



## NEWSLETTER 97 March 1994

### Annual General Meeting

The Society's 15th AGM will take place at 7-30 pm on Thursday 31 March 1994 in the Norfolk Room at the Metropole Hotel.

### AGENDA

- 1 To approve the minutes of the 14th AGM
- 2 To receive the committee's report on the year's activities.
- 3 To receive the accounts for the year ending 28 February 1994.
- 4 To elect officers and committee members for the forthcoming year.
- 5 To set subscription rates for the year commencing 1 March 1994.

The formal business will start at 7-30 after which there will be an opportunity for members to raise any issues they wish the Society's committee to consider.

The meeting will end with a talk by Gavin Henderson, Director of the Brighton Festival on the "The Festival and Historic Brighton"

Refreshments will be served.

All members and their guests will be most welcome at the meeting. If you have any neighbours who may be interested in joining the Society, please bring them along.

### Subscriptions

The current subscriptions were set in March 1988. The Society has made a small deficit during 1993/4 but has a good level of reserves. The committee is planning to boost income next year by a fund-raising activity at the autumn social event and therefore does not wish to propose any change to the levels of subscriptions.

### Committee Members

Ros Boulden joined the committee in Autumn 1985 and has represented the Society on the Conservation Areas Advisory Group (CAAG) since then. She has now decided to step down because of pressure of other commitments.

Ros has been one of the most active of our committee members and we are sure that all Society members will want to join her colleagues on the committee in thanking her for all her hard work over the past eight and half years.

After the AGM it will be necessary for the committee to appoint one of its members to represent the Society on the CAAG. The CAAG looks at all planning applications for this area and its views are taken into consideration by the Council's Planning Committee. This job is therefore one of the most important in the Society.

There is no formal limit to the number of committee members. The current members listed below have all been nominated for re-election.

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.

### Election of Officers

Harold Lawson was elected as Chairman at last year's annual general meeting, having previously been Treasurer for several years. He has been nominated for election for a second term as Chairman.

Richard Pau was first elected as Secretary in March 1982 and is therefore the longest serving officer of the Society. He has been nominated for re-election, but in accepting nomination he has indicated that, if elected, this will be his last year in office since he plans to move away from Brighton in 1995.

Brian Smith was elected Treasurer at last year's AGM and has been nominated for re-election.

Any other nominations for the above posts should be sent to Richard Pau, 40 Regency Square.

### It's Time to Renew your Subscription

Subscriptions run from March to February. Please support the Society by re-newing your subscription now.

To Brian Smith, 45 Regency Square, Brighton.

I would like to renew my membership of the Regency Square Area Society for the year 1994/95 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.



## Committee Report

### Rubbish - a glimmer of hope ?

Last year we reported on a meeting we had with officers of the Council about rubbish in the street. The past year has seen no improvement - if anything the amount of rubbish being dumped is getting worse.

However, a recent report in the Argus indicates that the Council is trying to do something to solve the problems, albeit very slowly. When new refuse collection contracts come into force later this year the absurd slip a day system will finally disappear and we will have a fixed collection day. There will also be an emergency team to deal with rubbish dumped on the wrong day.

So perhaps our continued pressure on the Council will at last bear fruit.

### Trade Refuse in Russell Square ?

Meanwhile an unsightly trade refuse skip has appeared in Russell Square. Why is it there ? Is it the start of a trend ?

We are making enquiries with Council to get more information.

### Activities

Two members spent two Sunday mornings in May and June cleaning the Society's benches in Regency Square.

Our Autumn social even was a great success. Local historian Geof Mead's talk was a tour de force. He had selected slides of the Brighton seafront area at random from his huge collection. He did not know what would appear on the screen next. Nevertheless each picture was the source of some fascinating fact or idea drawn from his vast knowledge of the town's history.

In November we had a successful firework party on Guy Fawkes Night.

Having gone without a Christmas Tree in 1992 we were able to persuade the Council to put some of its community budget towards a tree this year. Two local hotels also made donations which was fortunate since changes in regulations meant that we had to purchase a new set of lights.

### Planning and Environmental Issues

The Society contributes to conservation throughout Brighton through our membership of the Conservation Areas Advisory Group. The group advises the Council's Planning Committee on all planning applications in conservation areas.

One of the main problems dealt with in the past year was the application for demolition of the building at 40-41 Castle Street for conversion to flats. The original plan caused considerable concern amongst neighbours. Representations by local residents and by the Society resulted in some improvements in the scheme which has now been given approval.

We have also been putting pressure on the Council to take some action regarding empty houses in Castle street, so far without any success.

The West Pier Trust applied for permission to place advertising boards on the roof end of the pier. We objected to those which would be visible from Regency Square.

We were very pleased to have been consulted by the cabling company, Nynex regarding the siting of distribution boxes in Russell and Clarence Square. We succeeded in persuading them not to locate one next to the railings at the east end of Russell Square. We supported their plan to locate a box in the link road between the two squares but were unhappy with the box by the entrance to Russell Mews. Unfortunately they could not find any suitable alternative location for it. We are hoping for similar consultation when Regency Square is cabled later in 1994.

Brighton Council raised again the question of locating a re-cycling centre in this area. While supporting the principle of re-cycling we were unable to identify a suitable site in the area. Given the proximity of recycling facilities near Waitrose and in Churchill Square, we suggested that a centre was not needed in our area.

As a result of pressure from the Society improvements will be made to the edging of the gardens in Russell Square.

*Don't miss the AGM - 31 March*

### Problems of Noise

A number of local people have suffered problems with noisy neighbours. The committee had a useful meeting with our local community policeman and representatives from the Council's environmental health department.

While they had useful advice to offer we came to the conclusion that the present law is not strong enough to ensure effective control of noise nuisance. We communicated our view to our Member of parliament but his reply made it clear that the government has no plans to change the law at present.

So at the moment the only effective means of stopping noise is by getting the help of the Council's environmental health department. They can be successful in preventing repeated noise from the same source but neither they nor the police can take immediate action late at night, when noise can be most disturbing.

### Membership

In recent years we have had about 100 members. This year has been rather disappointing by comparison with only 88 subscriptions received. The Society can only claim to represent local views if it has a good number of members. We hope very much that all members will encourage neighbours to join.

#### Regency Square Area Society Accounts for the Year Ended 28 February 1994

Income		Expenditure	
	£		£
Donations	500	Functions	133
Functions	20	AGM	79
Subscriptions	341		-----
Interest Received	14		212
	-----		
	875	Printing etc	222
Deficit for the Year	55	Christmas Tree	496
	-----		-----
	930		930
	=====		=====
<b>Balance Sheet</b>			
	£		£
Deficit for the Year	(55)	Cash on Deposit	756
Surplus b/f	784	Cash in Hand	2
	-----		-----
	729		
Advance Subs.	29		
	-----		-----
	758		758
	=====		=====