



NEWSLETTER 311 MARCH 2017

Annual General Meeting

The Society's 38th AGM will be held at 7.30pm on Monday 20th March in the Osborne Room at the Hilton Metropole Hotel. Paul Campbell, Contract and Project Manager at the City Council will give a talk on *The future of Open Spaces in Brighton and Hove* followed by the refreshment break. The formal business of the AGM will take place at 9.00, as set out in the agenda below.

Agenda

- Minutes of the 37th AGM held on April 18th 2016
- Committee report for the year
- Treasurer's report and annual accounts
- Election of officers and committee
- Members' questions and comments

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

Prizes offered so far:

Dinner for Two - Casalingo

Dinner for Two with wine - Regency Tavern

Fish and chips for Two + bottle of house wine

(excludes Saturday night - Regency Restaurant)

Bottle of sake - Sushi Garden

Bottle of wine - The New Club

Copy of "Sketches of Brighton 1827" - Suzanne Hinton

The Committee's Annual Report

As always, a lot has happened in the area. Thanks are due to Suzanne Hinton, who has kept everyone up to date via newsletters and the websites and to Jerome Lloyd and Nicola Floyd who have managed our Facebook pages.

The Seafront

The British Airways i360 opened for business in August and its ascending and descending 'donut' is now a familiar sight. Landscaping of the adjacent areas is underway and due to finish in April. This will be a great relief to the retailers in the arches shops. The eastern arches shops are due to open in April.

The appearance of a security shelter spoils the symmetry of the site. Aalong with other societies, we have asked for it to be moved. The i360 management have been good neighbours throughout the development and we very much hope that they will respond.

Planning

Planning consent was given for Russell House, formerly occupied by BUPA, to be converted into 52 flats. The developers have applied to remove the original covenants limiting access to balconies. Numerous objections have been made by neighbours who are worried about being overlooked and disturbed by noise.

Party houses are becoming more and more prevalent - and can cause a great deal of disturbance. We urge members to be vigilant against the creation of such businesses.

At 13a Stone Street, unfortunately the developers have not adhered to the planning permissions and seem to get away with it.

We have had little response to the enforcement orders we have submitted regarding maintenance and appearance of properties. The one exception was the removal of an unsightly ventilation fan at the rear of a Clarence Square building.

Many thanks to Diana, Suzanne and Paula who have been very proactive in monitoring applications.

Anti Social Behaviour

It is sad that this has become a regular item in the Annual Report, but ASB seems to be widespread across the city. Due to financial constraints we no longer have allocated community police officers and they are sorely missed.

Clarence Square has had ongoing problems with groups of teenagers, ranging from vandalising the shrubs to a large scale organised fight in the summer. Residents are now locking the gate at night and are liaising with Simon Bannister from the council. Later the lights on the Christmas tree were vandalised, but were soon replaced.

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

Social Events

We organised two very enjoyable trips to Brighton Little Theatre and thanks to the generosity of Angelo of Casalingo Restaurant, we had a magnificent Christmas tree in Regency Square. Early in December we turned on the lights and sing carols (led by Jerome) accompanied by the Salvation Army band. The Regency Tavern provided a lovely buffet afterwards. Our most recent gathering was an excellent breakfast on New Year's Day in the Regency Restaurant

Regency Square Garden

Plans are progressing, albeit more slowly than hoped, to make improvements to the garden using Section 106 money from the i360. Consultation showed clearly that residents want a simple design with good quality planting and hard landscaping.

The council have agreed to fund a detailed plan by landscape architects Terra Firma of for the redevelopment of the garden ahead of income from the i360 becoming available. They are also paying for a topographical survey. The Regency Square Community Partnership has been formed to ensure ongoing community involvement. We are hoping to have the plans on the website soon.

Newsletter sponsored and printed by



Print & Copy Packing & Shipping
Office Services Packing Materials
Stationery Post & Parcels

Tel: 01273 70 60 20 www.mbebrighton.co.uk
Email: print@mbefbrighton.co.uk 91 Western Road, Brighton, BN1 2NW

Parking

Always a contentious subject! A number of residents objected to the proposed removal the 13 parking bays leading up to the Regency Square car park entrance despite the inconvenience of a blocked road at busy times. In response to members' frustrations about the difficulty of parking in the evenings, we have asked the council to consider make all parking in Regency Square residents only 24/7. Our ward councillors support this fully.

Motorcycles parking on the lawn is a constant nuisance, and a danger when they drive across the grass. There is no excuse for this inconsiderate behaviour now, as new motor cycle parking bays have been created on the road, but so far the new bays seem to be unused.

Our thanks to Nigel Rose who has represented residents concerns about parking to the council.

Thanks

To everyone who has supported the Society over the year.

Elections

The following are standing for reelection
Treasurer: Nicola Floyd (Queensbury |Mews)
Secretary: Suzanne Hinton (Kings Road)
Paula Brookes (Stone Street)
Diana Dunn (Clarence Gardens)
Ellie Smith is standing for election.

Further nominations are invited for the committee and all three officers. Nominations must be made in advance of the AGM. You may nominate any member of the Society or you may nominate yourself. Please contact Trix Webber (tew823@gmail.com/ 01273 321858) if you wish to make a nomination.

Society Contacts

Chair: Trix Webber ☎ 01273 321858
✉ tew823@gmail.com
Treasurer: Nicola Floyd ☎ 078 3352 7270
✉ nicola.floyd@yahoo.com
Secretary: Suzanne Hinton ☎ 01273 321794
✉ s@hinton.clara.net

Income & expenditure for the year ended 28 February 2017

INCOME	£(out)	£in
Subscriptions (including forward subs)		397.00
Donations		291.00
Functions and other		168.00
Interest		11.39
Total General Fund income		867.39
Regency Square Improvement Fund		0.00
Christmas Tree Fund		230.00
Total income for the year		1,097.39
EXPENDITURE		
Postage, printing etc.	48.43	
Insurance	82.12	
AGM/functions	40.00	
Other Gen Fund Expenses	80.00	
Total General Fund expenses	250.55	
Regency Square Improvement Fund	37.75	
Christmas Tree Fund	229.20	
Total expenditure		(517.50)
OVERALL SURPLUS FOR THE YEAR		579.89

Balance Sheet as at 28 February 2017

General Fund at start of year	4,595.96
Net Income / (Expenditure) for the period	616.84
General Fund at 28 February 2017	5,212.80
Regency Sq. Improvement Fund at start of year	358.24
Net Income / (Expenditure) for the period	(37.75)
Reg. Sq. Improvement Fund at 28 February 2017	320.49
Christmas Tree Fund at start of year	54.82
Net Income / (Expenditure) for the period	0.80
Christmas Tree fund at 28 February 2017	55.62
Total funds (liabilities) at 28 Feb 2017	5588.91
Cash at bank	5343.43
Cash in hand	245.48
Total assets	5588.91

Treasurer's Report

Despite keeping subscription fees unchanged for another year, we have again managed to generate a small surplus in our budget. This is mainly due to the generous additional donations from our members, and, in particular, due to a few large donations from some of our business members. The fantastic prizes donated by local businesses at the 2016 AGM for our raffle accounted for a significant portion of our annual income.

However, membership fees and donations are both down year on year as a number of members moved out of the area. It would be great if you could encourage friends and neighbours to join the Society this year!

The focus this year has again been on lowering our operating costs. Many thanks to our out of area members who are all now bearing their own postage costs. The majority of members have opted to receive our newsletter by email which has reduced printing costs. We also renegotiated our IT contract for hosting our website and IT support, and changed our insurance contract – more than halving these costs.

The costs associated with the garden regeneration and liaison with the Council were ongoing. We held two 'marquee weekends' in late spring last year to provide the results of the garden regeneration survey and get further input from local residents. Lots of important feedback was received on those weekends which Terra Firma will be feeding into the detailed plan for the redevelopment of the garden. We expect further costs this year as we consult members further for their views as the designs take shape.

Finally, thanks to the generosity of Angelo at Casalingo Restaurant, we were able to purchase a fantastic Xmas tree this year. Thanks must also go to Homebase who generously refunded the costs of the vandalised lights, allowing the Society to replace them for next year.

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