



Regency Square Area Society

**NEWSLETTER 150
December 1999**

Can we get £10K by Y2K ?

Keep your voices down and your eyes peeled for a pre-Christmas bargain. The Society's silent auction will be held at the Beach Hotel on Thursday 16 December starting at 7:30.

The aim is to try to push the Regency Square Improvement Fund past the £10,000 mark.

We have lots of exciting things on offer, including dinner at various restaurants, nights at the Regency and Malvern Hotels, a portable TV, a bread making machine, prints, books, records toiletries ... & more

There will also be a raffle so even if the bidding gets to hot for you there's still a chance you'll take home something nice.

Enjoy a glass of wine and a mince pie while you decide what to bid for, or how many raffle tickets to buy.

The Cynical Bit

If you go to local government senior officer training school, one of the rules they teach you is this.

If you are going to meet members of the public who may not be entirely satisfied by the performance of your department, make sure that you are in the middle of a fundamental restructuring, and, if possible, that you are also about to introduce a new range of departmental performance indicators.

So it was when local amenity groups met Alan McCarthy, Brighton and Hove's Director of Environmental Services to talk about the administration of the planning process.

His response to many of the problems raised was that the new structure of the department would be the answer.

But Seriously...

...Mr McCarthy and the two senior colleagues with him did listen to the many worries raised by the societies and did promise to try to do something about them.

Our own planning representative Ros Boulden spoke about the apparent lack of knowledge that planning officers have about the area they are dealing with. She had in mind the fiasco regarding the new development at 43 Regency Square, reported in the last newsletter.

She was told that the departmental structure would make it easier for case officers to concentrate their work in specific areas and hence get to know them.

Let's hope so. Our society would welcome the opportunity to establish a good working relationship with an officer who clearly understood the problems of the area,

Many thanks to the Preston and Old Patcham Society for organising a useful meeting.

Thumbs Slightly Raised

"Plans for Pier get thumbs up" was the optimistic headline in the Argus over a story that councillors had given a warm welcome to plans for the West Pier.

However, the plans in question were only for the restoration of the underneath and decking structure. These plans are uncontroversial. The only point of interest is that the new pier will be four feet higher to allow for rising sea levels.

The difficult planning applications are still to come. They will relate to the new buildings proposed for the lower promenade and for the actual activities on the pier and below it.

These applications, when they come, will spark the debate which will make or break the scheme. Only when that debate is resolved will the private sector partners be able to decide whether they want to invest in the pier. And without private investment the scheme will fail.

Don't forget the Society's

Millennium Breakfast

**Join your neighbours for a
communal breakfast at the
Regency Restaurant**

10 am Sunday 2 January 2000

(Details overleaf)

Starting with the Ice Age

When we asked Geoff Mead to come and talk to us about the history of this part of the town we didn't expect him to go back as far as the ice age.

His theme was continuity and change. Much of what we see around us today is relatively new but it has links to what went before.

The end of the ice age resulted in materials being washed down into this area which turned out to be particularly suited to making bricks.

Hence the distinctive colour of those brick facades which are still visible in Regency Square and elsewhere in the town.

Geoff took us on a whirlwind tour through the town's history, full of learning, humour and above all enthusiasm. It was an inspiring start to the Society's local history project.

As a result a number of members are getting together to plan further research and the publication of a book. There has also been talk off a web site offering a guided historical tour around the area.

If you would like to get involved you would be most welcome. Contact Andrew Walker (☎ 700340).

Thanks

To the Beach Hotel for providing a room for our social evening last month. The hotel will also be hosting the silent auction on 16 December. We are very grateful for their support.

Thanks also to those members who provided food and raffle prizes for the event. The raffle raised £21 for Society funds, which covered the cost of the evening's refreshments.

Silent Auction

Thursday 16 December '99

**Beach Hotel,
Regency Square**

Bidding starts at 7:30 pm

Wine and mince pies

Guests welcome.

Do it yourself Local Government ?

The Council has admitted that it is not able to deliver its own newspaper to some parts of our area. People living in Castle Street and Stone Street do not receive copies of the Brighton and Hove News.

The reason given is the Council's distributor does not have staff to cover those streets. And yet properties in Regency Square get the paper. It is only 2 minutes walk from there to Castle Street!

The Council has suggested that the Society might find a volunteer to do these deliveries. We don't feel it should be our job to deliver the Council's public relations material. The paper is delivered to one member in Chartwell Court by post but the Council will not do this for two whole streets.

We think the Council should persuade its distributor to walk the extra quarter mile!

☆☆☆ Joyeux Noël ☆☆☆

The French Church in Queensbury Mews is holding a carol service at 11 am on Sunday 12 December.

Everyone will be welcome. Translation sheets will be available. ♪

Millennium Breakfast

Do you think you will have recovered from millennium night celebrations by 10 am on Sunday 2 January? If so, why not add your name to the list of 25 members who have already reserved a place at the millennium breakfast?

Meet at the Regency Restaurant on the south west corner of Regency Square for a gentle continental if you think you'll be feeling fragile, or the full English if you can take it.

Prices will be about £3.25 for a continental and £3.75 for an English - your precise bill will depend on exactly what you choose.

If you want to come use the form below to reserve a place so we can tell the restaurant how many to expect. Don't send any money. Pay on the day.

----- ✂ -----

▪ To Roger Hinton, 39 Regency Square, Brighton ▪

▪ Yes, I would like to come to the Society's ▪

▪ Millennium breakfast at the Regency ▪

▪ Restaurant on 2 January. ▪

▪ Number of full English breakfasts _____ ▪

▪ Number of continental breakfasts _____ ▪

▪ Name _____ ▪

▪ Please do not send any money - pay on the day. ▪

FROM THE COMMITTEE TO ALL MEMBERS - HAPPY CHRISTMAS, HAPPY NEW YEAR, HAPPY NEW CENTURY, HAPPY MILLENNIUM !