



Regency Square Area Society

NEWSLETTER 53

March 1988

Annual General Meeting

The ninth Annual General Meeting of the Society will be held at 7-30 pm in the Starlight Room at the Metropole Hotel on Friday 25 March 1988.

AGENDA

- 1 To read the minutes of the previous AGM
- 2 To receive the Chairman's report on the year's activities
- 3 To receive and approve the Receipts and Payments Account for the year
- 4 To fix membership subscriptions for the next twelve months - an increase of 50 p on each category of membership is proposed
- 5 To elect a Chairman, Secretary, Treasurer and Committee members - see below for information about nominations
- 6 To deal with any other business

A light buffet with wine and soft drinks will be served after the meeting.

Geof Mead, a local historian will give a talk illustrated with slides about the history of the Regency Square area.

Accounts

Reicepts and Payments Account for the year ending 29 february 1988

RECEIPTS	£
Subscriptions	241.00
Functions	46.50
Donations	37.00
Sale of Xmas Cards	66.80

	391.30

PAYMENTS	
Functions	87.00
AGM Expenses	42.31
Printing & Stationery	69.45
Purchase of Xmas Cards	44.84

	243.60

Surplus for year	147.70
Balance brought forward 1.3.87	326.73

Balance as at 29.2.88	474.43
	=====
Cash in hand	86.96
Cash at bank	387.47

	474.43
	=====

The accounts show a healthy surplus for the year which makes up for the deficit incurred last year.

At the last AGM it was agreed that subscriptions should go up in 1988 by a flat 50p on all categories to meet the general rise in costs. Rates have been at their present level since 1984. The new rates are shown in the box.

Nominations

If you wish to stand for election as an officer or a committee member or to nominate someone else please contact the Secretary (Tel 26711).

DID YOU KNOW

that at onw time much of this area was used for market gardening ?

Find out more about the history of your area by coming to our Annual General Meeting when there will be

A talk
illustrated with slides

by Geof Mead

The meeting will be in the Starlight Room of the Metropole Hotel at 7-30 pm on Friday 25 March 1988

SUBSCRIPTIONS PLEASE

Please send subscriptions to Harold Lawson, Flat 7, Chartwell Court, Russell Square, Brighton.

Please renew my membership of the Regency Square Area Society for the period up to 28 February 1989 in the category of membership ticked below.

	£
Ordinary member	3.00
Family	3.50
Senior Citizen	2.50
Junior (8 - 18 years)	1.00
Associate (non-resident)	2.50
Business (non-resident)	5.50

Cheques payable to the Regency Square Area Society please.

Name

Address

Chairman's Report

Environment

The centre of Brighton is crowded, noisy, dirty and full of old buildings in need of continual repair. And yet we go on living here; so it must have some attractions.

The Society exists to try to reduce some of the problems. In the past year we have seen some improvements.

Perhaps the most noticeable has been the reduction in illegal parking. Back in the Spring of last year the situation was almost out of control. We contacted the Police and pointed out that while cars were parked all over the streets and pavements, the carpark in Regency Square was often half empty. Ours was just one of the many voices which were arguing for something to be done: the result was the tow away scheme now in operation. It has not solved the problem completely but it has certainly had an observable effect.

Litter is a more difficult problem to solve. Our main efforts this year have been concentrated on the north side of Clarence Square. Here the shops in Western Road use their back yards to store their rubbish. It is unsightly and often flies loose in the wind, landing up all round the Square. We have approached the shops concerned through their head offices. In some cases there have been improvements. We have also had a lengthy meeting with Mr Philip de Leon who is the Council officer charged with trying to solve the litter problem. He was very positive in his approach and suggested a number of ways in which the Council and the Society can work together. More details in future newsletters.

It is not all bad news on the environmental front. The Society has tried to do its own bit: we had a tiring but enjoyable Sunday morning meeting in Regency Square when we cleaned up our two wooden benches. We hope to repeat this again in the Spring. We also dug over some of the flower beds in Regency Square and planted some bulbs. Look out for the results once the weather gets warmer!

So much of our efforts go into moaning, it is nice to give praise where it is due. We were very pleased to be able to nominate the Beach Hotel for the Brighton Council Design Award. The hotel is at the bottom of Regency Square on the west side. If you haven't seen it recently, take a walk past: the facade has been beautifully restored.

The grass in Regency Square is covered in dog mess. Only the top green is clean because of the railings round it. We have collected a petition of 126 signatures asking for the middle green to be fenced as well. We are waiting for the Council's response.

Social Activities

Our social activities have not been as prominent as in previous years. We had a very successful firework party in November. There was also a Christmas tree in the Square but the "official switch on" of the lights was a fairly low key affair, partly because of the weather and partly because the Electricity Board forgot to provide a switch!

We did try to organise a social evening in January. We had booked the Little Theatre in Clarence Gardens. However, the response from members to the announcement in the last newsletter was so poor that we decided to cancel.

I do think that one of the Society's functions should be to bring people in the area together. But it seems that apart from the firework party, we have not really found how to do it. I am hoping that members will give their views on this at the AGM.

Committee

I cannot end my report without saying thank you to everyone who has helped the Society during the year. In particular I would like to thank Trudy Tappin who has been a member of the Society committee since 1984 and has done much hard work for it, particularly for our social events. She has now decided to step down. I would also like to thank John Henderson who resigned from the committee during the year after several years membership representing the residents of Sussex Heights.

So we have lost two valuable members this year. I hope we will be able to find new members willing to replace them and help keep our Society active.

The Future

With this AGM we enter our tenth year. It is very easy to lose hope when trying to protect and improve the environment in such a busy and crowded area as this. I hope we are not in danger of doing that. In the end it is you, the members who provide the motivation for the Society to press on with and expand its activities.

Please come to the AGM and tell your committee what you think needs to be done. I look forward to seeing you there!

Roger Hinton

SOCIETY CONTACTS

Roger Hinton (Chairman) Tel 21794
Richard Pau (Secretary) Tel 26711
Harold Lawson (Treasurer) Tel 28203