



NEWSLETTER 151 January 2000

When will it be our turn ?

The Council has managed to find £110,000 to improve Norfolk Square. It's not that long ago that we were being consulted on a grand scheme to spend hundreds of thousands in Regency, Russell and Clarence Squares.

Well, it looks like something might be about to happen. We have been told that the railings missing from the north side of Clarence Square are to be replaced shortly.

The new railings may only be temporary (see below) so they will be fixed within the grassy area of the square rather than in the concrete surround.

We have also been told that there are plans to make other improvements to our squares. We don't have any details yet, except that the Council is planning to hold a public meeting to obtain the views of local people.

More consultation! When will the action start?

Watch this space!

Chairman Resigns

Brian Smith has resigned as chairman of the Society.

The Treasurer, Roger Hinton is acting as chairman for the time being. Nominations are invited for the election of a new chairman at the AGM in March. Contact the Secretary, Andrew Walker if you want to nominate someone (☎ 700340).

Sorry but ...

...it's that time again when we ask you to pay your subscription.

The subs are not going up this year.

Strictly speaking they're not due until the end of February, but the sooner you pay, the more it helps the Society. There's a form over the page.

Perhaps you've already paid

Several members have paid already for next year. The most likely reason for this is if you have joined quite recently.

To find out if you need to pay have a look at the number on your address label. If it starts 99/00, get out your cheque book. If it starts 00/01 then you've nothing to pay until 2001.

Can you add a donation?

The annual subscriptions are low and we try to keep them that way to encourage people to join. However, on their own they don't cover the cost of running the Society.

So if you can add a small donation to your subscription, it will be most helpful.

New Members Wanted

Every year some members leave. So we need to keep finding new members. If you have any neighbours who are new to the area, perhaps you could persuade them to join. We will be producing a membership leaflet soon so if you want any copies contact Roger Hinton (321794).

Sympathetic Signs Wanted

The Council's Conservation Enforcement Officer is writing to a number of hotels in Regency Square about "advertisement clutter".

These hotels are described as having "unsympathetic and poorly sited hanging signs, signs obscuring architectural features or internally illuminated signs.

An attempt will be made to negotiate improvements. failing that enforcement action may be started.

Obviously some signs are allowed. The Council's letter suggests what would be acceptable: "one hanging sign beneath the first floor balcony which could incorporate external illumination with a small strip, a sign adjacent to the entrance or on the frieze band of the portico, and wall plaques of accreditation."

A Date for Your Diary

The Society's AGM will be on Wednesday 23 March. Full details in the next newsletter.

Society Contacts:

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

Rubbish

New contact number for refuse
and street cleaning problems:
call SITA on



274674

...and a rubbish strewn New Year!

If re-defining our town as a city is going to make so much difference, perhaps we could try re-defining a bag of rubbish as a statue. Central Brighton would rival Florence!

In the absence of such verbal sleight of hand, our streets were littered with rubbish throughout the holiday period. Here is the text of a letter which our acting chairman has sent to the leader of the council on January 5th:

Those of us who live in and around Regency Square are extremely unhappy about the rubbish collection arrangements over the New Year holiday period.

Many people put out their rubbish after Christmas on the normal collection day of Thursday (30 December). Some of it was collected on Wednesday 5 January but some is still lying in the street. In the mean time it had been admired by the many visitors to the sales in Churchill Square, kicked around by late night revellers on New year's Eve, torn open and re-distributed by dogs, cats and seagulls, and complained about vigorously by locals.

I have been told that there was an announcement in the Leader that there would be no collection on Thursday 30 December. However, the Leader is not delivered in our area. We have complained previously about this to Council officers, because the Leader is also used to publish planning notices. Streets to the north of Western Road, which do have the Leader delivered, did not receive it until Thursday 30th, which was too late.

Even if we had seen the notice, it would still have been unrealistic to expect people in this part of town to act on it. Many live in small flats or rooms. They do not have space to store rubbish hygienically for two weeks.

What is the point of boosting our town by calling it a city and then allowing the central streets to be littered with rubbish at a time when thousands of visitors were expected to come to shop or enjoy the New Year celebrations? Surely the Council can do better than this!

Auction Action

Perhaps it was the 'flu, or maybe just the time of year. There were not many members at the silent auction before Christmas, but those who were there had a very enjoyable evening.

And in spite of the low numbers over £500 has been added to the Regency Square Improvement Fund as a result.

Many thanks to those who gave items for the auction and raffle prizes. Also to those who participated. and to the Beach Hotel for the use of the room.

Sunny Side Up

Twenty two members and friends sat down together in the Regency Restaurant for breakfast on 2 January. As the sun streamed in, bacon eggs, tea and toast were consumed with relish and the gossip ... sorry conversation ... never stopped.

Many thanks to the restaurant staff for making us so welcome!

Scruffy Stone Street

Have you walked along Stone Street recently? It's a mess. And the main cause is businesses in Western Road whose back entrances are on the north side.

The worst by far is Kentucky Fried Chicken. They leave waste food piled around and on top of their bins. We contacted the environmental health officer about this last month and the situation did improve a bit for a few days. But the improvement was short lived. We are trying again.

Other businesses leave their bins on the pavement. They are not supposed to do this. The environmental health officer has warned them that if they persist, the bins will be removed by the Council.

Membership Renewal Form

Don't delay - renew today!

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

I would like to renew my membership of the Regency Square Area Society for the year 2000/2001 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.

Committee Member Leaves

Patricia Roberts of Sussex Heights was elected to the committee at the AGM in March last year. She has now resigned because she is moving away from the area.

Best wishes Pat and many thanks for your support for the Society.

We recently reported that some households in the area did not get this paper delivered. It seems no addresses in Castle or Stone Streets receive copies.

A cross in the box
means your sub is