



NEWSLETTER 144
April 1999

Regeneration Degeneration

The Heritage Lottery Fund has rejected the bid for funds to regenerate Regency, Russell, Clarence and Bedford Squares. The view of the Fund Trustees is explained in the letter rejecting the bid:

"... although the project has merit, and has been well planned and presented, it has a low priority when considered in the context of grant support Brighton has already received from HLF."

The letter also points out that the "demand for grants ... currently exceeds by four times the funds available.

Brighton has already been promised over £20 million by the HLF, most of which presumably relates to the restoration of the West Pier. The amount requested for regeneration of the squares was £883,000.

So after initial headlines about £1 million, after years of meetings, two public consultations, highly successful local fund-raising and a £20,000 consultants' report, we are back where we started.

Society chairman, Brian Smith expressed most people's views admirably during an interview for the Argus: "I am extremely disappointed. We have done everything that they wanted and still the money has not been made available."

Where now ?

The Council's Conservation and Regeneration Manager, Rob Fraser says that he and his team "still have an SRB project to deliver and we need to investigate whether there might still be some elements of the project which could be salvaged with the remaining funds." However, "...it would be a fraction of the original budget."

The Society will be monitoring progress closely. We hope that some improvements can still be achieved and we will be pressing Council officers to make progress on obtaining reduced funding as soon as possible.

Meanwhile our own Regency Square Improvement Fund remains in the bank and is now likely to be a much more significant part of whatever scheme is finally carried out.

Burglars Like Basements

Watch out if you have a basement. There were basement break-ins in Regency and Clarence Squares last month.

The police are keen to put a stop to this kind of crime and have told us that if you see anyone acting suspiciously you should dial 999. They would rather have some false alarms than miss the chance of catching burglars in the act.

Three New Committee Members

Requests for committee nominations at the AGM usually produce an awkward silence, but this year, at the Society's 20th AGM, it was different.

Two new members were elected, Patricia Roberts and former committee member, Ros Boulden. After the meeting, Paul Stanford was co-opted to the committee.

So the full committee for 1999 / 2000 is

Chairman:	
Brian Smith	Regency Square
Secretary:	
Andrew Walker	Chartwell Court
Treasurer:	
Roger Hinton	Regency Square
Members:	
Ros Boulden	Queensbury Mews
Clive Buxton	Regency Square
Dianna Dunn	Clarence Gardens
Pat McCulloch	Queensbury Mews
Patricia Roberts	Sussex Heights
Ambrose Simons	Regency Square
Paul Stanford	Regency Square
Traude Tappin	Abbots

The Issues

After the formal part of the meeting the Chairman invited members to raise any issues that they thought the Society should look into.

Late Night Noise

Members in Queensbury Mews, Sussex Heights and part of Regency Square have been disturbed by music from late night parties in the Metropole Exhibition Halls. This is one example of a wide spread problem of late night noise.

The right thing to do first if you are disturbed is to try to contact the people causing the noise and ask them to turn it down. This is not always easy. (The telephone number of the Metropole is 775432 - ask for the duty manager.)

If that fails you can contact the environmental health department of the Council. Officers are on duty on Friday nights and can be contacted between 10pm and 3am Saturday on 0831 698907. At other times you will have to wait until office hours and call 292424. This doesn't stop the immediate problem but it is still worth doing because the Council may be able to stop the offenders causing future disturbance.

Former Chairman Retires

We are sad to be losing Harold Lawson as a Committee Member. He has decided to step down after 15 years. He joined the committee in May 1984 and became Treasurer later that year. In 1993 he took over as Chairman, a post he held until 1996 when our current chairman took over. Since then he has continued as an ordinary committee member.

Harold has always been a loyal supporter of the Society and has put in many hours of work on our behalf. As a former local authority treasurer his knowledge has been invaluable in our dealings with council officials. His common sense ideas and dry sense of humour have always enlivened discussion at committee meetings.

We offer him many thanks on behalf of all the Society's members for his contribution to the Society's success.

Elections

The following members are standing for re-election:

Chairman:	
Brian Smith	Regency Square
Secretary:	
Andrew Walker	Chartwell Court
Treasurer:	
Roger Hinton	Regency Square
Ordinary Members:	
Clive Buxton	Regency Square
Diana Dunn	Clarence Gardens
Pat McCulloch	Queensbury Mews
Ambrose Simons	Regency Square
Traude Tappin	Abbots

Mairin Forbes of Sussex Heights resigned from the committee during the year.

We need more committee members. Please contact the Chairman or Secretary if you can help!

Don't forget the AGM
7:30 pm Thursday 25 March 1999
Metropole Hotel

Followed by an illustrated talk on
20 Years of the RSAS

Annual Accounts

1998/9 Income and Expenditure Summary			
Income	£	Expenditure	£
Donations	470	Printing etc.	308
Subscriptions	516	Christmas Tree	181
Interest	35	Insurance	165
		Bton in Bloom (provision)	220
		Functions (net)	11
		Surplus for the year	136
	<u>1,021</u>		<u>1,021</u>
Balance Sheet			
Surplus for year	136	Cash on Deposit	1,455
Surplus Bt fwd	938	Cash in hand	48
	<u>1,074</u>		<u>1,503</u>
Advance subs	174	Advance payments	142
Advance donations	177		
Bton in Bloom (prov.)	220		
	<u>1,645</u>		<u>1,645</u>
Regency Square Improvement Fund			
			£
Balance as at 1 March 1998			7,571
Auction			923
Other Donations during the year			145
Interest received			254
Balance as at 28 February 1999			<u>8,893</u>

Treasurer's Report

Earlier in the year we considered suggesting an increase in subscriptions. But thanks to donations we have managed to get through the year with a surplus. So we have decided to leave the rates as they are for the time being.

The Christmas tree actually costs more than shown because we have to pay an extra insurance premium, which is included in the Insurance figure. Many thanks to those members who made donations towards the cost of the tree.

The Regency Square Improvement Fund has been increased by over £1,000 and is now temptingly close to £10,000. This money will be used as our contribution to the regeneration programme, when it finally gets going.

Roger Hinton, Treasurer

SOCIETY CONTACTS

CHAIRMAN Brian Smith ☎ 325175
 SECRETARY Andrew Walker ☎ 700340
 TREASURER and NEWSLETTER
 Roger Hinton ☎ 321794

It's Subscription Time Again

Many thanks to those members who have renewed their subscriptions and given donations to the Society over the past couple of months.

Please renew your subscription now if you haven't done so already. Also, encourage your neighbours to join, and bring them to the AGM as guests. If you want a membership leaflet to give them, call Roger Hinton (321794).

Without donations we would have had a large deficit last year. If you are able to add a donation to your basic subscription it helps us to keep the subscription low and still cover the Society's running costs.

Membership Renewal Form

To: Roger Hinton,
 39 Regency Square, Brighton BN1 2FJ

Please renew my membership of the Regency Square Area Society for the year 1999/2000 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

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.