



Regency Square Area Society

NEWSLETTER 105
March 1995

Annual General Meeting

The Society's Annual General Meeting will be held at 7:30 pm on Thursday 30 March in the York Room at the Hotel Metropole.

Agenda

- 1 Minutes of the Previous Meeting
- 2 Chairman's Report for the Year
- 3 Treasurer's Report and Annual Accounts
- 4 Election of Officers and Committee
- 5 Subscription Rates for 1996

After the formal agenda there will be an opportunity for members to discuss any issues which they wish the Society to consider.

Refreshments will be served and the evening will end with an illustrated talk by John Roles of Brighton Museum on "Brighton's Cinemas and Theatres Past and Present".

The Society's Year

The year started with the disappointing news that one of the Society's wooden benches in Regency Square had been stolen. However, as the year ends we can report that the Council is planning to spend money improving the Square.

They plan to clean the war memorial and paint some of the railings black. They will also put additional paving to improve access to the central car park stairway and provide some new Victorian style park benches.

We are still waiting for the promised re-painting of railings in Russell and Clarence Square, but we have been promised that new kerbstones around Russell Square will be done soon.

Planning

As always we have kept a close eye on local developments and have been represented at the Conservation Areas Advisory Group.

The year's most significant planning decision the approval for the Castle Snooker Club to stay open until 2 am. This represents a serious blow for residents of Castle Street. Although there is no chance to appeal against the decision itself, the Society has complained officially to the Council about the way the Planning Committee dealt with the application. If the outcome is not satisfactory we will contact the Ombudsman.

Another development in Castle Street has also been a cause of concern. New flats are being built at number 40. The Society objected that windows in the rear were in breach of the planning conditions in that they overlook properties in Clarence Gardens. The Council, while agreeing that the windows are not the same as those originally approved, has refused to take action to have them changed.

On one planning matter we can report some success. The owner of number 128 Kings Road has been taken to court and fined for failure to comply with Council requirements for the re-instatement of original style windows.

You are invited to an open meeting
the Society Committee
on 27 March at 8pm.
See over for details.

Rubbish

It has been another year of disappointment as far as rubbish dumping is concerned. We were originally promised that 1994 would bring new street cleaning contracts and an end to the slip a day system but the changes have now been delayed until 1995.

Meanwhile they did make one attempt to get plastic bags off the pavement in Russell Square. They did it by placing a large trade refuse skip next to number 28. They did this without consultation. The Society objected strenuously, claiming that the skip was unsightly and would simply attract more rubbish. The Council refused to budge, but they did say that there were no plans to put skips anywhere else.

Meanwhile the rest of the area is still regularly littered with plastic bags. The problem reached a peak in the summer when a pile of 15 bags were left rotting in Queensbury Mews for several days. The Council finally took some action after a dead rat was seen lying near them in the road.

Social Activities

In November we had the annual firework party. Unfortunately, because of bad weather we were not able to provide any refreshments.

With help from the Council and members we were able to provide a Christmas tree again in Regency Square. Unlike last year it stayed uprights and alight right through to twelfth night.

Our pre Christmas social evening at the Metropole was great success. We invited local councillors to meet members. Martin Boggon and Roy Pennington came and participated in a lively discussion about a number of local issues.

Homelessness

The issue which generated most discussion was the problems caused by the Council's policy of using some hotels in Regency Square to accommodate homeless people.

Neighbouring hoteliers have complained that anti social behaviour by a few of these people is have a serious affect on their trade, and on life in general in the Square. This issue has not yet been resolved and local MP Sir Derek Spencer has now become involved.

And Finally

September 1994 saw the publication of the 100th issue of the Society's newsletter. The occasion was celebrated by re-publishing the front page of issue number one.

Annual Accounts

1994/5 Income and Expenditure Summary			
Income	£	Expenditure	£
Donations	70	Functions	104
Functions	33	Printing etc	210
Subscriptions	369	Christmas Tree	178
Net Interest	18		
	490		
Deficit for year	2		
	492		492
Balance Sheet			
Deficit for year	(2)	Cash on Deposit	666
Surplus Bt fwd	729	Cash in hand	69
	727		
Advance subscriptions	8		
	735		735
Brian Smith, Treasurer			

Elections

Richard Pau has been Secretary of the Society since 1982. He is now stepping down because he will be moving away from Brighton in August. Pat McCulloch, herself a long standing committee member, has been nominated for election as Secretary.

Harold Lawson has been nominated for another year as Chairman and Brian Smith as Treasurer.

The following committee members are standing for re-election:

Clive Buxton	Regency Square
Diana Dunn	Clarence Gardens
Roger Hinton	Regency Square
Kate Page	Dean Street

Nominations from other members will be welcome. Please contact any of the contacts listed below if you want more information.

The next meeting of the Society's committee will be an open meeting to which any members are welcome to come. One of the aims of holding an open meeting is to allow anyone interested in standing for the committee to find out how it works. The meeting will be at 8pm on Monday 27 March at 39 Regency Square. Please telephone Roger Hinton (321794) if you plan to come so that we can organise enough seats.

SOCIETY CONTACTS

CHAIRMAN Harold Lawson tel 328203
 SECRETARY Richard Pau: tel 326711
 TREASURER Brian Smith tel 325175
 NEWSLETTER Roger Hinton tel 321794

It's Subscription Time Again

Please support the Society by renewing your subscription. And encourage your neighbours to join, or to come to the AGM as guests. If you want a spare copy of this newsletter to give them call Harold Lawson (328203)

To Brian Smith, 45 Regency Square, Brighton.

I would like to renew my membership of the Regency Square Area Society for the year 1995/96 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.

An Illustrated Tour of Brighton's Cinemas and Theatres Past and Present

A Talk by John Roles
of Brighton Museum

After the Society's AGM
7:30 pm Thursday 30 March

York Room
Hotel Metropole