



NEWSLETTER 88 March 1993

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The 14th Annual General Meeting of the Society will be held at 730pm on Thursday 25 March in the Chartwell Room at the Metropole Hotel.

AGENDA

- 1 To approve the minutes of the previous AGM
- 2 To receive the committee's report on the year's activities.
- 3 To receive the accounts for the year ending 28 February 1993
- 4 To elect officers and committee members for the coming year.
- 5 To set the subscription rates for the year commencing 1 March 1993.

After the formal business of the meeting there will be an opportunity for members to discuss any issues which they feel are of interest to the Society.

Refreshments will be provided.

The meeting will conclude with a talk by Dr Peter Morrice on the work of English Heritage, illustrated with slides.

SOCIETY CONTACTS

CHAIRMAN Roger Hinton: tel 321794
SECRETARY Richard Pau: tel 326711
TREASURER Harold Lawson tel 328203

NEW OFFICERS

Roger Hinton became the Society's chairman in September 1984, only the second person to be chairman since it was formed in 1979. He will be standing down at this AGM. One nomination has been received, namely Harold Lawson, the existing Treasurer.

If he is elected a new treasurer will be needed and Brian Smith, who was co-opted onto the committee at the end of 1992 has been nominated.

Richard Pau, the Society's secretary has been nominated for re-election.

Any other nominations for these posts should be sent to Richard Pau, 40 Regency Square

THE COMMITTEE

We have lost three members from the committee during the year. Joyce Evans (now Baker) resigned in September because she was getting married and moving to another part of Brighton.

Pat Milson resigned in December because her job involves a lot of travel and she was finding it increasingly difficult to get to meetings.

Dr Matter was elected to the committee at last year's AGM but only attended one meeting. Since then we have lost contact with him.

Two new members have been co-opted during the year.

Neil Rosborough lives in Sussex Heights and is a member of the residents association committee.

Brian Smith lives in Regency Square and has agreed to be nominated as Treasurer for 1993/4.

The following people have been nominated for election to the committee for 1993/4:

Ros Boulden	Queensbury Mews
Clive Buxton	Regency Square
Diana Dunn	Clarence Gardens
Roger Hinton	Regency Square
Pat McCulloch	Queensbury Mews
Neil Rosborough	Sussex Heights

Any other nominations should be sent to Richard Pau, 40 Regency Square.

ENGLISH HERITAGE

English Heritage (not "National Heritage" as we wrongly called in the last newsletter) is a government funded body. It owns some national monuments in its own right and provides funds to other organisations.

The grants which are awarded for the restoration of listed buildings in Brighton, such as that recently given for 32 regency Square, are partly funded by English Heritage. It has also, in the past, provided funds for emergency repairs to the West Pier.

Peter Morrice is one of the officers of English Heritage and he has kindly offered to come to talk to us after the AGM. He will show some slides and tell us in more detail about the organisation's work.

PLEASE RENEW YOUR SUBSCRIPTION

Membership subscriptions are now due for renewal. Please send your subscription to the Treasurer now using the form below.

To Harold Lawson, 7 Chartwell Court, Russell Square, Brighton.

I would like to renew my membership of the Regency Square Area Society for the year 1993/94 in the category ticked below:

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

Name

Address

Cheques payable to the Regency Square Area Society please.

THE COMMITTEE REPORT ON 1992/3

Cable TV: we attended a meeting with representative of Nynex, the company installing the cables to ask for care to be taken in the siting of connection boxes on the pavements. As a matter of law, Nynex do not need to get approval for the siting of boxes but they assured us that the Planning department will be consulted about the location of boxes in conservation areas.

Road Surfacing: a new surface was laid in Regency Square which was quite unsuitable for the amount of traffic using the road. After pressure from the Society the Council decided to replace it with a better quality surface.

Castle & Stone Streets: we were pleased to be able to report a success in the continuing battle to protect residents in this part of the area. An appeal by the snooker club to allow it to stay open later was rejected. We are still waiting to hear the outcome of an application by Kentucky Fried Chicken for early morning deliveries; the Society objected to the application.

The West Pier: at our social evening in October, our guest was Bryan Spielman of the West Pier Trust; he gave an enthusiastic report of the Trust's plans to restore the pier by the end of the century. Meanwhile some members have been disturbed by the noise of activities on the pier like aerobics and bungee jumping. The Society raised this problem with the Trust and the Council and at present it seems to have been solved.

Parking: there have been big changes in the parking arrangements in Regency square and neighbouring streets. More on street spaces have been created and more have been designated for residents. A survey by the Society showed that members had varying views of the acceptability of the new scheme. At the time of writing we are investigating reports that more changes to the residents' scheme are on the way.

Fireworks: in November we organised our annual bonfire night party with fireworks and food generously donated by members.

32 Regency Square: the Society has been pressing for action to improve the state of this house for several years. At last it has been done, with the aid of grants from the Council and English Heritage.

Regency Residents: we have been represented at two meetings of this new grouping of community associations within the Regency Ward.

Noise: we often receive requests from members for advice and help in dealing with noisy neighbours. The present law on noise is very weak and the Society asked our local MP to support a private members' bill aimed at strengthening it.

Rubbish: no annual report is complete some rubbish in it somewhere: we have continued to press the Council to improve street cleaning and rubbish collection. Last month the Director of Environmental Services met the committee and we had a useful discussion which is reported elsewhere in this newsletter.

Regency Square Area Society Accounts for the year ended 28th February 1993

Income		Expenditure	
	£		£
Donations	101	Functions	111
Functions	22	Printing, Stationery etc	233
Subscriptions	356		-----
Interest received	17	Surplus for year	344
	-----		152
	£ 496		-----
	-----		£ 496
	-----		-----
Balance Sheet			
	£		£
Subscriptions in Advance	95	Cash on Deposit	864
Surplus brought forward	632	Cash in hand	15
Surplus for year	152		

	784		

	879		879
	-----		-----
Harold Lawson Treasurer			

TALKING RUBBISH

The Society Committee had a very useful meeting last month with Colin Franks and Gary Irwin, who are the Council Officers responsible for keeping the street clean.

We asked them first whether it would be possible to replace the slip a day system for rubbish collection after public holidays. This system means that after each public holiday the normal collection day is changed. As a result people put their rubbish out on the wrong day for several weeks until they get used to the new one.

The Council's problem is partly one of cost: the slip a day system is fairly cheap to operate. However, there are also practical problems such as the fact the County Council tip where rubbish is dumped is not open on public holidays, and regulations prevent them from storing rubbish in vehicles overnight.

New contracts for refuse collection and street cleaning are being drawn up at present. The plan is to try to ensure that in weeks when there are holidays, it is possible to catch up on collections within the week, so that collections can revert to the same day as before from the following week. As a Society we would welcome this system since it would be much less confusing.

The other issue we raised was the problem of rubbish which is dumped in the street on the wrong day and lies uncollected until the next collection day.

The Council Officers are hoping to overcome this by building into the new street sweeping a requirements that the contractor should have a mobile team able to respond quickly to reports of dumped rubbish.

This would mean not only that the offending rubbish would be cleared quickly, but also that evidence would build up of which properties were the source of regularly dumped rubbish. Council inspectors could then try to persuade those responsible to put their rubbish out at the right time; prosecutions could be brought against persistent offenders.

Again, the Society would welcome this scheme if it could be made effective. It would certainly represent a step forward from the present arrangement since it would establish that the street sweeping contractor was responsible for rubbish dumped in the street.

The Council's ability to implement these changes will depend on how much they will cost. This will only be known in November when contractors' tenders have been evaluated.

After our meeting we had a much better understanding of the problems facing the Council. We also felt that Council officers are aware of the problems and are actively seeking solutions.

But, if you are hoping for a rapid improvement, don't hold your breath: even if the new schemes can be implemented, they will not come into effect until next February when the existing contracts run out.