



NEWSLETTER 143 March 1999

Annual General Meeting

The Society's 20th Annual General Meeting will be held at 7:30 pm on Thursday 25 March 1999 in the Chartwell 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 2000
- 5 Election of Officers and Committee

After the formal agenda members will be invited to raise issues for discussion..

Refreshments will be served and the evening will end with a talk by Roger Hinton on Twenty Years of the Society - illustrated with slides.

How to Get There

The Chartwell Room is on top of the Metropole Hotel - so it will be worth coming to the AGM just to see the view.

To get to it, take the lift from the hotel lobby to the 6th floor. On the 6th floor you will see a short staircase which takes you up to the room. You can avoid the stairs, if you prefer, by taking the luggage lift (next to the reception desk). This goes to the 7th floor and brings you out in a small service room off the Chartwell Room.

The Society's Year

Rubbish

This always seems to be top of the Society's agenda, but we have seen some positive developments this year. We had a useful meeting with Bill Heron who is the Council's senior environmental officer for this part of the town.

The Council has made a real effort to persuade people to put their rubbish out only on the collection day.

More controversial was their decision to cut down the number of collections. Officially there is only one a week but in fact the lorry still comes round at other times. We don't know how long this will go on.

The Society welcomes the Council's efforts. But pressure must be kept up on those who dump rubbish at the wrong time. We still aren't convinced that one collection a week is enough for an area as densely populated as this one.

We believe the Council should commit themselves to several collections a week and publicise the days and times. Those who still dump rubbish at the wrong time should be prosecuted.

Noise

The biggest event of the year in this area must surely have been the opening of the new Churchill Square. For residents of Chartwell Court and Russell Square this caused serious noise problems. The carparks require huge extractor fans to keep the air inside breathable and the fans were extremely noisy.

The Society supported local residents in a campaign to stop the noise. The result was that the Council ordered that major modifications had to be made to the equipment. Things are now much quieter.

This was only the worst of several noise issues. Residents of Sussex Heights and Queensbury Mews persuaded the Council that air conditioning units on the Metropole Hotel were excessively noisy. The hotel has applied for permission for yet more in the same area and the Society is pressing the Council to impose a planning condition that

they should not be audible from any neighbouring properties.

A plan for a laundry in Queensbury Mews, was rejected following objections from the Society and neighbours.

Regeneration

Unfortunately there is still nothing positive to report on plans to improve our squares.

During the year we had a second public consultation on new plans. There is still no money promised. Meanwhile the squares look tattier with each year that passes.

Socialising

The main Society event was a fund raising auction at the Beach Hotel. In spite of a smaller than usual turnout we managed to add almost £1,000 to the Society's Regency Square Improvement Fund.

With help from the Council we were able to put a Christmas tree in Regency Square again. A few hardy members braved the wind and the rain to listen to Joyce Chester's recorder group play carols around the tree.

...and the rest

There are many other issues which the Society committee has tried to deal with during the year. Here are a few:

- advertising banners in Castle Street without planning permission - the Council is now taking action;
- non delivery of the Leader to this Area - this means we don't see the planning notices;
- the West Pier saga drags on and we try to keep up to date with all the twists and turns;
- noisy early morning road sweepers at the Council yard in Castle Street - we have been assured that they will be asked to keep the noise down

... and so on.

Committee members wanted

Contact Brian Smith (☎ 325175) or Andrew Walker (☎ 700340) if you can help.