



NEWSLETTER 152 February 2000

Early Morning Call

People living near the Metropole Exhibition Hall in Queensbury Mews had a rude awakening recently. A late night function finished at about 2am. The doors were then thrown open and lighting and sound equipment was unloaded into vehicles in the mews.

The Council's noise officer has been in touch with the Metropole about the incident. The hotel admits that it should not have happened.

In future, contracts with function organisers will specify that loading in Queensbury Mews is only allowed between 8am and 10pm. Any unloading at other times will be into Cannon Place. The head waiter will be responsible for policing this arrangement.

The hotel is also renewing the sound-proofing to the doors in Queensbury Mews to reduce disturbance from loud music.

This response from the hotel is welcome but it doesn't solve all the problems. Music from the exhibition hall will still disturb those who live in houses directly adjoining the exhibition hall. And those who live in Cannon Place will not be pleased to learn that there is a risk of disturbance for them in the early hours.

Don't take it lying down!

What can you do about noise late at night?

If you're disturbed on a Friday or Saturday between 10pm and 3am, call the Council's noise patrol (☎ 0831 698907). They may be able to stop the noise, or at least get evidence, so that action can be taken to prevent it happening again.

At other times, make a note of the date, time and nature of the disturbance. Then contact Christinea Garrard at the Environmental Health Department (☎ 292157).

Keep your eyes on the camera!

There used to be a police camera on Mitre House opposite the top of Preston Street. It was removed while Mitre House was decorated. The scaffolding has now gone but the camera is still missing.

PC Andy Rolmanis of Brighton Police has told us that it will be replaced and he is pressing for it to be done as soon as possible.

Rubbish: the Council Responds

We wrote to Councillor Gwyn-Jones about the lack of rubbish collection over Christmas and New Year.

In her reply she says that there have been several letters of complaint. Council officers have met with the contractor to prevent a repeat of the problem.

She also notes our comments about the lack of publicity for collection arrangements. Notices were published in the Leader, which is not delivered in this area. She points out that they were also put in the Council's own newspaper. However, there are some streets in this area which don't get that either.

She says that the Council will look into ways of improving the distribution of information.

Elections are coming

New officers will be elected to two key posts in the Society at the AGM next month. Society treasurer Roger Hinton has been nominated for the post of chairman. Committee member Paul Stanford has been nominated as treasurer. Secretary Andrew Walker is standing for re-election.

Help needed

Can you spare a couple of hours a month to help run the Society?

A number of committee members elected last year will not be standing for re-election. Perhaps you could fill the gap, or you know someone who you would like to nominate. If you want to nominate someone (including yourself) or just to find out more then please contact Roger Hinton (☎ 321794) or Andrew Walker (☎ 700340).

OOPs!

The Society's AGM will be on Wednesday 22 March 2000 and not the incorrect date given last month.

Local history

A small group of members have started work on research for the Society's local history project.

Each member has selected a specific topic to investigate. The topics being researched are:

- What was there before Churchill Square?
- The French Church in Queensbury Mews
- Property uses in Regency Square
- "Nooks and Crannies"

An application has been made for a millennium grant to fund the publication of the results in a book and on a web site.

If you would like to get involved contact Andrew Walker (☎ 700340).

Regeneration: round three

Twice in the recent past the Council has raised the possibility of serious amounts of money being spent to improve our squares. We went through lengthy consultations but the money never materialised

The process is starting again, but rather less money is on offer this time. Members of the Society committee attended a meeting at the Town Hall to discuss options for a £280,000 improvement programme for Regency, Russell, Clarence and Bedford Squares.

It sound like a lot of money but if you start costing things like cast iron railings, it doesn't go very far.

The committee had a long discussion about priorities for improvement in our area. We felt that if it were to be split evenly between all the squares there would be no significant improvement anywhere.

So we thought it should be concentrated where the need is greatest. This is Clarence Square with its missing railings, crumbling stone surround and its meagre shrubs and bushes.

The stone plinths around Russell Square should also be replaced if there is enough money.

What about Regency Square? It is so large that it would be difficult to carry out major works even if all the money were used. We hope that some money can be spent on small improvements. The Society's own Regency Square Improvement Fund could perhaps be contributed towards these.

What do you think?

These are the committee's present views and the meeting at the Town Hall came to much the same conclusions. We need to know what Society members think. Please let us know your views. Contact Roger Hinton (☎ 321794, email hinton@clara.net, or write to 39 Regency Square).

Regency Square Area Society

Annual General Meeting

7:30 pm, Wednesday 22 March 200
in the Chartwell Room,
Metropole Hotel

Followed by a slide show: postcards of
Regency Square and around

Postcards from the past

Local collectors, Trevor Crick has lots of slides made from old postcards of Regency Square and the neighbouring areas. He has kindly offered to show them to us after our AGM next month.

He is also keen to find out what we know about the various things shown in the pictures. So dig out your memories and bring them along for a nostalgic trip into the past.

Banners banned!

The planning committee refused retrospective permission for the banners on the health studio in Castle Street. The health studio appealed to the Secretary of State. The Society wrote in support of the Council's decision because of the noise caused by the banners when it is windy.

The appeal has been dismissed, so the banners will have to come down.

**Late night noise? Call the noise patrol.
10pm-3am Friday and Saturday
☎ 0831 698907**

Traffic trouble in Cannon Place

When Churchill Square is busy traffic queues build up at the car park entrance in Cannon place. This can cause real problems for those who live around Russell and Clarence Squares when they are trying to drive home.

We are contacting the Council to find out if an improved road layout might ease the problem.

Thanks

To all those members who have renewed their membership. If you want to check that you subscription has been received look at the address label on the envelope your newsletter came in. If the number starts 00/01 then you've paid for the coming year.

And if you haven't, please help the Society by sending your subscription 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.

Rubbish

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



274674

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 .