



NEWSLETTER 295 MARCH 2015

Annual General Meeting

The Society's 36th AGM will be held at 7.30pm on Monday 30th March in the Osborne Room at the Hilton Metropole Hotel. Jackie Marsh-Hobbs will start the evening with a talk on *The British Seaside Holiday* and then answer questions. This will be followed by the refreshment break. The formal business of the AGM will take place at 9.00, as set out in the agenda below.

Agenda

- Minutes of the 35th AGM held on March 24th 2014
- Committee report for the year
- Treasurer's report and annual accounts
- Update on garden regeneration
- Election of officers and committee
- Members' questions and comments

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

The Committee's Annual Report

This has been an extraordinarily busy year and our Secretary Suzanne Hinton has done a great job fitting all the news into the eight newsletters which were distributed to members.

The West Pier Site

Work started on the i360 viewing tower in the summer and is now well underway. We have liaised regularly with the i360 management, and kept members up to date

via the newsletter. Management of anticipated traffic to the i360 is a current concern.

The West Pier Trust plans to invite bids for the development of the seaward part of the site once the i360 is operational. We have stated our opposition to any further commercial development of the site and questioned whether the remaining part of the old pier might be stabilised.

Garden Regeneration

The Regency Square garden falls within the area eligible to benefit from i360 ticket revenue, so there is a possibility of funding for garden regeneration. We have had meetings with the Council to discuss securing Council and Heritage Lottery funding for a complete overhaul of the garden. Chelsea Flower Show winner Diarmuid Gavin has created some possible designs for us. Thanks to Nigel Rose and Julie White for all their work on this project.

Liaison with the Police and Anti Social Behaviour

We have liaised regularly with our local Police Community Liaison Officers, who attended a number of committee meetings. As ever, anti social behaviour mainly relating to alcohol and overnight camping, was a concern over the summer. The enforcement of a zero tolerance policy of ASB by the police was very helpful. A particularly sad occurrence was the theft and destruction of 56 shrubs in Regency Square which were donated by Angelo Martinoli. We will continue to do our utmost to combat ASB and urge members to persist with reporting incidents to the police.

Planning

As always there have been a number of controversial planning applications and activities. Thanks are due to Duncan Cameron and Paula Brookes for their assiduous monitoring of these, and to Duncan for representing us on the Conservation Advisory Group. Duncan was instrumental in securing a Council enforcement notice for the exterior of 67 Preston Street to be put in order. We objected to applications for two new hostels. The first, for a student hostel in Stone Street, was rejected by the Council and the second, for a YMCA hostel in Castle

Street, was approved in spite of local residents' objections. On the other hand we were pleased to support the application for the Stone St/Castle St "Escort Agency" to be converted into 6 dwellings.

West Pier Project Hostels for Homeless Adults

The Council is carrying out a review of provision for homeless adults, and the lease of the West Pier Project buildings expires this year. Following widespread concern among members about the negative effect of these hostels on local residents, business, and hostel residents themselves, we made a representation to the Council Policy and Resources Committee in December. The P&R Committee agreed that the hostels were too big and that the impact on the host community was unacceptable.

Social Events

Successful events were held throughout the year. In March members had a tour of the Metropole Hotel. June saw a visit to the Little Theatre to see *Don Juan in Soho* and the unveiling of the Regency Square heritage board by the Mayor, followed by a buffet at the Regency Tavern. In October, members attended a party given by the Mayor. A large group gathered around the RSAS Christmas tree mid December to sing carols and the following week our annual Christmas drinks were at the Artist Residence Hotel. A dozen of us started the New Year with our traditional communal breakfast in the Regency Restaurant.

Thanks to Julie and Paula for organising the Christmas tree and to Mackley for digging the hole.

Rubbish, Recycling and Composting

We have contacted the council about a number of issues. Communal recycling bins arrived in June and there have been problems with siting of bins and insufficient emptying. We also complained about the filthy state of the regular rubbish bins and noise from bin emptying very early in the morning. Industrial action meant that these bins have sometimes been left overflowing. One triumph, thanks to the persistence of Paula Brookes and other Stone Street residents, was the removal of the appalling range of commercial waste bins in that street.

Another positive development was the start of the Regency Square communal composting scheme in June.

Goodbye

To former RSAS Chair and long time supporter of the Society Geoff Pygall, who died in January. Geoff's name has been added to that of his wife Lilian on the plaque of the bench that Geoff donated in Regency Square.

Thanks

To everyone who has supported the Society over the year.

Elections

The following committee members are standing for re-election

Chair: Trix Webber (Regency Square)

Treasurer: Nicola Floyd (Queensbury Mews)

Secretary: Suzanne Hinton (Regency Square)

Margaret Brisley (Sussex Heights)

Paula Brookes (Stone Street)

Duncan Cameron (Regency Square)

Angelo Martinoli (Preston Street)

Nigel Rose (Regency Square)

Julie White (Regency Square)

Standing for election

Jerome Lloyd (Regency Tavern)

Further nominations are invited for the committee and all three officers. Nominations must be made in advance of the AGM. You may nominate any member of the Society or you may nominate yourself. Please contact Trix Webber (tew823@gmail.com/ 01273 321858) if you wish to make a nomination.

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Income & expenditure for the year ended 28 February 2015

INCOME	£(out)	£in
Subscriptions (including forward subs)		488.00
Donations		488.00
Functions and other		102.02
Interest		14.94
Total General Fund income		1,092.96
Regency Square Improvement Fund		315.00
Christmas Tree Fund		0.00
Total income for the year		1,407.96
EXPENDITURE		
Postage, printing etc.	64.12	
Insurance	196.76	
AGM/functions	66.94	
Other Gen Fund Expenses	68.15	
Total General Fund expenses		395.97
Regency Square Improvement Fund	668.19	
Christmas Tree Fund	130.00	
Total expenditure		(1,194.16)
OVERALL SURPLUS FOR THE YEAR		213.80
Balance Sheet as at 28 February 2015		
General Fund at start of year		3,669.96
Net Income / (Expenditure) for the period		696.99
General Fund at 28 February 2015		4,366.95
Regency Sq. Improvement Fund at start of year		875.08
Net Income / (Expenditure) for the period		(353.19)
Reg. Sq. Improvement Fund at 28 February 2015		521.89
Christmas Tree Fund at start of year		170.00
Net Income / (Expenditure) for the period		(130.00)
Christmas Tree fund at 28 February 2015		40.00
Total funds (liabilities) at 28 Feb 2015		4,928.84
Cash at bank		4,784.22
Cash in hand		144.62
Total assets		4,928.84

Treasurer's Report

Despite keeping subscription fees very low, we have again managed to maintain a small surplus in our budget. This is mainly due to the generous donations from our members, and, in particular, due to a few large donations from some of our business members. The fantastic prizes donated by local businesses at the 2014 AGM also really boosted income from the raffle.

We have also managed to reduce our operating costs this year – particularly on printing and postage – by encouraging members to move over to email delivery of the monthly RSAS newsletter wherever possible. Many thanks to all those members who have done so – it is a big help in managing our modest budgets.

As members are aware, we maintain a separate fund for the continual improvement and upkeep of the Regency Square gardens, which allows people to donate money specifically for that purpose. Our biggest area of expenditure this year was from this fund to continue with the on-going improvement of the gardens, with money spent on plants, paint, a hedge-trimmer, a litter picker and a pooper scooper to keep the gardens well-tended. Hopefully this year we will manage to secure funding to start to tackle the bigger jobs within the gardens.

The Regency Square hoteliers generously agreed to leave the £170 they had donated for a Christmas tree in 2013 in a fund for Christmas 2014, which meant that for the first time in many years, we had a beautiful lit Christmas tree in the gardens this year. The carol service to light the tree officially was attended by many, and we hope that we can replenish the fund to repeat the experience in Christmas 2015.

Many thanks for your subscriptions and donations, which have enabled us to carry on with the work of the RSAS over the year.

We are a Brighton Festival Venue

Plays will be performed at various dates in May in a "pop up" theatre marquee on Regency Square. Look out for more details in the April Newsletter