



Regency Square Area Society

NEWSLETTER 269
March 2012

Annual General Meeting

The Society's 33rd AGM will be held at 7:30 pm on Monday 26th March in the Osborne Room at the Hilton Metropole Hotel.

The evening will start with an illustrated talk on the Royal Pavilion by Alexandra Loske. The formal business of the AGM will follow the 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 2013
- 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: Trix Webber,
✉ tew823@gmail.com ☎ 01273 321858
Web site: www.regencybrighton.com

The Committee's Annual Report

Improving the area

We started the year by circulating a questionnaire to everyone in the area to see what they thought of our ideas for improving Regency Square. We had 70 responses.

The proposals which won the most support were:

- new seats and removal of broken seats
- new path to car park entrances
- new flower bed in the top garden
- new litter bins

Good progress has been made. We now have two new benches, with plans for more and for repairs to the old broken ones.

A new flower bed has been dug in the top garden and planting will start shortly.

Redundant dog waste bins have been removed.

A gardening club has been set up which meets each Saturday at 11am for a couple of hours work. As a result the top garden is now much less overgrown. The club is open to everyone and is now looking at what needs doing in Russell and Clarence Squares.

We are hoping that the Regency Square railings can be painted in the next few months. There is also talk of "Phase 2" improvements in the gardens.

Many thanks to Duncan Cameron, Nigel Rose and Trix Webber for all their hard work on this project.

The Heritage Board

Last year we were delighted to report that we had been awarded a grant of £2,200 for a heritage board in Regency Square.

Some progress has been made. The Council has given permission for the board to be located at the top of the square. We have also obtained permission to use a painting of the Square as it was in the 1820s.

However, there have been several problems along the way. We hope to complete this project soon.

The West Pier site

There is still no sign of the i360 being built. The area of seafront owned by the West Pier Trust is falling into serious disrepair, including the former rock shop which is a grade 1 listed building.

Our discussions with the Trust have had little success. We have asked the Council to take enforcement action. We have met with Mike Holland, to talk about his plans for a new "family orientated" pier.

Planning and Conservation

We have continued to review planning applications in the area and to attend the Conservations Advisory Group. Our representative is Duncan Cameron.

We objected to plans to demolish the old stable buildings in Stone Street (formerly Hill Brothers' Builders). The application was withdrawn. We have applied for the buildings to be listed.

We also objected to the design of new flats in Stone Street. Approval has now been given but with a few changes which address some of our concerns.

The Council has applied for permission to make improvements to the Regency Square car park. We welcome much of the plan but we objected strongly to the proposed glass structure which would obscure views of the houses in the square. The application has been withdrawn for revision following numerous objections. We are currently discussing an alternative plan with Council officers

Keeping the Area Safe

We have met Bobbi King, our local PCSO regularly.

The Council is planning improvements to street lighting across the city. We are discussing with Council officers possible changes in our area designed to reduce crime.

Social Events during the Year

- An evening at Alfresco with the manager of Boots
- Thanks to the Regency Tavern for hosting a pleasant pre-Christmas event for members

- New Year Breakfast at the Regency Restaurant
Little Theatre visits were less popular this year, but we will try again. Winter weather meant that there were no takers for the trip on the Brighton Wheel.

Subscriptions

The committee is not proposing any increase in membership subscription rates for 2013.

Thanks ...

... to everyone who has helped and supported the Society over the past year and particularly to those who are standing down from the committee.

Elections

Committee members standing for re-election:

Trix Webber (Treasurer)	(Regency Square)
Margaret Brisley	(Sussex Heights)
Duncan Cameron	(Regency Square)
Nigel Rose	(Regency Square)

Chairman: Roger Hinton is standing down from the committee. He was one of the founding members of the Society back in 1979 and has served on the committee continuously since then.

Secretary: we are pleased that Suzanne Hinton has agreed to stand as secretary. Paul Smith was elected secretary at the last AGM but had to stand down because of pressure of other work. As a result, the Society has been without a secretary for some time.

Members: several other members are leaving the committee. Ros Boulden first joined in 1986 and has supported the Society energetically since then. She has represented us on the Conservation Advisory Group and organised our trips to the Little Theatre.

Diana Dunn is also stepping down. She joined the committee in 1992. She has organised bulb planting in the gardens and represented us on "Brighton in Bloom". Her greatest triumph was when she dressed as a rat and dumped a truck load of rubbish bags on the steps of Brighton Town Hall.

Rhidian Hughes was elected as secretary in 2006, a post he held for three years. He obtained a grant for the Society of £2,200 for a heritage board.

We are pleased that Julie White, who recently moved to the area, has agreed to be nominated for election as a member of the committee.

Further nominations are invited. Please contact the Chairman before the AGM if you want more information or would like to make a nomination.

Treasurer's Report

Apologies for the slightly longer summary of annual accounts this year. This is necessary because we currently have four separate funds.

Our General Fund shows a slight increase in income over last year (£892 compared to £875); the surplus of £316 is also up on the figure of £211 for last year.

The Russell Square Seat Fund is new. Following the sad death of long time resident Ken Kennar, we have received two donations, totalling £100 towards a bench in memory of Ken.

The Regency Square Improvement Fund has, this year, paid for some of the garden improvements agreed via the consultation questionnaire. We used a total of £1,508 to buy two new benches and start planting out the new flower bed.

Finally, the Heritage Board Fund shows no change this year as details of the board's installation have yet to be finalised.

Thank you for your subscriptions and donations, which have enabled us to continue RSAS activities on your behalf.

Regency Square Area Society Income & Expenditure for the year ended 29 February 2012

Income	£	£
Subscriptions		481
Donations		345
Functions		65
Interest		1
Total general fund income		892
Russell Square Seat Fund		100
Total income for the year		992
Expenditure		
Postage, copying etc.	136	
Insurance	154	
Functions expenses	86	
Donations	140	
AGM expenses	60	
Total general expenses	576	
Regency Sq. Improvements (RSIF)	1,508	
Total expenditure		(2,084)
Overall deficit for the year		(1,092)

Balance Sheet as at 29 February 2012

General fund at start of year	2,583
Increase in general fund for the year	316
General fund at end of year	2,899
Russell Square seat fund at start of year	0
Increase for the year	100
Fund at end of year	100
RSIF at start of year	3,407
Decrease for the year	(1,508)
Fund at end of year	1,899
Heritage board fund at start of year	2,200
Change for the year	0
Fund at end of year	2,200
Total funds at end of year	7,098
Advance subscriptions	105
Advance donations	63
Total funds and advances at year end	7,266
Cash at bank	7,181
Cash in hand	85
Total assets at end of year	7,266

(RSIF is the Regency Square. Improvement Fund)