



Regency Square Area Society

NEWSLETTER 125 March 1997

Annual General Meeting

The Society's 18th Annual General Meeting will be held at 7:30 pm on Thursday 27 March 1997 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 & Annual Accounts
- 4 Subscription Rates for 1997
- 5 Election of Officers and Committee

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 Steve Myall on the development of the Clifton Hill area.

SOCIETY CONTACTS

CHAIRMAN Brian Smith ☎ 325175
SECRETARY Pat McCulloch ☎ 773275
TREASURER to be elected
NEWSLETTER Roger Hinton ☎ 321794

The Society's Year

The Regeneration Game

There are funds available from the "Single Regeneration Budget" (SRB) for improvements in Clarence, Russell and Regency Squares and in Preston Street.

The Society is represented on the two steering groups planning the schemes. We helped to design a questionnaire seeking local people's views. Proposals are currently the subject of public consultation.

The Name of the Game is £££

SRB funds will only provide part of the costs of planned improvements. The Society has been working hard to raise money to contribute.

In July we ran a quiz night at the Regency Hotel. Many thanks to quiz master, Martin Boggon.

We held a prize draw at the Beach Hotel in December. Many members and local businesses contributed prizes and worked hard to sell tickets.

The result of this activity is that the fund has increased to £4,610.

The Hole that was Churchill Square

Work started in earnest on the re-development of Churchill Square. With mixed feelings we watched Regency Road disappear.

The Society expressed concern about a revised scheme which would have created a very narrow footpath outside the Prince of Wales pub. The original plan has now been reinstated.

We also tried to encourage Tesco to take space in the new mall. It seems that they would like to but a suitable space is not available.

Meanwhile various kinds of traffic chaos are afflicting Cannon Place as traffic struggles to get in

and out of the remaining car parks and exhibition vehicles continue to treat it as a loading area.

Improved Parking Please

One of the main issues the Society has dealt with during the year is parking. The committee had a useful meeting with local councillor, Nimrod Ping who chairs Brighton Plans and Traffic Committee.

We made a case for residents' parking restrictions to apply 24 hours a day. We also pressed for improved enforcement of parking regulations.

The official response from the Council was that everything will be up for review when the new Unitary Authority takes over in April 1997. In the meantime we have discovered that the new authority could, if it chose, employ its own parking wardens directly and meet the cost out of income from parking penalties. We have asked for this to be implemented.

Big Business - Big Changes

The Society was pleased to welcome BUPA as a new member when they moved into Russell House, the office building in Russell Square.

Meanwhile our other extra large member, the Metropole Hotel has recently changed ownership.

Flowers and Music

The Society spends most of its time campaigning to improve and protect the local environment. But we do try to find time for other things as well.

Jointly with Topps Hotel we funded Brighton in Bloom for Regency Square. The result was an excellent display of flowers on railings and lamp posts around the square.

We were grateful to the Council for providing a Christmas tree in Regency Square. The Society provided the lights and organised carol singing with members of the choir of St Pauls church, followed by mulled wine and mince pies at the Regency Tavern.

Annual Accounts

1996/7 Income and Expenditure Summary

Income	£	Expenditure	£
Donations	160	Functions	66
Functions	51	Printing etc	305
Subscriptions	400	Christmas Tree	160
Net Interest	13	Lottery Admin	98
	---	Insurance	133
	624	Bton in Bloom	100
Deficit for year	238		---
	---		---
	862		862
	---		---

Balance Sheet

Deficit for year	(238)	Cash on Deposit	501
Surplus Bt fwd	768	Petty cash owed	(28)
	---		---
	530		473
Advance subs	136	Advance paymnts	193
	---		---
	666		666
	---		---

Regency Square Improvement Fund

	£
Balance as at 1 March 1996	2,325
Contributions during the year	2,285

Balance as at 28 February 1997	4,610

Gail Simons, Treasurer	

The Society has had a difficult year financially. There are three main reasons for this.

The first is that the committee decided to take out public liability insurance to protect committee members against claims which might arise from Society activities. People are becoming more inclined to resort to the courts to seek compensation for damages suffered. It seems only reasonable that the Society should protect its voluntary committee against such risks.

Another reason is that the Society contributed £100 to Brighton in Bloom.

The third reason is that Society funds were used to meet a number of expenses associated with the prize draw which contributed over £1,800 to the Regency Square Improvement Fund.

The increasing cost of running the Society will be met to some extent by the increased subscription rates which were agreed at the last AGM and are only now coming into effect. A recent campaign to recruit new members may also help to increase membership income.

However, the new committee will almost certainly have to find other ways to reduce costs or increase income.

Elections

Gail Simons is not able to stand for re-election as treasurer because of other commitments. The committee is grateful to her for her work and is pleased that she has agreed to continue as an ordinary member of the committee.

A nomination is being sought for a new Treasurer. Brian Smith and Pat McCulloch are standing for re-election as Chairman and Secretary. The following committee members are also standing for re-election:

Clive Buxton	Regency Square
Diana Dunn	Clarence Gardens
Nairin Forbes	Sussex Heights (co-opted)
Roger Hinton	Regency Square
Harold Lawson	Chartwell Court
Gail Simons	Regency Square
Traude Tappin	Abbots

Other nominations will be welcome. Call any of the Society contacts for more information.

It's Subscription Time Again

Please renew your subscription. Also encourage your neighbours to join, or to come to the AGM as guests. For a spare copy of this newsletter to give them call Roger Hinton (321794).

The Building of the West End of Town

a look at the C19th development of the Clifton and Powis estates

a talk by Steve Myall illustrated with slides

York Room, Metropole Hotel
Thursday 27 March 1997 following the AGM

Membership Renewal Form

The subscriptions shown below are the minimum payable for membership. If you can give more, please do. You can make a donation to general Society funds or to the Regency Square Improvement Fund which is reserved specifically for environmental improvements.

To Gail Simons, 28 Regency Square, Brighton.

please renew my membership of the Regency Square Area Society for the year 1997/98 in the category of membership ticked below:

	£
Ordinary member	4.00
Family (2 adults plus any children)	4.50
Senior Citizen	3.50
Junior	2.00
Associate (non-resident)	3.50
Business (non-resident)	6.50

Optional donation: £ _____ for
Society funds / Regency Sq Improvement Fund
(delete one)

Name _____

Address _____

Cheques payable to the Regency Square Area Society please.



Change and Conservation

This part of Brighton is a conservation area.

At the same time it is a busy commercial area at the heart of a thriving town. As such there is constant pressure for change.

Here are some of the things that are likely to cause changes in the next year or so:

Churchill Square - a new shopping mall with car parks and new road layouts is being built right on our doorstep.

"Regeneration" - money has been made available from a special government budget to make improvements to Regency, Russell and Clarence Squares.

Preston Street - money is also available for improvements in Preston Street; traders want wider pavements and changes to traffic flows.

The West Pier - after many years of decay there is now a real chance for the pier. Decisions are likely to be made soon which will determine what it will be used for.

Can Local People Have a Say ?

Those who live and work in the area have a right to a say in these developments. The Regency Square Area Society provides a way for this to happen. We are regularly consulted by the local authorities and we keep our members informed through meetings and a monthly newsletter.

What Else Does the Society Do ?

We hold social events such as quizzes and talks. We put a Christmas tree in Regency Square each year and organise carol singing. We raise money for environmental improvements, through a prize draw and other fund raising events.

In other words we work to maintain and improve the community and the environment in our area.

What is the Regency Square Area ?

We covers the area from Cannon Place in the east to Little Preston Street in the west, and from the seafront in the south to Western Road in the north.

If you live or run a business in this area you can become a full member of the Society. If not, you are still welcome to join as an associate member.

Please Join Us !

Please join the Society by returning the membership form. Or if you want to know more please call one of the Society contacts, or come to our Annual General Meeting.

SOCIETY CONTACTS

CHAIRMAN Brian Smith ☎ 325175
SECRETARY Pat McCulloch ☎ 773275
TREASURER Gail Simons ☎ 202690
NEWSLETTER Roger Hinton ☎ 321794

Annual General Meeting
7:30 pm
Thursday 27 March 1997
York Room, Hotel Metropole

New members and visitors welcome

The meeting will be followed by
an illustrated talk by Steve Myall on
the development of the Clifton Hill area

Membership Application Form

The subscription rates shown below 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.



To Gail Simons, 28 Regency Square, Brighton.

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

	£
Ordinary member	4.00
Family (2 adults plus any children)	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.