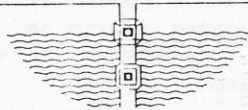


Regency Square Area Society



NEWSLETTER 64 MARCH 1990

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The Society's eleventh Annual General Meeting will be held at 7-30 pm on Wednesday 28 March in the York Room at the Metropole Hotel.

AGENDA

- 1 Minutes of the Previous AGM
- 2 Matters arising from the Minutes
- 3 Committee Report - the Chairman will introduce the report on the year's activities
- 4 Treasurer's Report - the Treasurer will introduce the Annual Accounts
- 5 Subscriptions for the year 1990-91 - the Committee recommends no change
- 6 Election of Officers and Committee
- 7 Any Other Business

After the formal meeting a light buffet will be served. There will then be a talk by Martin Foster on the History of the West Pier, illustrated with slides.

ACCOUNTS

Regency Square Area Society

Receipts and Payments Account for the year ended 28th February 1990

RECEIPTS		£
Donations		105
Functions		108
Subscriptions		340

		553

PAYMENTS		
Functions		171
Printing, stationaary etc		159

		330

Surplus for the year		223
Balance brought forward		517

Funds at 28 th February 1990		740
		=====

Harold Lawson
Treasurer

BRING YOUR FRIENDS

If you have any new neighbours who may be interested in joining the Society please bring them along to the meeting. They will be most welcome.

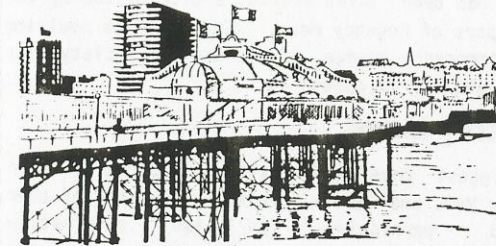
THE WEST PIER - A LOOK BACK

The future of the West Pier has been uncertain for many years. The West Pier Trust which owns it still has hopes of re-developing it but their plans have met opposition from a variety of sources.

Martin Foster was Treasurer of the West Pier Society, the group started many years ago by John Lloyd when the Pier was first threatened with demolition. The Society campaigned successfully to prevent the Pier's destruction.

He has spent many years campaigning to save the Pier, and has built a fine collection of old prints and decorative china illustrating its past. He will be using part of his collection to illustrate a talk he will give at our AGM on 28 March.

The talk will not only look at the Pier's glorious past but will also take us on a "guided tour" of it as it is now, with the help of slides taken in the recent years.



PLEASE RENEW YOUR SUBSCRIPTION

Subscriptions are now due for the year commencing 1 March 1990. Please send your subscription with the form below to Harold Lawson, Treasurer, Regency Square Area Society, 7 Chartwell Court, Russell Square, Brighton.

Please re-new my membership of the Regency Square Area Society for the year commencing 1 March 1990.

Please tick your membership category:

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

Cheques payable to the Regency Square Area Society please.

Name

Address

COMMITTEE REPORT

PLANNING

Castle Street

Yet another attempt to get permission for late opening of the Snooker Club in Castle Street was rejected by the planners after Society opposition.

Number 33 Castle Street, a fine Victorian town house, has been taken over as a site office by the developers of Regency Mews. They will be applying for a temporary change of use and the Society must decide whether to oppose it.

Regency Mews

The biggest development site in our area is in Regency Mews and Castle Street. The site has been granted permission for two alternative developments, both involving town houses at the Russell Square end and a large building fronting Castle Street.

One permission is for offices in the large building and the other for sheltered housing. The owners of the site recently applied for a modified version of the offices. The Planning Committee turned them down on the grounds that the building was too big and not appropriate to the area. So they made an identical re-application a few weeks later; this time the committee accepted it. No comment!

Work has started on the site; so far this appears to involve the digging of holes which are then filled in again. There is no sign yet of anything actually being built.

Towards 2000

The year ends with yet another large scale planning exercise: "Towards 2000" is the Council's plan for the town up to the end of the century. We have studied it carefully: it does not have major implications for our area. We have submitted comments on two points.

We have suggested that there should be provision for a community centre in this area. At the moment there is no obvious location for one, but if it is included in the plan then maybe a place can be found as part of some major future development such as Regency Mews or even the West Pier.

We have also queried the logic of the Council's policy which prevents houses in multiple occupation (bedsits) from being converted to self-contained flats. Because bedsits do not generate an economic return on capital, private landlords allow these properties to go without proper maintenance, and sometimes to stand empty. Decent bedsit accommodation is needed in the town centre but is this policy the right way to get it?

PARKING

We have been touch with Police a two occasions this year about their tow-away activities. Firstly we clarified the rules about what happens if an owner returns while his or her car is being removed - once the wheels are off the road it will be taken away even if the owner returns.

Secondly we raised the question of why cars parked illegally on residents' places are not being towed away. The answer is that they are not causing an obstruction. We have objected strongly that residents' places should be protected against use by non-residents and have been assured that this view will be taken into account when the whole tow away policy is reviewed later in the year.

SOCIAL ACTIVITIES

At our autumn social evening local historian, Geof Mead gave a fascinating talk on the industrial history of our area.

Once again the rain stayed away and we had a successful firework display on November 5th.

The Christmas tree in Regency Square was battered by the gales but stayed upright until the new year. The lights were switched on by Peter Bramich, the new manager of the Metropole Hotel.

CLEANLINESS IS NEXT TO IMPOSSIBLE

The columns of our newsletter have devoted more space to the problems of litter than to almost any other topic. So we will not repeat the arguments yet again here.

We are watching with interest the results of the new street cleaning contract and would welcome members' views as to whether the streets are now being kept cleaner.

we had a meeting with Steve Bassam, the Council Leader. He listened sympathetically to our complaints about cleansing, particularly the chaos caused at bank holiday time when normal rubbish collection is suspended, and the problem of domestic and trade refuse dumped in the street.

COMMITTEE

Two new members were co-opted onto the committee during the year, Pat Milson and Jon Phipps.

Trudy Tappin, who has been a member of the committee for several years, has decided not to stand for re-election; she plans to devote more time to her other voluntary work.

Nominations are invited for new members. If you wish to make a nomination or stand for election yourself please contact Richard Pau (tel 26711) or Roger Hinton (tel 21794).

THANKS

To all members and friends who have supported the Society over the year.

SOCIETY CONTACTS

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