



Regency Square Area Society

NEWSLETTER 141
January 1999

Regeneration Blight

It was in the January 1996 newsletter, that we first reported that Brighton had been awarded regeneration money, some of which was to be spent in this area on things like new railings for Regency Square.

How much money has been spent on the regeneration of our squares since then? Nothing!

We have had two lots of public consultation with lengthy reports on what people think should be done if and when money does become available. We have also had a survey by consultants, resulting in another weighty report.

Meanwhile the area is degenerating. Clarence Square is suffering particularly badly. The railings on the north side were removed by the Council. Nothing was done to replace them because of the promise of re-generation.

Why the delay?

The answer is money. The funding arrangements for the scheme were recently described by a Council officer as "a house of cards"..



Clarence Square crumbles

Briefly the problem seems to be that government regeneration money cannot be used to fund the whole scheme; it will only be released if matching funds can be provided from elsewhere.

The most likely source of the matching funds is the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF). Before this money could be provided the HLF asked for expert advice from an organisation called English Heritage about whether the proposed scheme was suitable. This was why we had to have the consultants and the second round of public consultation.

The decision on whether HLF money will be allocated to our area is due in March. At a meeting at Hove Town Hall recently, speakers from English Heritage warned that even if the scheme was approved money might still not be available because HLF was cutting back on funds for schemes of this kind.

So where do we stand now? The only thing which is certain is that the Society has raised over £8,600 in its Regency Square Improvement Fund. Although this is only a small part of the cost of any regeneration scheme it does represent a huge achievement by local people.

Will there ever be any more?

Falcon Update

The original pair of birds are still resident in the Sussex Heights box but have now evicted the two female chicks, which is normal practice apparently.

The two chicks have been spotted around Brighton but it isn't known where they are nesting.

It is hoped that the parents will breed again this year.

Tipsy Tree

The Society's Christmas tree has been looking slightly the worse for wear since Christmas day. It has taken quite a battering from the high winds we have been having.

The tree was provided free by the Council but the Society has to pay for the lights, electricity and insurance. This is expected to cost over £200.

We have already had several generous donations towards this cost. Further help would be gratefully received. If you can offer a donation, please send it to the Treasurer, Roger Hinton, 39 Regency Square, Brighton BN1 2FJ.

Blowing in the Wind

And the rain. Many thanks to society member, Joyce Chester and her recorder group who braved the weather on the Friday before Christmas to play carols under the Christmas Tree.

Those few member who also braved the elements were provided with song sheets and sang along.

Late News ... When committee member, Clive Buxton took the lights off the Christmas tree he found that some of them had been damaged, apparently deliberately. This is the first year that there has been any damage. Fortunately it is repairable so the lights can be used again in future.

Auction Success

There were only a few members at the Society's fund raising auction last month but the bidding for most lots was brisk.



Society Chairman, Brian Smith surveys the lots before commencing his role as auctioneer

A total of £823 was offered for lots ranging from a BUPA health check to a telephone answering machine. A raffle raised another £100, making it a very successful evening for the Regency Square Improvement Fund.



Society member, Mavis Hargreaves selling raffle tickets

Many thanks to all those who donated gifts to be auctioned. Also to those members who kept the bidding brisk throughout the evening. And congratulations to Society chairman, Brian Smith, who, as auctioneer, made sure that everyone had ample opportunity to spend their money.

Thanks also to Harry Zurich for the use of a room at the Beach Hotel - and best wishes for a happy retirement.

Last but not least congratulations and thanks to Society committee member, Traude Tappin whose tireless energy has contributed more than anything else to the success of our fund raising efforts.



Traude Tappin, the Society's tireless fund raiser

Society Contacts:

CHAIRMAN, Brian Smith ☎ 325175;
SECRETARY, Andrew Walker ☎ 700340;
TREASURER & NEWSLETTER, Roger Hinton
☎ 321794 email hinton@clara.net

Nothing without Members

Do you have new neighbours who might be interested in joining the Society? Or perhaps you know someone who often say they would like to join but never get round to it.

If so, you need our new membership leaflet. It describes what the Society does and sets out the benefits of membership. It also has an application form. New members joining now will have membership through into the year 2000.

Contact the Treasurer for a copy (☎ 321794).

Time to Renew Your Membership

Subscriptions for 1999/2000 become due next month. Please help the Society by renewing now.

To Roger Hinton, 39 Regency Square, Brighton.

I would like to renew my membership of the Regency Square Area Society for the year 1999/2000 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

Basic subscription	_____
Optional donation	_____
Total enclosed	_____

Name _____

Address _____

Cheques payable to the Regency Square Area Society please
Members' details are stored on computer for administrative purposes only.