



## Regency Square Area Society

**NEWSLETTER 259**  
**March 2011**

### Annual General Meeting

The Society's 32nd AGM will be held at 7:30 pm on Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> March in the Osborne Room at the Hilton Metropole Hotel.

The evening will start with an illustrated talk by local historian, Geoff Mead called "Metropole to Meeting Place: Brighton seafront structures, past and present." The formal business of the AGM will follow Geoff's talk, as set out in the agenda below.

#### Agenda

- 1 Minutes of the Previous AGM
- 2 Committee Report for the Year
- 3 Treasurer's Report & Annual Accounts
- 4 Subscription Rates for 2012
- 5 Election of Officers and Committee
- 6 Members' Questions and Comments

Refreshments will be provided and there will be a raffle to help cover the cost of the meeting.

#### Society Contacts:

Chairman: Roger Hinton,  
✉ hinton@clara.net, ☎ 01273 321794  
Treasurer: Sue Paskins,  
✉ paskins@brighton.fsbmail.co.uk, ☎ 01273 329934  
Web site: [www.regencybrighton.com](http://www.regencybrighton.com)

## The Committee's Annual Report

### Improving the area

- After a longer than expected wait, our request for cycle stands in Regency Square was finally met, though there are not as many as we had hoped for.
- We were very pleased to be awarded a grant of £2,200 by the Sussex Community Foundation to install a heritage display board in the Square. The original idea for the board was suggested at last year's AGM. We are currently negotiating the detailed arrangements with the Council. We have invited the mayor to unveil the board in June.
- Encouraged by this success we have started looking for other possible improvements.
- Bushes in the northeast corner of Regency Square had grown to an excessive size because they had not been pruned for three years. Council gardeners then started to cut them right back, thus destroying the habitat for the local sparrow population. We asked them to stop, so some bushes have been left at a higher level, but sadly the sparrows have moved on.
- Our complaints to BT about the derelict state of the phone boxes near the war memorial have resulted in a decision to remove them.

### Watching the West Pier

We have continued to press for improvements to the West Pier site, without much success. We were told by the West Pier Trust that they still hope to build the i360 on the site, though finance is hard to find at present. They also warned us that if the Trust ceased to own the pier site it would be likely to fall into the hands of commercial developers. Advice from a Council lawyer confirmed that this was a "theoretical" possibility.

### Keeping the Area Safe

We have had regular meetings with Bobbi King, our local PCSO. At our request she organised a campaign to discourage cycling through the twitten in front of the Regency Tavern: several cyclists were fined as a result.

She also took action when a property in Regency Square was occupied by squatters who made life very unpleasant for their neighbours. The squatters moved on and the owners of the property were persuaded to secure it against any further occupation.

Bobbi has arranged for the garden in Clarence Square to be locked during the hours of darkness.

Police spent over two weeks in Russell Square during February, collecting evidence following the murder of a squatter in an empty house. Bobbi has been keeping an eye on the house since then to prevent further squatting.

Bobbi is now moving to other duties. We are grateful for all her work in our area. Our new PCSO will be Aileen Norbury.

### Bin Problems Never Cease!

With help from Councillor Jason Kitkat we were able to get trade waste bins moved off the roadway in Clarence Square and back onto private land, where they belong. We are still trying to move other bins which are blocking the pavements.

### A New Web Site

The Society's web site was originally set up in 2000 by Brian Smith and his son Andrew who have maintained it since then. It has been a great success, including attracting an international reputation for its coverage of the Sussex Heights peregrines. Brian and Andrew have now decided to step down, so this year's AGM will be an opportunity to record our thanks to them for all their hard work.

Continued over the page ...

Over those ten years, web site technology has moved on. So we have taken the opportunity to re-design the site using software which allows it to be maintained by people with less technical knowledge.

### Social Events

- We have organised several enjoyable trips to the Little Theatre in Clarence Gardens during the year. Apologies to those members who were unable to see Lady Windermere's Fan recently, because tickets sold out so quickly.
- In June we organised a tour of Embassy Court and in September a backstage tour of the Theatre Royal.
- A pre-Christmas get together at the Regency Tavern and our regular New Year Breakfast at the Regency Restaurant were both well supported and good fun.

### A sad farewell

We were sorry to learn of the death in August of Ken Kennar. Ken had lived in Russell Square since 1938. He was a founding member of the Society and served on the committee for several years. Shortly before his death he was interviewed on video by Society chairman, Roger Hinton. You can see the result on the Society's web site.

### Thanks ...

... to everyone who has helped and supported the Society over the past year.

We are very grateful to  
**Mailboxes etc**  
in Western Road for their  
support by sponsoring the  
printing of our newsletters.

## Elections

The following committee members are standing for re-election:

Chairman: Roger Hinton (Regency Square)  
Committee members:  
Margaret Brisley (Sussex Heights)  
Ros Boulden (Kings Road)  
Duncan Cameron (Regency Square)  
Diana Dunn (Clarence Gdns.)  
Rhidian Hughes (Regency Square)  
Nigel Rose (Regency Square)

Treasurer, Sue Paskins and committee member Tom McKillop are standing down. Michel Bucher, who was elected to the committee at last year's AGM, was not able to take up his membership.

Trix Webber, who lives in Regency Square, has been nominated as treasurer. We do not yet have a nomination for secretary.

Further nominations are invited for the committee and all three officers. Please contact the Chairman before the AGM if you want more information or would like to make a nomination (✉ [hinton@clara.net](mailto:hinton@clara.net) ☎ 01273 321794).

Brighton Little Theatre (Clarence Gardens)

## Time and the Conways

By J B Priestly

We are organising a group to see this production on  
Friday 15<sup>th</sup> April (7:45 pm). Tickets are £7.50.

Please send your money by 25<sup>th</sup> March to Ros Boulden,  
8 Abbots, 129 Kings Road, Brighton BN1 2FA.

## Annual Accounts

### 2010 / 11 Income and Expenditure

Income	£	Expenditure	£
Subscriptions	416	Postage, printing etc.	91
Donations	387	Insurance	135
Functions	52	Website	808
Web sponsorship	20	Functions	69
Ring fenced grant	2,200	Other expenses	62
Interest	1	Surplus for the year	1,911
	<u>3,076</u>		<u>3,076</u>

### Balance Sheet

Funds at 1/3/10	2,872	Cash at bank	4,811
Add Surplus	<u>1,911</u>	Cash in hand	0
Funds at 28/2/11	4,783		
Advance subs.	28		
	<u>4,811</u>		<u>4,811</u>

### Regency Square Improvement Fund (RSIF)

Balance at 28/2/11: £3,407 (including interest of 28p)

## Treasurer's Report

Our accounts show a wonderful surplus for the year of £1,911, but that is not the full story. This figure includes a grant of £2,200 for an information board in Regency Square. There is also a "one off" cost for a new web site of £500. Without these unusual items we would show a small surplus for the year of £211 (£1,911 less £2,200 + £500 = £211), unfortunately down on last year. We have again managed to keep expenses low, within the confines of our small and unfortunately shrinking income.

Sue Paskins

## Higher Subscriptions?

The committee is proposing a rise in membership subscriptions, for 2012, the first since 1997!

	Current	Proposed
Ordinary member	£4.00	£5.00
Family (up to 2 adults plus any children)	£4.50	£6.00
Senior Citizen	£3.50	£4.00
Associate (non-resident)	£3.50	£4.00
Business	£6.50	£8.00

