



NEWSLETTER 304 MARCH 2016

Annual General Meeting

The Society's 37th AGM will be held at 7.30pm on Monday 18th April in the Sandringham room at the Hilton Metropole Hotel. Councillor Gill Mitchell, the lead councillor for environment and transport, will talk about the future of our part of the seafront and answer questions. This will be followed by a 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 36th AGM held on March 30th 2015
- Committee report for the year
- Treasurer's report and annual accounts
- Election of officers and committee
- Members' questions and comments

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

The Committee's Annual Report

This has been another hectic year during which, thanks to our Secretary Suzanne Hinton, nine newsletters have been distributed to members.

The British Airways i360 and the West Pier

Now nearing completion, the BAi360 is due to open as an attraction this summer. We have continued to express our concerns about traffic flow along the sea front and

have emphasised the importance of good car park signage.

There have been no developments with regard to the future of the seaward site, where the West Pier is becoming increasingly fragile. The West Pier Trust have stated that stabilising the remaining part of the pier would be prohibitively expensive and logistically very difficult.

Garden Regeneration

The City Council has agreed to ring fence for Regency Square garden, a third of the 1% of BAi360 ticket sales which is dedicated to improving the local area. This has yet to be ratified by committee, but we are confident that it will go ahead. Consultation is underway to find out how people want the garden to look. We urge all members to take this opportunity to be involved in the future design of the garden. The results of the recently circulated questionnaire and other information on the garden will be on display at the AGM. Thanks are due to Nigel Rose for his efforts to secure this funding, and to Nicola Floyd for analysing the questionnaire data.

Liaison with the Police and Anti Social Behaviour

Funding pressures made it difficult for our Police Community Liaison Officers to attend many RSAS meetings, but they have sent crime statistics we have liaised regularly. All members can now choose to receive police updates by email. Anti social behaviour was less of a problem than in previous years.

West Pier Project and Future of the Buildings

This Regency Square hostel for 45 homeless adults closed officially in February 2016, although it is not clear whether all residents have left. Enquiries to the owners about their future plans for the buildings met with a hostile response, so we have no information on this, but will continue to monitor developments. We wish the former residents well for the future.

Planning

We have objected to a number of inappropriate planning applications and to shoddy work. Below is a sample of the developments which we have commented on.

Number 67 Preston Street is looking better now that the ground floor is back in use as offices, although some planning regulations are still being flouted,

Permission was granted to build a student hostel at 19a Castle St. This is contingent on the cottage at 14 Stone St being restored and we will do our utmost to ensure that this is honoured.

BUPA has been granted prior permission for change of use of their Russell Mews building to 54 flats. If this goes ahead we will be checking that the covenants which apply to the outside spaces in Russell Mews are honoured.

Thanks are due to Suzanne Hinton and Paula Brookes for spotting any controversial planning applications. Many thanks also to Margaret Brisley for being our Conservation Advisory Group representative.

Social Events

There were a various opportunities for members to meet up, and as we are now on Facebook, members can both read and post news.

In May Regency Square became a Brighton Festival venue, and many of us enjoyed the plays presented in the Roundabout Tent. There were concerns, however, about how long the grass took to recover. A very successful evening event was held in November, when Local Councillors Alex Phillips and Tom Druitt came to talk about their work and answer questions.

Thanks to our generous local businesses, we had a splendid Christmas tree in Regency Square. Carol singing around the tree, with the Salvation Army providing the music, was followed by drinks in the Regency Tavern. Thanks to Julie White and Father Jerome Lloyd for organising this. Later in the month, a group of us enjoyed "It's a Wonderful Life" at the Brighton Little Theatre.

Our first event of 2016 was the traditional communal breakfast at the Regency Restaurant.

Rubbish

Unfortunately the problems of overflowing rubbish and noise from emptying of bins very early in the morning has continued. Thanks to Councillor Tom Druitt and to Nicola Floyd for their persistence in tackling the latter. Businesses using residents' bins has also been a problem. These things really affect people's lives and are very difficult to find lasting solutions to.

Goodbye

To long time member Anthony Appleton, who passed away in November 2015.

Elections

The following committee members are standing for reelection

Chair: Trix Webber (Regency Square)

Treasurer: Nicola Floyd (Queensbury [Mews])

Secretary: Suzanne Hinton (Kings Road)

Paula Brookes (Stone Street)

Jerome Lloyd (Russell Square)

Nigel Rose (Regency Square)

Julie White (Regency Square)

Further nominations are invited for the committee and for 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.

Society Contacts

Chair: Trix Webber ☎ 01273 321858

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Treasurer: Nicola Floyd ☎ 078 3352 7270

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Secretary: Suzanne Hinton ☎ 01273 321794

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Income & expenditure for the period ending 30 March 2016

INCOME	£(out)	£in
Subscriptions (including forward subs)		454.00
Donations		410.00
Functions and other		71.00
Interest		4.82
Total General Fund income		939.82
Regency Square Improvement Fund		0.00
Christmas Tree Fund		287.00
Total income		1,226.82
EXPENDITURE		
Postage, printing etc.	84.31	
Insurance	196.76	
AGM/functions	143.75	
Other Gen Fund Expenses	185.99	
Total General Fund expenses	610.81	
Regency Square Improvement Fund	163.65	
Christmas Tree Fund	272.18	
Total expenditure		(1,046.64)
OVERALL SURPLUS		180.18

Balance Sheet as at 30 March 2016

General Fund at start of last financial year	4,366.95
Net Income / (Expenditure) for the period	329.01
General Fund at 30 March 2016	4,695.96
Regency Sq. Improvement Fund at start of last financial year	521.89
Net Income / (Expenditure) for the period	(163.65)
Reg. Sq. Improvement Fund at 30 March 2016	358.24
Christmas Tree Fund at start of last financial year	40.00
Net Income / (Expenditure) for the period	14.82
Christmas Tree fund at 30 March 2016	54.82
Total funds (liabilities) at 30 March 2016	5,109.02
Cash at bank	5,080.04
Cash in hand	28.98
Total assets	5,109.02

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 – this really does make all the difference to our funding. The fantastic prizes donated by local businesses for the AGM also really boosted income from the raffle.

We have again sought to reduce our operating costs this year, reducing our IT and hosting costs by 40% while also launching our own Facebook page to allow members to keep in touch in real time. Additional members moving over to email delivery of the monthly RSAS newsletter, and postage payments by members for delivery out of area also helped to bring down on-going postage costs – many thanks to those who've made the change as this is a big help in keeping our costs down.

We had two exceptional areas of expenditure this year that contributed to postage and printing, general funds expenditure and Regency Square Improvement Fund expenditure. The first was a membership drive at the beginning of the year, which increased membership by 10%. The second was the costs associated with carrying out a survey of over 1000 residents living in the area regarding their views on the regeneration of the Regency Square gardens.

Finally, thanks to the very kind donations of our business members, we were again able to have a beautiful lit Christmas tree in the gardens this year. We were able to introduce secure footings for the tree, which meant it lasted over the whole Christmas period, and we bought new out-door lights. Many thanks to B&Q who replaced the first set of lights that got damaged free of charge. The carol service and official tree lighting was attended by many, and we hope that we can make this an annual tradition with your help and donations.

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