

## NEWSLETTER 123 January 1997

### Your Society Needs You !

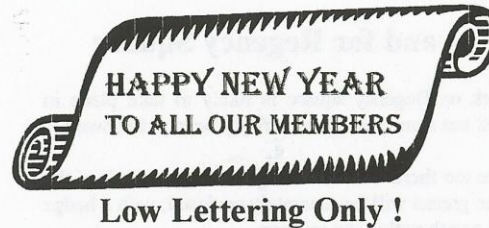
The coming year is likely to see important developments in our area.

Work in Churchill Square will continue. Important decisions are likely about the future of the West Pier. There will be improvement works in Russell and Clarence Squares and plans will be decided for improvements to Regency Square. Changes are being discussed for Preston Street which could affect traffic flows considerably.

It is therefore essential that our society continues to keep these developments under review and to represent the interests of local people. We can only speak with authority if we have a strong membership.

The membership year starts in March. Please help by renewing as soon as you can. (If you are a new member who joined since 1 September 1996 your membership is valid until 1998.)

At last year's AGM it was agreed that membership rates should be increased for 1997/8. The previous rates have been in force since 1988. The new rates are shown on the renewal form over the page.



Two recent planning decisions indicate that the Council is not prepared to allow lettering on buildings in conservation areas above first floor level.

The guest house at 11 Russell Square had asked for permission to put the hotel name down the front of the building. This was refused, as was a request for a floodlit hotel sign.

Meanwhile BUPA has also been refused permission to put the name "Russell House" at a high level on their building in Russell Mews.

### Sun Hall Restaurant Plan Opposed

The Sun Hall Restaurant on the sea front next the the Metropole Hotel has applied for permission to create a glass conservatory at the front of the building.

The Society has suggested that this would create a precedent which could result in other properties along the same terrace also wanting to enclose their front areas. We have therefore asked that the application be refused on conservation grounds.

#### SOCIETY CONTACTS

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### Parking on the Pier

The Society has welcomed the signs of real progress towards the restoration of the Pier.

The West Pier Trust has obtained permission to use the arches on the lower promenade to the west of the pier. A visitors' centre and office will be created opposite the "Pétanque Piste" (formerly the boating pond).

The Trust's present office is a rather unattractive temporary building on the restored section of deck opposite the war memorial. Hopefully this can be removed once the arches are ready for occupation.

The restored deck area is also used as a car park at present. We have suggested that this is unsightly and is not really an appropriate use for a grade one listed building. If parking is allowed to continue there is a risk more and more drivers will use it. It could also be harder to stop in the future, if it becomes established custom now.

The go kart track under the pier is to continue for the time being, with permission granted until 1 October 1997. A planning application is also under consideration for the first phase of emergency works.

### Carols and Mulled Wine



In spite of the cold weather quite a few members gathered round the Christmas tree on the Friday before Christmas, complete with lanterns, to join the choir of St Paul's in singing carols.

Many thanks to the choir. The Society has made a small donation to Church funds.

Thanks also to the Regency Tavern for the mulled wine which quickly dispelled the cold, and for the sausage rolls. And thanks also to all the members who contributed mince pies.

## Does Consultation Work ?

We reported in recent issues the results of the local questionnaires about what improvements people would like to see to the squares.

Plans have now been prepared in detail for improvements to the small squares, with some initial ideas for Regency Square. The improvements will be funded from the "single re-generation budget" (SRB), augmented with locally raised funds.

The plans, which are outlined below, do seem to have taken account of the views expressed. There will be a further opportunity for consultation once the detailed plans are published.

## Plans for Russell and Clarence Squares

Both the small squares will have new cast iron railings, described as "heritage railings".

Clarence square will have an evergreen hedge inside the railings and a perimeter path inside the hedge. There will be formal seating in the centre accessed by paths.

We have emphasised the importance of providing litter bins near the seating. Bins in the centre of the green are less likely to attract bags of domestic refuse than they might if they were nearer to the railings.

The informal planting in Russell Square will be retained with four or five large trees added at the eastern end to screen the view of Chartwell Court. Some informal seating may be provided but there will not be any formal footpaths.

These plans have not been finalised yet. A local exhibition is planned in February to allow everyone to see the plans and make comments. Details of the exhibition will be in the next newsletter.

The work is expected to be completed during 1997.

## ... and for Regency Square

Work on Regency square is likely to take place in 1998 but some ideas have already been put forward.

Here too there will be heritage railings. Each of the three greens will be separately enclosed, with a hedge and a path within the railings.

One green will be designated as a dog walking area.

There will be no formal sporting or play areas. The subway to the beach will be upgraded and there will be improvements to the top entrance to the green.

An exhibition of these plans will be arranged later in the year.

## What about the Pavements ?

The squares are more than just the islands in the middle. The SRB money is limited and it has therefore been decided to limit its use to the central areas of the squares.

However, this is only half the job. The Society has emphasised that the pavements, particularly around the smaller squares, are much in need of improvement, as are other aspects of the environment such as rubbish collection.

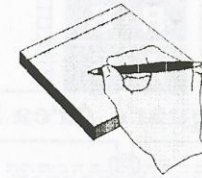
## Rat Run

If you stand at the northern entrance to Clarence Square for a while you will probably see vehicles turning out of Western Road into the square. Often cars using this route travel far too fast round the sharp corners. This causes a danger for pedestrians.

Some vehicles even use the same route to get into Western Road in spite of the fact that it is a "No entry" except for bicycles.

We are contacting the highway authority to discuss the possibility of installing a speed hump to slow traffic as it crosses the Western Road pavement.

**Don't  
delay**



**Renew  
today !**

## Membership Renewal Form

The subscription rates shown below are the new rates due from March 1997. They are the minimum payable for membership. If you are able to give more, please do. You can give a donation for general Society funds or for the Regency Square Improvement Fund which is reserved specifically for environmental improvements.

New members who have joined since 1 September 1996 do not need to renew until March 1998.

To Gail Simons, 28 Regency Square, Brighton.

I would like to renew my membership of the Regency Square Area Society for the year 1997/98 in the category ticked below:

	£
Ordinary member	4.00
Family	4.50
Senior Citizen	3.50
Junior	2.00
Associate (non-resident)	3.50
Business (non-resident)	6.50

Optional donation: £ \_\_\_\_\_ for Society funds OR Regency Sq Improvement Fund (delete one)

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Cheques payable to the Regency Square Area Society please.