



**NEWSLETTER 155**  
**June 2000**

### **We're in the Money!**

The Millennium Festival Awards for All Committee has given the Society a grant of £1,386 to create a web site. The money will be used to buy equipment and software.

The main theme of the site will be "a historical stroll around the Regency Square area." It will draw on the local history research which has been underway for several months.

Clive Buxton is investigating Regency Square itself and has discovered the past uses of many of the houses. Andrew Walker has been finding out what existed before Churchill Square. Suzanne Hinton is researching the history of the French church in Queensbury Mews.

Their results will be published on the web site together with photographs, past and present.

### **Who done it?**

Congratulations to Andrew Walker who originally proposed the idea of the history project and of applying for a grant. He prepared the grant application and saw it through to its successful outcome.

Also to Brian Smith whose idea it was to use a web site to publish the results of the history project. He prepared the costings which accompanied the grant application. He and his son Andrew will create and maintain the site.

### **What about the book?**

We had originally applied for a larger grant in the hope that it would also cover the cost of publishing a book on the history of our area. That part of our application was not accepted.

However, we are hopeful that it may still be possible to publish a book and cover the cost from sales.

### **Can you help with the research?**

It is not too late to add extra topics to the research project. Would you be interested in looking at another aspect of our area?

For example, there is Preston Street, which used to be full of very fashionable shops; or the Metropole hotel which has gone through many changes in its history; the other squares in our area (Russell and Clarence) must also have a few tales to tell, as, no doubt have Castle Street and Stone Street..

If you are interested, contact Andrew Walker (☎ 700340), who can tell you what would be involved.



### **The Rat's Tale**

8-45am Sunday 14 May. Under grey skies a lonely black rat sneaks into Regency Square, sheepishly trying to hide the protest placard clasped between its paws. Will it find any rubbish to make its visit worthwhile?

Of course it will! Soon the rat is no longer alone Human friends and neighbours appear. One has a truck in which to collect any rubbish found.

And find it we did, in abundance! After only half an hour the truck was almost full. So it was time to stop for coffee and biscuits - which the rat seemed to enjoy as much as the humans. Then one more trip to find a few extra bags and off to the town hall.

With rat at the front waving its placard we paraded down East Street to the town hall steps where we unloaded over 70 bags.

A passing refuse collection team accosted the rat. "We're doing the best we can" they said.. "We know you are," squeaked the rat, "but the Council isn't".

### **Was it irresponsible?**

A Council spokesperson was quoted in the Argus, saying that we were irresponsible to put rubbish on the town hall steps on a Sunday because there was no collection that day.

Which of course it precisely our point. All the rubbish we dumped was already in the streets. All we did was move it from our area to the town hall. There may be no collection on Sundays for most people, but the town hall steps were clear again with a couple of hours.

## Did Rat & Friends achieve anything?

Not a lot in the short term, except for relief for some pent up frustrations. But we did get some publicity in the Argus and on local radio, and we have shown council officials how strongly we feel about the disgusting conditions they expect us to put up with.

Bill Herron, the officer who has been in charge of rubbish collection in the town centre for some years has recently retired. We have arranged a meeting with Jonathan Fortune who is taking over from him. Let's hope he will be the new broom we need.

## What is the Solution?

When we meet Mr Fortune we will say that existing arrangements are ineffective. It is not adequate to have only one collection a week and occasional warning letters to people who dump rubbish.

What the town centre needs is a daily collection at the same hour early each morning. And daily should mean daily, including weekends and public holidays. The need for collections even on bank holidays is proved by the disgusting condition of Clarence Square for several days after the late May holiday.

If Brighton was located in any other major European country such as France or Spain daily collections would be a matter of course.

Once a reliable regular service is provided people can be educated to put their rubbish out at an appropriate hour - just before rather than just after the collection.

At present, no sooner has the lorry been round than more bags appear. That is hardly surprising since no one knows when the lorry is due. Notices on the lamp-posts say the collection is on Thursdays. But clearly this is not true since there are collections on other days as well. And what time on Thursdays?

What we need is a simple daily system that people

### Society Contacts:

Chairman: Roger Hinton ☎ 321794

email [hinton@clara.net](mailto:hinton@clara.net)

Secretary: Andrew Walker ☎ 700340;

Treasurer: Paul Stanford ☎ 777582

## Other News in Brief:

**Traffic in Cannon Place:** we are asking the Council why there is only ever one entrance open to the carpark. Two ways in would speed the traffic flow.

**Petrol pump vanishes:** a land mark has gone with the removal of the old petrol pump from outside the garage at the bottom of Queensbury Mews.

**Jacky Frisby:** we are sad to note the death of Jacky Frisby of Brighton Museum. she gave an interesting talk at our 1996 AGM on George IV's orchestra.

**Paper Re-cycling:** the proceeds of the newspaper collection in the recycling bin at the bottom of Queensbury Mews are no longer going to charitable causes. The bin gets full quite often. Other newspaper recycling bins can now be found at the top of Cannon Place where it joins Churchill Square.

**More Article 4:** the Council is seeking the opinions of residents of the Regency Square Conservation Area about the possibility of introducing tighter planning controls. If you have not had a questionnaire contact Roger Hinton (☎ 321794)

**The Real Rats:** pest control officers are dealing with the rats seen recently at 128 Kings Road. Meanwhile a notice requiring repairs to the building is subject to an appeal.

**Cartless:** now that the depot is Castle Street is closed, local street sweepers can no longer use carts so they have to collect litter in sacks and dump it next to litter bins for collection.

**Well done:** to staff of the Ann Harvey shop in Western Road. There is one of the businesses backing onto Clarence Square. They have tidied up their area and planted some flowers!

**Illegal but OK for now:** the advertising banners in Castle Street have been refused planning permission retrospectively but the Council will take no action to have them removed until after a new planning application for alternative publicity arrangements has been decided.

## Have you renewed your membership?

If there is a cross in the box below, your annual subscription is overdue. Please help the Society by sending your subscription today.

To Paul Stanford, 50 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.

A cross in the box  
means your sub is  
due.



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## Rubbish

Contact number for refuse and  
street cleaning problems: call SITA



**274674**