



Regency Square Area Society

NEWSLETTER 249 March 2010

Annual General Meeting

The Society's 31st AGM will be held at 7:30 pm on Thursday 25th March in the Osborne Suite at the Hilton Metropole Hotel.

The evening will start with the formal agenda (shown below). There will then be a break for refreshments, after which Suzanne Hinton will give an illustrated talk called "Behind the Facades"; she will tell us about some of the people who have lived in Regency Square in the past.

Agenda

- 1 Minutes of the Previous AGM
- 2 Committee Report for the Year
- 3 Treasurer's Report & Annual Accounts
- 4 Subscription Rates for 2011
- 5 Election of Officers and Committee
- 6 Members' Questions and Comments

Society Contacts:

Chairman: Roger Hinton,
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Secretary: vacant

Treasurer: Sue Paskins,
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Web site: www.regencybrighton.com

The Committee's Annual Report

Safety and Security: we have met regularly with our local police community support officers. Last spring they asked us to identify three top priorities we would like them to concentrate on. We said pavement cycling, the Regency Square car park and anti-social behaviour in Clarence Square.

Discussions on how to prevent cycling through the twitten by the Regency Tavern ended without success after the police proposed building a barrier half way along the twitten; we thought it would be inconvenient and unattractive.

Security in the car park is now provided by a private firm. Car crime in the area has declined, but the car park is still not a pleasant place. We asked the Council to repair the lighting in the subway from the car park to the beach and some improvements have been made.

Things have improved in Clarence Square. The garden is now locked at dusk by one of our members and opened by a Council officer each morning.

Parking Petition: one of our biggest projects during the year was a petition asking the Council to remove parking places in Regency Square to prevent car park queues blocking the west side; we also asked for new resident spaces in the car park itself, which is seriously under-used. We got over 90 signatures and the petition was presented to the Council on our behalf by Councillor Jason Kitkat. Since then it has disappeared into a black hole. We will keep chasing.

A New Bench: we dipped into the Regency Square Improvement Fund to buy a bench to replace one in Regency Square that was beyond repair.

The West Pier Site Crumbles On: There was a little flicker of hole digging activity on the West Pier

site last autumn, just enough to prevent the i360 planning permission from lapsing. Since then the wreckage of the concert hall has been cleared from the seabed, for similar reasons. Otherwise things are just getting worse, with the rock shop boarded up and the decking fenced off like a building site, which clearly it isn't at present! We will continue to press for an end to this blight on our doorstep.

Graffiti Watch: a large piece of graffiti on the side of 66 Regency Square was painted out by the Society. We still have plenty of paint left for any new ones that appear.

Gardening Anyone? We had advice from a landscape gardener about improving the appearance of the gardens in Regency Square. She suggested setting up a gardening team to work with the Council. Attempts to get a team started failed.

War Memorial Again: the Council's first attempt to restore the war memorial in Regency Square resulted in peeling paint and angry locals. After some prodding by the Society, the screens appeared around the monument again for another try. This time the results look a bit more robust – fingers crossed!

Bins: no annual report would be complete without a section on rubbish. This year we successfully persuaded the Council to empty the communal bins a bit later in the mornings. We continued our campaign against trade waste being stored on the pavement; the chairman gave evidence to a Council scrutiny committee, but there is little sign of enforcement officers really grappling with the problem. Finally, we managed to get a communal bin moved that was blocking a disabled parking bay in Clarence Square.

The Future for Preston Street: our neighbours, the Preston Street Traders' Association, started a campaign during the year to persuade the Council to

re-generate their street along the lines of New Road. We are watching developments with interest.

Plans: we keep an eye on local planning applications and attend the Council's Conservation Advisory Group. We looked closely at the plans for the Brighton O (now withdrawn) and made some detailed comments about lighting and noise. We opposed the demolition of a historic building in Stone Street (withdrawn) and objected to a request for UPVC windows in Clarence Square (refused).

Peregrine Reprieve: our web site continues to attract wide interest, mainly because of its coverage of the peregrine falcons on Sussex Heights. We heard during the year that their nesting box would have to be moved because of repair work on the building, but the move has now been postponed for the coming season.

Social Activities: our visits to the Little Theatre in Clarence Gardens have continued, with a production of Willy Russell's "Blood Brothers" winning much praise. Others events have included a guided tour of the Metropole Hotel and our usual New Year Breakfast in the Regency Restaurant. The committee also met members for a drink in the Regency Tavern just before Christmas.

And finally thanks ... to everyone who has helped the Society this year, especially those committee members who are leaving the committee, Paul Michaelson, Brian Smith, Warden Swinfen and Lisa Williams.

Thanks also to Mailboxes etc. in Western Road, who have been printing our newsletters free of charge for the past year. Their support is much appreciated. And to the Hilton Metropole Hotel for providing a room for the AGM.

Elections

The following committee members are standing for re-election:

Chairman: Roger Hinton (Regency Square)
 Treasurer: Sue Paskins (Marlborough Street)
 Committee members:
 Margaret Brisley (Sussex Heights)
 Ros Boulden (Kings Road)
 Diana Dunn (Clarence Gdns.)
 Rhidian Hughes (Regency Square)
 Tom Mackillop (Russell Square)

We have been without a secretary since Lisa Williams moved away from the area. So we are looking for someone to take her place. If you would like to know more, please contact the chairman.

Duncan Campbell, who lives in Regency Square and Michel Boucher from Clarence Gardens, have been nominated as new members of the committee. Any other member of the Society can be nominated for election as an officer or a committee member. If you would like to nominate someone or be nominated yourself, please contact the chairman.

Brighton Little Theatre (Clarence Gardens)

In Flame

By Charlotte Jones

We are organising a group to see this production on Thursday 15 April (7:45 pm). Tickets are £7.50

For a ticket, please send your money by 29 March to Ros Boulden, 8 Abbotts, 129 Kings Road, Brighton BN1 2FA.

"...vigorous, poetic and lethally funny..." - the Sunday Times
 More details at www.the-little.co.uk

Annual Accounts

2009 / 10 Income and Expenditure

Income	£	Expenditure	£
Subscriptions	449	Postage, printing etc.	236
Donations	375	Insurance	191
Functions	39	Functions expenses	48
Web sponsorship	120	Website expenses	118
Transfer from RSIF	535	Other expenses	46
		Purchase of bench	535
		Surplus for the year	344
	<u>1,518</u>		<u>1,518</u>

Balance Sheet

Funds at 1/3/09	2,524	Cash & bank	2,889
Add Surplus	<u>344</u>		
Funds at 28/2/09	2,868		
Advance subs.	4		
Expenses owed	<u>17</u>		
	<u>2,889</u>		<u>2,889</u>

Regency Square Improvement Fund (RSIF)

	£
Balance at 1/3/09	3,913
Add Interest	2
Add Donation	27
Less transfer	<u>(535)</u>
Balance at 28/2/10	<u>3,407</u>

Have you paid your annual subscription?

Subscriptions were due on 1st March. Many thanks to those members who have already renewed.

If you receive a renewal form it means you have not paid yet for 2010/11.

Please help the Society be renewing now!

"BEHIND THE FACADES" AN ILLUSTRATED TALK BY SUZANNE HINTON – AFTER THE AGM ON 25 MARCH AT THE METROPOLE HOTEL