



NEWSLETTER 153 March 2000

Annual General Meeting

The Society's 21st Annual General Meeting will be held at 7:30 pm on Wednesday 22 March 2000 in the Chartwell Room at the Hotel Metropole.

Agenda

- 1 Minutes of the Previous Meeting
- 2 Committee Report for the Year
- 3 Treasurer's Report & Annual Accounts
- 4 Subscription Rates for 2001
- 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 slide show of old local post cards.

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.

Committee Report on the Year

Regeneration: the year started with the news that no regeneration money would be available for improvements to the Squares. After three years of discussions and consultation this was a big disappointment. We end the year with the news that the Council is now planning a smaller, but still significant improvement programme.

Noise: the Metropole Exhibition Halls have been a source of disturbance to their neighbours on a number of occasions. The Council's noise officer has been supportive and the hotel is now taking steps to minimise the nuisance.

Deliveries to BUPA: residents of Castle St and Russell Square have been battling to prevent delivery vehicles using their streets. BUPA is sympathetic to the problems but has so far been unable to find a workable alternative.

Still Leaderless: we made another attempt last year to get the Leader delivered to our area, but without success.

Churchill Square: we have had useful meetings with the managers of the shopping centre. Some of the problems experienced, for example in Chartwell Court, have been solved. We are also pleased to see that our pleas for a foodstore have finally been heard - by BHS

Local Planning: we have continued to monitor local developments and comment where appropriate. We had a success with the order to remove advertising banners in Castle Street. The basement flat at 43 Regency Square was the opposite; not only is the design of this building inconsistent with its neighbours, it has also been left unfinished for months.

Local History: to mark the Millennium the Society has undertaken to research our local history. We are hoping to publish the results as a book and on a web site.

Fund-raising: we have been less active this year in raising funds for improvements to Regency Square. Even so, a silent auction in December added over £500, bringing the fund very close to the £10,000 mark.

Social Life: the year started with a well attended AGM, followed by an autumn social evening. Members also got together on a sunny Sunday morning in January for a Millennium breakfast at the Regency Restaurant.

Annual Accounts

1999/00 Income and Expenditure Summary

Income	£	Expenditure	£
Donations	511	Printing etc.	318
Subscriptions	449	Christmas Tree	134
Interest	21	Insurance	173
		History Project	30
		Functions (net)	5
		Donation to Imp. Fund	78
		Surplus for the year	243
	<u>981</u>		<u>981</u>

Balance Sheet

Surplus for year	243	Cash in hand & bank	1,902
Surplus Bt fwd	1,074	Advance payments	143
Bton in Bloom	<u>220</u>		
General Funds	1,537		
Advance subs	231		
Advance donations	<u>277</u>		
	<u>2,045</u>		<u>2,045</u>

Regency Square Improvement Fund

	£
Balance as at 1 March 1999	8,893
Raised during the year	663
Interest received	<u>107</u>
Balance as at 29 February 2000	<u>9,663</u>

Treasurer's Report

The Society is in a strong financial position. We end the year with a surplus of £243 and general funds of over £1,500. This is due mainly to the generosity of members, who have added donations to their basic subscription.

It also reflects a one off bonus: we had put aside £220 last year in the expectation of a bill from the Council for the previous year's Brighton in Bloom. The bill never arrived so the money has now gone back into the general funds.

The Regency Square Improvement Fund has also increased since last year, as a result of the silent auction in December and some small donations, including the proceeds of the raffle at last year's AGM.

Roger Hinton, Treasurer

Elections

There will be some changes to the committee this year.

Brian Smith has stood down as chairman. Brian first joined the committee in 1992 and was elected as treasurer in 1993. In March 1996 he became chairman.

He has worked extremely hard for the Society in the 8 years he has been an officer. Members will no doubt want to join the committee in thanking him for his contribution to the Society's work.

Pat McCulloch was first elected to the committee in March 1986. In 1995 she became Secretary, a post she held until 1998. Pat has now left the committee because she has moved to Winchester to be near her family. The committee presented her with a framed print of the Royal Pavilion to remind her of Brighton and to thank her for her hard work and support over the past 14 years. We wish her the very best in her new home.

Pat Robertson was elected at the AGM last year but had to resign because she has moved to Spain.

Ambrose Simons was elected last year as the Society's representative on the Conservation Areas Advisory Group (CAAG). His role as our CAAG representative has now passed to Ros Boulden. Ambrose's fellow committee members are grateful for the work he has done representing us on the CAAG.

Society treasurer, **Roger Hinton** has been nominated as chairman. **Paul Stanford**, who joined the committee last year has been nominated as treasurer. **Andrew Walker** is standing for re-election as secretary. The following committee members are also standing for re-election:

Ros Boulden	Queensbury Mews
Clive Buxton	Dean Street
Diana Dunn	Clarence Gardens
Traude Tappin	Abbots

Elizabeth Ray of Regency Square has been nominated as a new committee member. We need more new members. Please contact Andrew Walker if you would like to know more about what is involved (☎ 700340)

If you would like to nominate someone as an officer or committee member (including yourself) you can do so at the AGM or by contacting Andrew Walker, the Society's secretary.

News in Brief

- ◆ The Hove Civic Society is presenting a talk called "Before Churchill Square" by Chris Horlock. It is at 7:45 pm on Wednesday 5 April at 1 Namrik Mews (off bottom end of St Aubyns). Non members are welcome. Admission is £1.
- ◆ We have been in touch with the Metropole Hotel about cladding which has been falling off their water tank into Queensbury Mews. They will be making repairs..
- ◆ The committee is thinking of organising a coach trip to the Millennium Dome. The planned date is Sunday 21 May and the cost (including admission) is likely to be about £27. If you would be interested please let us know so we can see if there will be enough people to fill a coach. Contact Ros Boulden (☎ 323690)
- ◆ The Argus reported recently that the Society has £120,000! The Treasurer is trying to find it!!
- ◆ The Labour Party Conference will be here again this summer. Hopefully it will not cause as much nuisance as last time. Current plans are that Queensbury Mews and Cannon Place will remain open, but with some on street parking restrictions. There will be a hot line for residents while the conference is on.

Don't forget the AGM
7:30 pm Wednesday 22 March 2000
Metropole Hotel

Followed by a slide show:
Old postcards of Regency Sq. & around

Refreshments

SOCIETY CONTACTS

SECRETARY Andrew Walker ☎ 700340
TREASURER Roger Hinton ☎ 321794
Email hinton@clara.net

Have you paid you sub. yet?

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.

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 2000/2001 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.