



REGENCY SQUARE AREA SOCIETY

NEWSLETTER 42 MARCH 1986

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The seventh Annual General Meeting of the Society will be held at 730 pm on Friday 21 March 1986 in the York Room at the Hotel Metropole.

AGENDA

- 1 Minutes of the previous meeting
- 2 The committee's report on the year
- 3 The accounts
- 4 Subscription rates for 1986/7 - the committee is recommending no change
- 5 Election of officers and committee members for 1986/7
- 6 Members will be invited to give their views on issues affecting the area and the Society's activities

Wine, soft drinks and a light buffet will be served after the formal business.

Geoffrey Mead, a local historian will give a talk illustrated with slides. The subject will be "A Historical Stroll round Brighton."

The Treasurer will be available to receive subscriptions which are now due for renewal.

**PLEASE COME AND
MEET YOUR NEIGHBOURS**

ACCOUNTS

REGENCY SQUARE AREA SOCIETY

Receipts and Payments Account for the year ending 28 February 1986

RECEIPTS	£	£
Members' Subscriptions		208.50
Functions Income	527.70	
less Refunds	65.50	

Interest Earned 462.20
9.75

680.45

PAYMENTS

Functions	474.77
AGM Expenses	33.81
Printing, Stationery etc	71.92
Bench cleaning materials	10.20
Donations made	5.00
Deficit on Eddy Edwards Memorial Fund	31.00

626.70

Surplus for year 53.75
Add Balance brought forward 381.95

Surplus at 28 February 1986 435.70

Made up as follows:

Cash at hand 48.47
Cash at bank 387.23

435.70

Eddy Edwards Memorial Fund

Balance brought forward 1.3.85 103.50
Subscription for year 8.00

111.50

Payment for memorial bench 142.50

Deficit charged to general funds 31.00

ELECTIONS

The following officers and committee members have been nominated for 1986/87:

Chairman	Roger Hinton
Secretary	Richard Pau
Treasurer	Harold Lawson
Members	Mrs R Boulden
	Mrs W Brasemere-Davis
	Mr J Henderson
	Mrs M Lewin
	Mrs T Tappin

Further nominations are invited for any of the above posts. Members are entitled to nominate themselves.

If you would like more information about the work of the committee before making a nomination telephone Roger Hinton (21794) or Harold Lawson (28203).

RENEW TODAY!

Send your subscription to Harold Lawson, 7 Chartwell Court, Russell Square, Brighton.

	£
Ordinary members	2.50
Family	3.00
Senior Citizens	2.00
Junior (8-18 years)	0.50
Associate (non-resident)	2.00
Business (non-resident)	5.00

Cheques payable to the Regency Square Area Society please.

COMMITTEE REPORT

We have had a busy year with some notable successes, and some problems still unsolved.

PLANNING

REGENCY MEWS

Perhaps our most notable success, and the one which won the Society a full page article in the Argus, was the proposed development in the mews behind the top of Regency Square

When the garage closed down in the mews we had hoped the site could be developed for housing including some sheltered accommodation. We still believe this would be the best use of the site.

However, it was clear that there was no developer willing to put money into a purely residential development. A planning application was made for an office block with some housing alongside.

The Society campaigned vigorously for a number of important restrictions on the office block, aimed at minimising its impact on the surrounding area.

PTO

We also had a survey made which showed that the plans submitted were seriously misleading. They suggested that the building would not be visible from the seafront when in fact it would show above the large houses at the top of the Square.

As a result, the Council imposed very specific conditions on the planning approval, including one to the effect that the building must not be visible from the seafront.

Work has still not started on the site.

EMPTY HOTELS

We have become very concerned about the deterioration of two major buildings in Regency Square, the Portland House and the George IV hotels. We lobbied the Council to change its rigid policy of not allowing hotels to be converted for residential use.

With some success it seems, since permission has now been given for the Portland to be developed partly as flats. The Planning Officer is on record as saying that a similar proposal for the George IV might be accepted if submitted.

Both these successes illustrate that the Council is willing to listen to local opinion when expressed through a Society like ours which clearly represents a significant number of people.

We are particularly lucky in having two active and concerned councillors. Christopher Giles and Andy Winter are both members of the Society and have always been willing to listen to our views and make sure they get a hearing in the Council.

LITTER

The rubbish in our streets is one of the problems which is still with us in spite of repeated attempts by the Society to get something done about it. Recently we have been particularly concerned about the rubbish dumped in Clarence Square by Western Road traders.

A survey carried out by a society member living in Clarence Square identified those shops responsible. We visited them and spoke to the managers. In some cases this did result in a slight improvement.

We have been in contact with the Council whose Trade Refuse Officer is also raising the matter with shop managers. But the rubbish is still there.

So are the bags of household refuse that lie about the streets. The Society must continue to press the Council to improve the way the streets are cleaned.

TRAFFIC

During exhibitions at the Metropole, Cannon Place and Queensbury Mews cease to be public roads and become private parking areas controlled by exhibition security staff. Recently the Fire Brigade was unable to get close to a house in Russell Square where a fire had been reported, because of illegally parked vehicles.

Our community policeman, Peter Smith, often attends our committee meetings and listens sympathetically to our complaints. He agrees when we say that the parking laws apply equally to everyone, including exhibition vehicles. But the facts show that the police and traffic wardens are not able to enforce the parking laws in this area.

Exhibition traffic is only the worst symptom of a problem being faced by everyone who lives or runs a business in the area. There is simply too much traffic chasing too few parking spaces.

It is for this reason that the committee decided to support the proposal for another car park in Russell Road behind the Grand Hotel. We did this after much serious consideration and not without some doubts about the possible increase in traffic which might result. On balance we decided that more parking space would help the area, provided it was available for public use. This condition has been imposed by the Council.

OTHER ISSUES

These are just the main issues with which we have been concerned. We try to keep watch over the whole area, particularly by looking at any planning application which are made. We also send a representative to the Conservation Area Advisory Committee and to the Brighton Society.

COMMITTEE

We are sorry to have to report the resignation of two members of the committee.

Wally Hampson had served as our representative on the Conservation Area Advisory Committee for a number of years and his experience was very valuable to us. He is moving away from Brighton and has therefore had to step down. His place has been taken by Rosalind Boulden who was co-opted during the year.

Audrey Simpson joined last year and made a valuable contribution to the committee's work during the year. She has decided to step down because of her other commitments in the town's business community.

As a result of these resignations, the committee is now in need of new members and we hope that volunteers will come forward at the AGM.

SOCIALS

The year started disappointingly when we had to cancel the summer coach trip for lack of support.

In November our now regular firework party was a great success, thanks to a generous member who donated a box of display fireworks, and to hard work by committee and friends.

We held a social evening at the Apollo Hotel to cheer us up at the start of the winter. It was well attended and the essential ingredients of food, wine and song were all much appreciated.

In February we ended the year with a dinner in the Starlight Room at the top of the Metropole Hotel.