



Regency Square Area Society

NEWSLETTER 64
February 1990

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The Annual General Meeting will be held at the Metropole Hotel on Wednesday 28 March at 7-30 pm.

After the formal business, refreshments will be served. We are then hoping to have an illustrated talk on the history of the West Pier; details are still being confirmed and will be announced in the next newsletter.

COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP

We are sad to announce that Trudi Tappin will not be standing for re-election to the committee.

Trudi has been a member for many years and has done much to establish the Society in its present position. In particular, her contribution to the catering at social functions has set a high standard that has been much appreciated.

New members are needed for the committee, not only to replace Trudi, but also to represent Russell and Clarence Squares. If you are interested in standing for election, or nominating a neighbour, please contact Richard Pau (tel 26711) or Roger Hinton (tel 21794).

The committee meets once a month for between one and two hours, usually on a Monday night.

ANOTHER EMPTY HOUSE

A house in Castle Street has been boarded because it was condemned by the Council as unfit for habitation. Squatters have been making use of it and the door is now hanging off its hinges.

TOWARDS 2000

The latest version of the town plan has just been published. It includes a number of changes since the last version. Public comments are invited by the Council and should be sent, by 26 March to the Borough Planning Officer, PO Box 790, Bartholomew House, Bartholomew Square, Brighton BN1 1JP

Members of our committee are studying the plan at the moment to see how it affects our area. See the next newsletter for details of any comments we decide to submit.

You can get details of the plan from the Planning Department (tel 29801 ext 2605) or at the library.

A NEW CAR PARK ?

The Town Plan makes reference to a number of sites which are designated for development as either houses, offices or factories.

The only one in our area is Regency Mews. It has been empty for many years now and there are two planning permissions, one for offices and town houses and the other for sheltered accommodation and town houses.

Over Christmas the temporary gates to the site were broken down by some local representatives of the new enterprise culture; they charged shoppers £2 a day for parking.

The owners of the site have made several attempts to secure it, all without success. Even after the carpark entrepreneurs gave up, a number of people have been using it for parking.

However, now that demolition of some of the remaining buildings has started, car owners seem to be a little less keen to leave their vehicles on the site.

THANKS

To Peter Bramich of the Metropole Hotel for coming to switch on the Christmas Tree lights. It was a rather brief ceremony, partly because so few people were there (where were you ?) and partly because the rain was just starting.

Thanks also to Jackie Penfold at the Regency Tavern for her hospitality afterwards.

Finally thanks to SEEBOARD for connecting the lights and providing a switch. Two years ago we had the embarrassing experience of inviting one of our councillors to switch on the lights and then finding that there was no switch. For a while it looked as if the same would happen again this year but after a few frantic phone calls SEEBOARD engineers came to the rescue and fitted one just in time.

Unfortunately, because of the high winds, the lights went out shortly after Christmas and could not be re-connected. At least the tree kept standing.

SUBSCRIPTIONS ARE NOW DUE

To Harold Lawson, Treasurer, Regency Square Area Society, 7 Chartwell Court, Russell Sq, Brighton.

Please enrol me as a member of the Regency Square Area Society for the period ending 28 February 1991 in the category of membership ticked below.

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

Cheques payable to the Regency Square Area Society.

Name

Address

WAKEY WAKEY I

Members living in Queensbury Mews were woken at 2 in the morning recently by the noise of workers delivering to the Metropole Exhibition Centre.

We have contacted the Hotel to ask them to restrict working to reasonable hours.

SPOT THE DIFFERENCE

Since 29 January the streets have been cleaned not by Brighton Council but by Focsa. This is the Spanish firm which won the contract as a result of competitive tendering.

The Council has given Focsa a detailed specification of the standard of cleanliness required. It indicates (for example) that streets in densely populated areas like ours must be swept once a day. Our litter bins should be emptied twice daily and the dog waste bins once a day.

Bins should be cleaned and dis-infected every six months. During the summer, litter bins on the lower promenade must be emptied four times a day and the beach cleaned daily.

Street cleaning includes washing as necessary and controlling weeds.

Have you noticed the difference ? Do you think that the above standards are being achieved ?

The Society has been invited to help the Council monitor Focsa's work so please let us know what you think. Contact Roger Hinton (tel 21794).

If you have a complaint about a specific area that has not been cleaned properly you can call the Council free of charge on 0800 525573.

SOCIETY CONTACTS

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

TALKING RUBBISH TO THE TOP MAN

At a recent meeting with Steve Bassam, the Council leader, members of the Society committee raised a number of problems about litter:

CHRISTMAS CHAOS

Firstly we complained about the fact that yet again the refuse collection service had collapsed over Christmas. Councillor Bassam agreed that the town centre had been left in a disgraceful state over the holiday period and promised to do something to ensure it would not happen again. Unfortunately we have heard such promises before, but what more can we do other than continue to point out the problem to our elected representatives ?

It is important to remember that refuse collection is not part of Focsa's contract; it is still done by the Council's own staff.

PLASTIC BAGS

We also complained that bags of rubbish left out on non-collection days are left where they lie, often for almost a whole week. Now that refuse collection and street cleaning are handled by two different organisations there is an even greater risk of these bags being left lying around. Councillor Bassam has raised the question with the Council Officers and asked for a report.

SPECIAL TREATMENT FOR CLARENCE SQUARE

Finally we put in a special plea for Clarence Square which suffers very badly from litter. We suggested that it should be included in the same rota as Churchill Square which is swept twice a day.

DON'T FORGET THE AGM ON Wednesday 28 March at 7-30 pm
MAKE A NOTE IN YOUR DIARY NOW

UNIFORM PAINTING SCHEMES FOR RUSSELL AND CLARENCE SQUARE

Uniform painting schemes are being introduced in Russell and Clarence Squares.

The houses on the south and west sides of Russell Square will have to be painted cream (BS10B15) with white columns, parapet and woodwork.

Numbers 1 - 20 Clarence Square will have to be painted Magnolia (BS08B15) with white woodwork.

The only exception is where a property owner chooses to re-paint a property in its existing colours. This is permitted within the scheme and a quick glance round Regency Square shows the result: a uniform painting scheme has been in operation for some years and a few houses have been re-painted in their original, non-standard colours.

When the proposed schemes were being considered by the Planning Committee, the Planning Officer submitted a report stating that he had consulted "all residents affected and the local amenity societies."

This Society was never consulted. Nor was the Conservation Area Advisory Group on which we are represented. However, residents did receive letters last year asking for their views. Replies were received as follows:

Russell Square: two agreed with the proposed colours; three suggested white; one suggested grey. (So much for democracy !)

Clarence Square: thirteen agreed with the proposed colours; one suggested grey and white.

One of our members in Russell Square has suggested that in return for accepting the uniform painting scheme the residents should ask the Council to spend some money on improving the Square, for example by replacing the tarmac pavements with more attractive surfaces. We are investigating this possibility.