



**Regency Square Area Society**

**NEWSLETTER 142**  
**February 1999**

### **Check your Address Label**

Next month is the Society's annual general meeting. That means that subscriptions are now due. Many thanks to those members who have already renewed.

If you're not sure whether your membership is up to date, look at the address label on the envelope your newsletter arrived in. If it includes the numbers 99/00 then you're paid up until February 2000. If it says 98/99 then your subscription is due now.

### **The AGM**

The annual general meeting will be the Society's 20th so we have decided to indulge in a bit of nostalgia. Newsletter editor, Roger Hinton will give a talk on the Society's first 20 years, illustrated with slides that should bring back a few memories.

The meeting will be at 7:30 pm on Thursday 25th March in the Chartwell Room at the Metropole Hotel. This is not our usual room in the basement: we will be up on the roof this time in what used to be called the Starlight Restaurant.

Make a note in your diary now!

### **Can You Help Run the Society ?**

Like all voluntary organisations, our Society is only as good as the committee of volunteers who run it.

This year we are losing a number of committee members, so we need new ones.

What does it involve? We meet one evening a month. Meetings last between one and two hours. Apart from that members help out where they can - making a phone call, writing a letter, booking a room for a meeting, writing for the newsletter and so on.

If you can help we would be keen to hear from you. Call one of the contacts (see box below) who will be pleased to give you more information. Or come to the AGM and meet some of the other committee members.

### **What a Site**

The former carriage arch at the top of Queensbury Mews is being re-developed as living accommodation. A basement has been excavated and steps have been built down from the pavement.

As a result the pavement has been blocked and pedestrians are forced out into the road. This is unavoidable with a job on this scale. However, a proper pedestrian route should be provided and signposted.

The site should also be made more secure and properly lit to reduce the risk of accidents. We have asked the Council to investigate.

#### **Society Contacts:**

CHAIRMAN, Brian Smith ☎ 325175;  
SECRETARY, Andrew Walker ☎ 700340;  
TREASURER & NEWSLETTER, Roger Hinton  
☎ 321794 email [hinton@clara.net](mailto:hinton@clara.net)

### **Maybe it's not a Car Park**

One of the car parks below Churchill Square (Churchill 2) is being re-furbished, the one which has its entrance in Cannon Place. The work started last month and is due for completion before Easter.

When you look at this car park, perhaps you might be uncertain what it is - could it be a shop, a restaurant, or even a block of flats ???

The owners obviously believe drivers might be confused because they have applied for planning permission to put up yet another illuminated sign sticking out from it. The sign would be 6 metres by 1 metre and would be alight 24 hours a day.

The Society has objected on the grounds that it is opposite a conservation area and residential property.

### **Lost Leader**

The Council is legally required to advertise planning applications. The Society needs to know what applications have been made.

This is made difficult because the Council uses the Leader rather than the Argus for the advertisements. The reason is that it is cheaper.

The problem is that the Leader, which is delivered free to most homes in Brighton and Hove, is not delivered in this area. You can buy it in the Argus office in Dyke Rd but often they have run out.

So we are being denied our democratic right to know what planning applications are due to be decided. Previous requests to the Leader for deliveries to be made in this area have not been successful.

So we are asking the Council to advertise in a paper that everyone can get easily - namely the Argus.



## RSAS - the First Twenty Years

a nostalgic look back at the Society's history, presented by Roger Hinton and illustrated with slides

After the AGM at 7:30 pm on Thursday  
25 March 1999 in the Chartwell Room  
at the Metropole Hotel

### Does Anyone Live in Castle Street?

Very definitely yes. Though you would not imagine so, the way some of the local businesses behave. In fact more than half of the buildings are residential. We have several members in the street, including one new member who has just joined.

One Castle Street member has contacted us to complain about two businesses in particular.

One is BUPA whose offices in Russell Mews have an entrance in the street. The original plans for this building suggested that all deliveries would be via Regency Mews (off Preston Street) but large delivery vehicles are still using the Castle Street entrance.

BUPA is a member and supporter of the Society. They have always tried to respond to problems raised by neighbours and we will be talking to them about this one.

The other complaint is about Ecovert whose street sweepers operate from the Council yard in Castle Street. They start work very early and show little consideration for those still trying to sleep nearby. We are raising this problem with the Council.

### Have your Say on the Local Plan

A new local plan is being prepared to guide developments over the next ten years. The Council has issued a questionnaire to get local people's opinions.

If you would like a copy phone 292379 or 292505. Replies must be returned by Friday 19 February.

### West Pier Gets Longer

Well not the pier itself so much as the delay before it is restored.

The problem seems to be that the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) won't put their money in yet because they want the commercial developers to put some in at this stage as well.

The commercial developers will not actually be funding the structural repairs. They will be restoring the buildings on the pier. Obviously the structure comes first, but HLF want the developers to put some money in now as a sign of commitment. It will be paid back later.

The developers are willing to do this, but not until they know exactly what sort of building will be created on the lower esplanade at the shore end of pier. This building is crucial to the financial viability of the whole scheme.

An architectural competition was held last Spring. As a result, a plan was put forward for a building of 60,000 square feet which is described (in the West Pier Trust newsletter) as "a structure mainly in the sky, based upon an arch concept". The Trust and the Council apparently liked this scheme.

However, it has been rejected by English Heritage because it would have too severe an impact on the sea front. Hence the delay.

### What About the Pier's Neighbours ?

What we find really surprising is that an architectural competition was held, and the winning plan won support from the West Pier Trust and from the Council without those of us who would have to live opposite it having seen a single drawing.

It's true that plans would have had to be published before formal permission was granted. But it sounds as if that might have been a rubber stamping exercise had not English Heritage decided they didn't like it.

The public have a right to more consultation on a scheme of such importance that is being funded with lottery money. We have written to Lord Bassam to ask for his help in ensuring that future plans are made public much sooner.

### Membership Renewal Form

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.