The Regency Society
of Brighton & Hove

Registered charity No: 210194

2001 Annual Report
President
The Duke of Grafton KG FSA

Vice presidents
Lord Briggs
Sir John Kingman FRS

Chairman
Gavin Henderson

Vice chairmen
Dr Ian Dunlop MBE
Derek Granger
Peter Rose
John Wells-Thorpe OBE

Honorary secretary
John Small FRIBA FRSA

Honorary treasurer
Andrew McGuffog

Committee secretary
Dinah Staples

Executive committee
Elaine Evans (Hove Civic Society representative)
Rupert Radcliffe-Genge/Sarah Gibbings
Miss Eileen Hollingdale
Lianne Jarrett
Michael Ray
David Robson
Audrey Simpson
Nick Tyson
Robert Watson
This has been a busy year for the Society. The emergence of Brighton & Hove as a unified city means that all issues of planning and conservation, for what was previously two distinct authorities, are now channelled through a single system. The relative strength of the economy and the vigour of the new city’s image – with a particularly youthful culture now emerging – brings with it issues of property speculation, and thence concerns about the quality of what is built (or converted). For those involved in assessing applications for planning permission, the process can be challenging; a balance must be struck in terms of protecting the heritage on the one hand – and doing all possible to encourage first rate new design on the other. In this work the Society is fortunate indeed in having the services of John Small as secretary – giving so generously of his time and professional expertise.

There are a number of very significant plans now under consideration – the West Pier and its ‘enabling development’, the new sports stadium proposed for Falmer, the concept of a South Downs National Park (extending down through East Brighton/Woodingdean to the coastline) and a major scheme for the Brighton Station site.

Feelings run high in various quarters on all such schemes, with contradictory pressures – each with relative merits and disadvantages. It would take the judgement of Solomon to achieve comprehensive resolution, but this is where the Society must play its part in seeking to combine responsibility for care of existing fine architecture with a vision for the future. Much of what we so revere in the past was itself highly contentious when first mooted. Progress can be slow – witness the Jubilee car park site, where now, at last, a new library is about to emerge. What might have been on this site doesn’t bear thinking about. But the fact that it was thought about – indeed fought about – by people and groups such as the Regency Society means that the city will soon have a fitting development at the heart of its ‘cultural quarter’.

In paying a subscription to the Society, the measurement of worth is often seen in terms of the lecture programme; by any accounts the modest annual sub brings excellent value in the programme of talks, discussions and visits. But it is vital to recognise that so much more goes on behind the scenes with the Society – as a campaigning and advisory group. We do need to marshal our forces more effectively; we have been missing a membership secretary for several seasons – but now I am delighted to welcome Manon Saitch to this role. Manon has worked in arts and educational administration – for a time in the Brighton Festival – was on the sports desk of The Observer and after a period abroad came back to live in Brighton with her young family. She is determined to bring new order to our membership system – without losing its friendly approach.

David Robson has given us another year of stimulating talks, now with the help of Peter Bareham, also of Brighton University’s School of Architecture. Attendance has been excellent overall – with the debate on Embassy Court bringing out a full house. The notion of an underlying theme to the lecture season seems popular – with this year’s Victorian strand following the previous season’s 20th century focus. The study tour to Devon and Cornwall, based at Dartington, proved a great success, for which many thanks to Mr and Mrs Mercer – Stella in particular. The forthcoming tour to France, based in Dieppe, is already a sell out. We are grateful to Yvonne Dale for opening her ‘secret garden’ for a summer party which included musicians from the Brighton Youth Orchestra. We will be returning to the garden this year on Saturday, 22 June. Before then we have a lecture to coincide with Brighton Festival at the Sallis Benney Theatre, when our guest will be Nicholas Grimshaw, architect of the Eden Project.

My thanks must go to all who have helped the Society in the last year – not least the members of the Committee. We all hope that you have found the programme worthwhile.

Gavin Henderson
Chairman
We record, with regret, the death of John B Denman, aged 87, a founder member of the society, longstanding committee member and former vice-chairman. He had suffered poor health for a number of years. He was a well respected local architect and the fourth generation of the Brighton practice, Denman and Son.

Changes to the committee

The committee has selected Derek Granger and Peter Rose as vice-chairmen of the society. Professor Stephen Adutt has resigned as advisor to the society but during recent months he has helped in exploring a possible planning initiative to create a means to provide funding towards the repair of St Peter’s church, for which we are grateful. He continues to help the honorary secretary with informal advice on planning issues.

Peter Bareham has joined the committee and is formulating and running the current lecture programmes while David Robson is abroad.

Lianne Jarrett has joined the committee and Elaine Evans is an ex-officio member representing Hove Civic Society, thereby continuing our very close link with our (younger) sibling society.

We are also delighted that Manon Saitch has agreed to become our membership secretary, relieving Andrew McGuffog and Dinah Staples from sharing this additional role while the post has been vacant.

Restoration of the West Pier

A planning application for the extensive “enabling development” proposed on the foreshore to the east and west of the root end of the pier is expected to be submitted imminently.

The architects’ outline proposals were presented to the society’s committee by the Brighton West Pier Trust and their developer partner, St Modwen, in early December last year.

We are worried about the height and length of the proposed buildings, which will inevitably restrict some views of the pier, the foreshore and the sea. The design of the buildings is also uninspired.

We await the planning application before responding formally but unless very substantial changes are made to the draft, we shall oppose it.

The gasworks site, Church Road, Hove

Permission has been granted for the demolition of the manager’s house, the former showroom and, sadly, the flint wall on the site’s boundary with Church Road. We, with others, tried to save all these buildings.

An application for the approval of reserved matters, namely the detailed design, landscaping and so on of the proposed supermarket and new school has recently been submitted. The Tesco store is a cool, modern, modular design – which could have been built anywhere.

We shall seek improvements and a more contextual solution to this important town centre site adjacent to St Andrew’s church.

Jubilee Street redevelopment

During the past year, planning approval has been granted for this important development. It is is due to start on site shortly. The new central library, in particular, will provide greatly improved facilities, which are long overdue, and will enhance the cultural core of the city following the recent completion of the restoration of the Dome, Corn Exchange and Pavilion Theatre and the imminent completion of the museum and art gallery spaces.
Marlborough House and Stanmer House

These fine buildings have rarely been off our agenda throughout the society’s existence. The future of both is still far from clear. Some external restoration of Marlborough House has tentatively started and the east entrance porch has been taken down for restoration, off site.

The council’s conservation planning officers assure us that the building is wind and weather proof but we shall welcome tangible signs of the full restoration having started.

At Stanmer House, the position is somewhat similar. A planning application for change of use and for the re-creation of the wing that was demolished in the mid-twentieth century is awaiting determination but no firm proposals for the stable block are yet forthcoming.

Brighton Station site

This extensive and major planning application will be discussed by the planning applications sub-committee on 16 April 2002. Many issues are contentious and we are particularly concerned about the impact of the proposed development on the Grade One Listed, and nationally important, church of St Bartholomew.

The somewhat eccentric, brash styling of the proposed housing blocks nearby, using an odd palette of materials, seem unlikely to encourage them to become friendly and respectful neighbours. A residential tower block at the northern entrance to the site seems particularly adversarial to the previously unchallenged grandeur of the church.

King Alfred sports building development

A new planning brief for the redevelopment of the sports buildings on this site is currently being formulated by the leisure and regeneration projects department of the council.

In tandem with Hove Civic Society, we have suggested that we would not object, in principle, to some housing being included on the site to “provide cross-funding for the sports facilities via an enabling development”.

How things could have been: a proposal for the King Alfred site from the late nineteenth century for housing. The only part that was built is St Aubyn’s Mansions on the eastern side, circled right as you look at the picture. The King Alfred centre was erected on the land approximately shown by the rectangle to the left.

Historian and picture collector Henry Smith has drawn our attention to a print (pictured above) showing potential residential use of the site in the late 1890s.

Only one block was built but the proposal does provide an example of how, at an earlier time, seaside housing was attractively planned, while maintaining views of the sea for pedestrians from Kingsway and from a large number of flats.
Donations

The society donated £50 to the ex-Services Mental Welfare Society and £100 to the Martlets Hospice, in lieu of lecture fees at the request of the lecturers. A donation of £90 was made to Exeter Cathedral following our summer visit there last year.

We also donated £600 to the Unitarian Church in New Road Brighton towards its appeal for funds for major restoration works to the building fabric. We asked that our donation be put towards the restoration of the main entrance to the church.

Summer study tour

A report of the summer study tour to buildings in Devon and Cornwall appeared in issue 5 of our newsletter Regency Review. The visit was based on Dartington Hall which was a comfortable and convenient base for our outings with excellent facilities.

The tour included visits to Saltram House at Plympton, High Cross House at Dartington, Lanhydrock House in Cornwall, Exeter cathedral, Castle Drogo and Coleton Fishacre, together with their gardens.

A plethora of fine houses, carefully restored and looked after and a delightful introduction to the wide variety of buildings in both counties.

Summer party

The summer party in Yvonne Dale’s secret Kemp Town garden was hardly marred by some rain. Indeed, some members thought it added an extra frisson to the occasion.

The roses were splendid, the lawn verdant, and the music from members of the Brighton Youth orchestra, sublime!

Many thanks to Yvonne Dale, John Orpen, for donating wine, and Audrey Simpson, for overseeing the catering.

Lectures

During the 2001-2002 winter season, the society’s lecture programme was as follows:

2000

9 October: The Antony Dale Memorial Lecture
Paul Atterbury on Victorian taste
13 November: Alan Powers, Alan Phillips & Adam Trimingham on Wells Coates & Embassy Court
11 December: Professor John McKean on Glass palaces: the architecture of Joseph Paxto

2001

15 January: Dr Brent Elliott on Victorian gardens
12 February: Dr Anthony Seldon on George Gilbert Scott, the Foreign Office and Brighton College
12 March: D. Robert Elleray, Rev Gordon O’Loughlin and others on A Victorian church: St Paul’s Brighton
9 April: Giles Waterfield on Victoria & Albert as collectors of Victorian painting
10 May, 7.30 pm, Sallis Benney Theatre: Sir Nicholas Grimshaw on Structure, space and skin: The recent work of Nicholas Grimshaw and partners
Membership

As at 31 March 2002, there were 246 ordinary members of the Society, 129 life members and four corporate members.

Members who have consented to be named are listed below.

Ordinary members

A
Miss S Adams
Hon Mrs B Allenby
Mr P Amos
Miss M Angus
Miss J Assinder
O Astington
Mr Ayles
Mrs Ayles

B
Ms J Bailey
Mr R Baker
Mr W Baker
Wrs W Baker
Mr P Bareham
Mrs P Bareham
Mr R Booth
Mrs R Booth
Mr A Barlow
Mrs J Barrington
Mr R Bates
Mrs H Bates
Mr M Beavon
Ms E Bell
Mr D Benney
K Bergin
Miss B Biederman
Miss M Brand
Mrs C Briggs
Mr B Brooks
Mr Brooks-Herrington
Mrs Brooks-Herrington
Mr W Brown
Mrs W Brown
M Buckley
Dr M Budleigh

C
Mr M Callagan
Mr R Capstick
Mr E Cater

Mrs J Chatterton
Mrs L Clarke
Mrs V Clutterbuck
Ms C Collington
Mr A Cornelius
Mrs B Cornelius
Mrs J Coryton
Mr M Courtice

D
Dr W de Coverly Veale
Mrs W de Coverly Veale
Mrs A Dean
Mr H Doyne-Ditmas
Mrs H Doyne-Ditmas
Mr J Drummond
Mr M Dunman
Mrs P Dunman

E
Mrs D Eaton
Mr R Eveleigh

F
Sir Richard Faber
Mr S Fanshawe
Mr A Felton
Mr S Finn
Mr M Fisher
Mrs J Fitzgerald
Mr K Francis
Mrs K Francis
Mrs C Franklin

G
Ms S Gibbings
Mrs S Gilles
Mrs G Greenwood
Mr B Griggs
Mrs C Gyll

H
Ms S Harrison
Mr G Hariri
Mrs E Hanington
Mrs M Harris
Dr Hatcher
Mrs Hatcher
R Hawkes
Mrs H Hayler
Mr R Hedger
Mrs S Henderson
Mr J Henman
Mrs A Henman
Ms Hinkley
Mr R Hinton
Mrs S Hinton

Mr J Hird
Miss J Hoffman
Miss N Holmes
C Horlock
Miss G Hosack
Mrs L Houghton
Mr D Huggett
Mrs A Huggett
Mr J Hunt
Ms J Hunting
Ms S Hutchinson
Mr T Hyde

I
Rev Irvine
Miss D Irvine
Miss S Isaacson
Mr S Ives

J
Ms E Jameson
Mr P Jones

K
Mrs E Kaye
Mr L Keen
Dr P Kempton
Mrs A Kempton
P Kinna
Miss R Kolesar

L
Mrs R Lapage
Mr M Laslett
Mrs P Lawson-Crutenden
Mr M Le Garst
Mr P Leloup
Mr F Lindsay-Hills
Mrs F Lindsay-Hills
Mr M Lister
Mrs S Liwicki
Mr T Lobert
Mr L Lobo
Mrs L Lobo
Mr R Lynch-White
Mrs L Lynch-White
D Lyon
Mr T Lyttelton

M
Mr I Mackie
Miss J Malcolm
W Mann
Mr J Marsh
Mrs S Marsh
Mrs J Marsh-Hobbs
Ms F Mathews
Mr A McGuffog
Ms H McKay
J McKean
Mr D McNeil
Mrs D McNeil
Mr R Mercer
Mrs R Mercer
Mrs P Messum
Rev A Millyard
P Mitchell
Dr R Moffat
Mrs R Moffat
Ms D Moffat
Mr R Montford
Mrs S Montford
Mr R Morfield
Mrs R Morfield
Cllr C Morley
Mrs B Morris
Mr A Morrison
Mrs M Morrison
Ms G Moss
Mr T Mower
Ms J Murray

N
Ms O Neumann
Miss P Newman

O
Mrs A Ore
Miss C Oxenbury

P
Mrs I Page
Mr M Page
Mrs G Palmer
Mr W Parker
Mr M Pellant
Mr S Perry
Mrs R Perry
Miss M Pickerill
Mr M Pierson
Mrs M Pierson
Ms E Plumb
Mr N Porter
Mrs N Porter

R
Mr R Radcliffe-Genge
Mrs I Ranger
Mr A Raven
Mrs A Raven
Mrs E Ray
Mr M Ray
Miss V Raynar-Smith
M Rayneau
Miss P Reading
Mr V Rees
Mr J Remers
Ms P Remers
Ms S Rickards
Mr P Ridler
Mrs M Ridler
Mr D Rignell
Mrs D Rignell
Mr D Robertson
Ms S Rockall
Mrs A Robinson
Mr C Rock
Mr G Rookledge
Mrs J Rookledge
Mr N Robinson
Ms J Rutherford
S
Ms E Sampson
Miss R Schulman
Mr I Scott
Mrs L Scott
Mrs M Saitch
Mrs L Seabrook
Ms J Seddon
Mr A Shapcott-Hume
Mr K Shaw
Mrs K Shaw
Ms L Sherlock
Mrs A Sleigh
Mr J Small
Mr J Smith
J Spink
Miss D Staples
Mr V Steinhardt
Mrs V Steinhardt
G Stevenson
Dr J Stewart
Mr R Stiles
Mrs R Stiles
Ms A Still
Mr R Stubbs
Mrs R Stubbs
Mrs H Swan
T
Ms A Tour
Mrs R Tiltman

V
Mr G Villis

W
Dr H Walker
Miss F Ruth Wallace
Mr R Warburton
Mrs R Warburton
Mrs B Waterfield
Mr R Watson
Mrs R Watson
Dr S Weir
Mrs S Weir
Mrs M Wells-Thorpe
Ms M Williams
Mr I Williamson
Mrs H Williamson
Ms A Wintle
Mr N Woolf
Mrs N Woolf
Mr M Wren
Mrs M Wren
Mrs J Wrennall
Miss M Wright

Y
Mrs M Younger

Life members

A
Mr J Abbott
Mrs J Abbott
A Adams
Prof S Adutt
Miss C Allen
Mrs M Anderson
Mr D Arnold
Mr A Ashwell
Mrs G Askew
I Askew
Miss J Averill

B
Mrs M Bailey
Mrs J Baker
Lady E Barbirolli
Mrs N Bath
Miss A Beckett
Miss D Berwick
Mr R Betts
Mrs R Binning
Mrs J Binning
Mrs J Bodenham
P Boydell QC
Mrs M Broad
H Brown
Mr A Bruce
W Budd
Mrs F Burke
Mr A Burrell
Mr I Burridge
Members are notified that subscriptions are due for renewal on the anniversary of the date of joining. Subscriptions are currently £10.00 for one individual; £15.00 for two people living at the same address; student £5.00; life £100.00 or £150 for two; corporate £100 per company.

Cheques should be made payable to The Regency Society and sent to: Mrs Manon Saitch, membership secretary, The Regency Society, 31 Chatsworth Road, Brighton BN1 5DB.
# The Regency Society of Brighton & Hove

## Accounts for the year ending 31 December 1999

### A — general

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Subscriptions</td>
<td>£2,379.00</td>
<td>(£2,398.00)</td>
<td>Lecture fees and expenses</td>
<td>£619.16</td>
<td>(£1,576.92)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Donations</td>
<td>£519.50</td>
<td>(£110.00)</td>
<td>Stationery, printing, stamps</td>
<td>£1,791.85</td>
<td>(£1,327.55)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Portman BS</td>
<td>£1,553.97</td>
<td>(£1,735.63)</td>
<td>Honorarium</td>
<td></td>
<td>(480.98)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bank interest</td>
<td>£81.29</td>
<td>(£55.53)</td>
<td>Insurance</td>
<td>£277.50</td>
<td>(£277.50)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other investment income</td>
<td>£5,401.59</td>
<td>(£5,219.34)</td>
<td>Donations from income</td>
<td>£840.00</td>
<td>(£1,195.25)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>National Savings</td>
<td>£69.80</td>
<td>(£76.88)</td>
<td>Subscriptions to other societies</td>
<td>£137.00</td>
<td>(£114.00)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>£10,005.15</strong></td>
<td><strong>(£9,597.38)</strong></td>
<td>Sundry expenses*</td>
<td><strong>£840.20</strong></td>
<td><strong>(£54.24)</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Totals

**£10,005.15** (2000: **£9,597.38**)

**£4,905.71** (2000: **£5,026.44**)

**A surplus: £5,099.44** (2000: £4,568.94)

*Includes Hove Club rental, £120.00, subscription refund £46.00 and St Peter’s-related expenses, £59.20

### B — other activities

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Summer long weekend</td>
<td>£9,689.95</td>
<td>(£5,964.00)</td>
<td></td>
<td>£9,606.73</td>
<td>(£5,956.00)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Surplus:</td>
<td>£83.22</td>
<td>(8.00)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Social events</td>
<td>£482.00</td>
<td>(£531.00)</td>
<td></td>
<td>£476.60</td>
<td>(£528.32)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Surplus:</td>
<td>£5.40</td>
<td>(£2.68)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>£88.62</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td>B surplus:</td>
<td></td>
<td>(£10.68)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Total of surplus of income over expenditure for 2001: **£5,188.06** (2000: £4,579.62)
Statement of assets at 31 December 2001

Fixed assets at cost

Circular Regency table £520.00
Georgian state chair £500.00
Candelabra £120.00
Ormulu bust of George IV £575.00
James Gray Photographic Collection £10,000.00

Total £11,715.00

There were no changes between 2000 and 2001

Investments at cost

£3,328.00 8.5% TS 2007 £3,211.00
£19,110.00 7.75% TS 2012-2015 £20,154.00
£19,310.00 7.75% TS 2006 £20,147.00
£3,085.00 8% TS 2009 £2,945.00
£19,790.00 8% TS 2009 £19,934.00
£1,934.00 6.25% TS 2010 £1,789.31

Total £68,180.31

TS = Treasury Stock. There were no changes between 2000 and 2001

Current assets at 31 December 2001

2001 (2000)
Bank current account* £8660.30 (£4,980.19)
Portman Building Society £33,513.57 (£31,959.60)
National Savings £1,856.40 (£1,786.60)

Total £44,030.27 (£38,726.39)

Assets total £123,925.58 (£118,621.70)

* Includes £5000.00 in Business Call account at higher interest rate

Andrew McGuffog
Honorary treasurer, 2001
One of the three panels, illustrating Regency, Victorian and 20th century buildings in Brighton & Hove, commissioned by the Society in 1999. The full-size colour version is 32 times larger than this reproduction. Design & photography by Duncan McNeill