has decided to step down now because of other commitments. She has agreed to stand for election as an ordinary committee member. Many thanks to her for her hard work over the past three years.

Gail Simons who has been a committee member for the past year is not standing for re-election. Thanks are also due to her for her work for the Society as a committee member and past treasurer.

A nomination is needed for a new secretary. Brian Smith and Roger Hinton are standing for re-election as chairman and treasurer. Committee members standing for re-election are:

Clive Buxton	Regency Square
Diana Dunn	Clarence Gardens
Mairin Forbes	Sussex Heights
Harold Lawson	Chartwell Court
Traude Tappin	Abbots

Ambrose Simons, who now represents the Society at the Conservation Advisory Group, is also standing for election to the committee.

Don't forget the AGM
7:30 pm Thursday 26 March 1998
Metropole Hotel

Followed by a talk on
the Re-development of Churchill Square

It's Subscription Time Again

Many thanks to those members who have renewed their subscriptions and given donations to the Society over the past couple of months.

Please renew your subscription. Also encourage your neighbours to join, or to come to the AGM as guests. For a spare copy of this newsletter to give them call Roger Hinton (321794).

Membership Renewal Form

The Society received more in donations last year than subscriptions. Without donations we would have been in deficit.

If you are able to add a donation to your basic subscription it helps us to keep the subscription low and still cover the Society's running costs.



To: Roger Hinton, 39 Regency Square, Brighton BN1 2FJ

Please renew my membership of the Regency Square Area Society for the year 1998/99 in the category of membership ticked below:

	£
Ordinary member	4.00
Family (2 adults plus any children)	4.50
Senior Citizen	3.50
Junior	2.00
Associate (non-resident)	3.50
Business (non-resident)	6.50

Basic subscription _____
 Optional donation _____
 Total enclosed _____

Name _____

Address _____

Cheques payable to the Regency Square Area Society please.
 Members' details are stored on computer for administrative purposes only.