

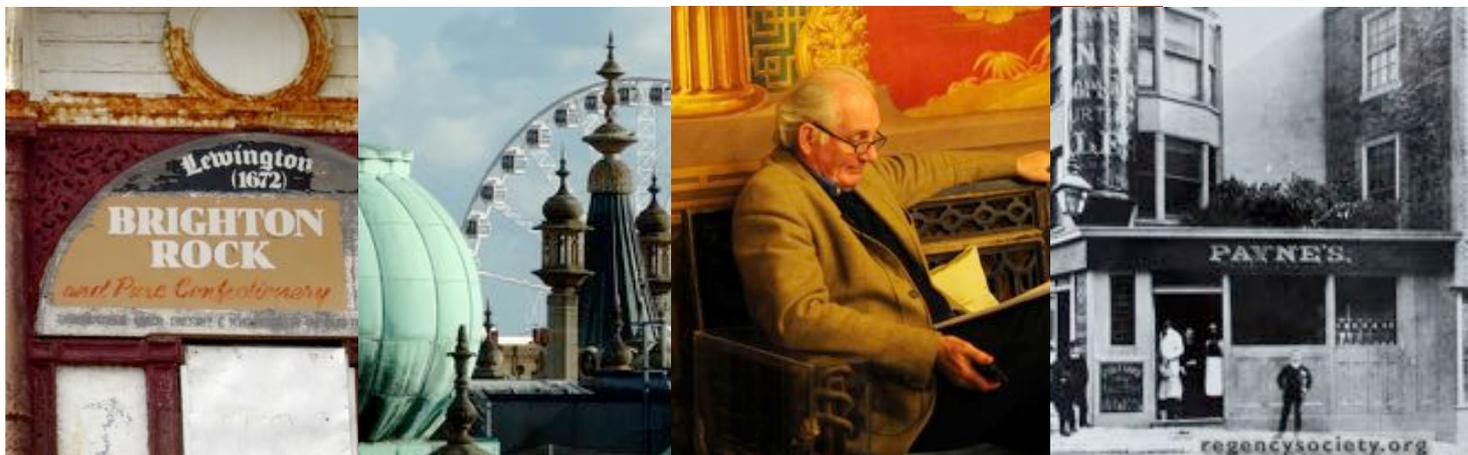
Trustees' review of 2012

The Regency Society has always been about protecting and celebrating the city of Brighton and Hove so, at the start of 2012, the trustees of the Regency Society set themselves an aim and a series of targets for the year. The idea was to give the Society a clear focus in serving both the city and our membership better.

The targets covered everything from engagement in planning and conservation issues to our finances and membership, our public image and the lectures and events we run.

The annual report for the year is structured around these targets, showing you what we set out to achieve and how far we've managed to come in the last 12 months. You will also find the annual accounts on the back page.

As you'll see, we have been extremely busy and we hope you've been able to take part in and enjoy at least some of our activities. If you have any queries, would like to discuss our work further or have suggestions for 2013, please get in touch. You can e-mail us at regencysocietybh@gmail.com or write to Regency Society, 18 Bedford Place, Brighton BN1 2PT.



The Society's charitable objects are:

1) To promote for the benefit of the public the conservation, protection and improvement of the physical and built environment of the City of Brighton and Hove and the surrounding area. 2) To advance the education of the public in the history, conservation, protection and improvement of this physical and built environment.

Interpretation of our objects

The committee gave thought to the interpretation of the objects during 2012 after a concern was expressed that object 2 could be interpreted to mean that we should restrict our educational activity to content concerned exclusively with Brighton and Hove.

The committee's decision, following advice from the Charity Commission, was that this object does not preclude the Society from advancing education by studying other areas for the purposes of providing context and comparison, therefore including the promotion of lectures and study tours relating to areas outside the city and its immediate area. These areas may be within the UK or overseas.

The Regency Society is governed by its constitution, adopted on 2 March 2011.

President

Sir Simon Jenkins

Vice presidents

Rt Hon Lord Briggs FBA
Sir John Kingman FRS
Derek Granger
John Wells-Thorpe OBE
Prof Gavin Henderson CBE

Trustees at 31 December 2012

Martin Auton-Lloyd (hon secretary)
Andrew Buck
Robert Edwards
Delia Forester
Roger Hinton
Sarah Gibbings
Alexandra Loske
Mary McKean (chair)
Rupert Radcliffe-Genge (hon treasurer)
David Robson
Helen Walker

The Society's registered address is:

18 Bedford Place
Brighton BN1 2PT

What we set out to achieve – and how we did

The 2012/13 committee adopted this aim:

To ensure that our city continues to evolve as one of the finest in Britain and that its unique heritage is understood and celebrated by its people.

It also adopted seven targets. Each is followed by an assessment of progress made in 2012.

1. To increase our membership by 10 per cent over the year

This target has been exceeded. Annual membership has risen from 252 to 302. Life membership has decreased from 138 to 137. This constitutes an overall increase of 49, or 12 per cent (a 20 per cent increase in annual membership). This is particularly pleasing, given that recent years have seen a decline.

2. To engage in all major planning applications, submitting responses wherever appropriate and involving the wider membership wherever possible

This target has been achieved. We have responded in detail to the City Plan and also directly to all major applications and proposals, including Brighton College, City College and signage for the Dome in Brighton. We have also responded to two national consultations on extension to permitted development rights and proposed changes to listed buildings consent. We have begun work to contribute to Brighton and Hove council's local list – buildings not listed by English Heritage that are, nonetheless, an important part of our heritage.

3. To raise our profile in relation to conservation

This target has been achieved. We have become very active participants in the council's Conservation Advisory Group, with Roger Hinton appointed as chair and David Robson as our representative. We have also worked to develop a specific project on a conservation theme and hope to launch an initiative in 2013.

4. To achieve at least five positive media mentions for our work

This target has been exceeded. We received considerable local coverage for the **REGENCY SOCIETY WEEKEND** in magazines and newspapers across Sussex. The Argus also featured our views on topics as varied as listed buildings consent, the seafront strategy, Regency fly stables, buses, rebranding the Dome, conservation areas, our Brighton Festival event, the Regency Square car park and the role of our new president, Simon Jenkins.

5. To reach a wider audience: 10 per cent higher attendance at lectures during the 2012/13 series than the 2011/12 series and a 20 per cent increase in hits on our website

Partly achieved. Attendance at lectures in 2012 is similar to that in 2011. The **REGENCY SOCIETY WEEKEND** attracted more than 100 attendees who were not members.

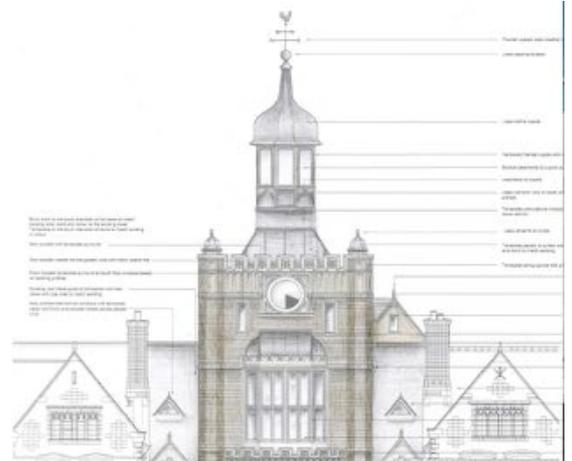
Visitors to regencysociety.org rose 84 per cent, the James Gray website recorded an increase of 27 per cent in visitor numbers and our Facebook page was viewed almost 103,000 times.

6. To run a generally well-regarded and reviewed REGENCY SOCIETY WEEKEND, which achieves break-even or better financially



An average of 281 people visited our Facebook page every day

There were more than 13,500 visits to our website in 2012, with 32,000 page views



Visitors to the James Gray Collection website looked at almost 1.35 million pages



Our views and work featured 15 times in local publications



We commented on around 150 issues in the Conservation Advisory Group, as well as responding to national and local consultations and submitting comments on all major planning applications



Images from the James Gray Collection were used in books, magazines, exhibitions, leaflets and on websites

More than 1,000 attendees at our lectures, tours, quiz, garden party and other events



More than 1,000 canapés were eaten at the garden party



There were 23 speakers at our lectures and the REGENCY SOCIETY WEEKEND – we also ran five guided walks, two study tours and a day trip

Exceeded. The **REGENCY SOCIETY WEEKEND** was very well received and reviewed. It achieved a financial surplus of more than £3,000.

7. To ensure that we end 2012 with our annual financial balance in surplus.

Achieved. See back page.

Events

2012 was a very full year for events. Lectures during January, February, March, November and December covered a wide range of topics including lost statues in Sussex, the proposals for PortZED (the proposed eco-development in West Hove), the Georgian town house and issues related to energy conservation and architecture. The annual lecture, on *George III, Mad or Bad?*, was given by Lord Baker.

Our sell-out event at the Brighton Festival, *The Cult of the Ruin*, was chaired by David Dimbleby, with contributions from Paul Finch, writer and deputy chair of the Design Council; Ros Kerslake, CEO of the Prince's Regeneration trust; and architect Sunand Prasad.

Visits included a day trip to see art galleries in Margate, Eastbourne and Hastings; a study tour to the Czech Republic and Austria to see a wide range of architectural styles; and a study tour to Glasgow, focusing on the work of Charles Rennie Mackintosh and Alexander Thompson.

The **REGENCY SOCIETY WEEKEND** (run in partnership with the Royal Pavilion and Museums Foundation and the University of Brighton) was a huge success.

And the evergreen *Secret Garden Party* survived and thrived after a late venue move to Marine Square, when health and safety concerns meant the Kemp Town Secret Garden was unavailable.

Supporting activity

We carried out a detailed review of our constitution to ensure that our practice is fully compliant, as well as a review of our election arrangements. These have resulted in some changes in our practice and minor changes to the constitution.

Thanks

Many people have helped the committee during 2012. Foremost among these is Lesley Clarke, our invaluable membership secretary. We are also pleased to welcome Kate Ormond as our minutes secretary. We are grateful to Mike Jackson for inspecting our accounts, to the Marine Square enclosure committee for use of their gardens for the garden party, Butler's Wine Cellar for sponsoring the garden party wine and The Brunswick Town Charitable Trust for the loan of the Regency Town House for our committee meetings.

Finally, we are very grateful to the large team of members who volunteered to help at the **REGENCY SOCIETY WEEKEND**, without whom it could not have taken place.

Statement of financial activities (unrestricted funds) for the year ended 31 December 2012

	2012	2012	2011	2011
	£	£	£	£
Incoming resources				
Subscriptions	3,888.50		3,613.50	
Lecture series + events	877.90		100.00	
Garden Party	1,224.00		1,212.50	
Regency Society Weekend	16,240.91			
James Gray collection	290.00		1,174.25	
Dividend income	1,811.58		2,438.62	
Donations + Gift Aid*	725.00		3,438.95	
Interest received	8.72		3.73	
Total incoming resources		25,066.61		11,981.55
Resources expended				
<i>Direct expenditure</i>				
Lecture series + events	1,315.36		980.00	
Garden party	702.70		785.40	
Regency Society Weekend	12,354.73			
		14,372.79		1,765.40
<i>Administration costs</i>				
Subscriptions	526.50		145.00	
Minute secretary	-		124.00	
Committee, AGM costs	1,270.24		406.54	
Donations	500.00		0.00	
Internet and website costs	-		5,234.50	
Insurance	264.60		609.81	
Printing and postage and publications	1,388.75		3,160.98	
Bank charges	-		32.50	
Legal costs (pre-2010 AGM)	-		600.00	
Audit re 2010 accounts	-		120.00	
		3,950.09		10,433.33
Total resources expended		18,322.88		12,198.73
Net incoming/(outgoing) resources		6,743.73		(217.18)
Gains/(losses) on investment assets		7,145.58		(3,981.99)
Net movement in funds		13,889.31		(4,199.17)
Total funds brought forward at 1 January		78,920.17		83,119.34
Total funds carried forward at 31 December		92,809.48		78,920.17
* Gift Aid reclaim of £3,132.95 received in 2011				
Balance sheet at 31 December				
	2012	2012	2011	2011
Fixed assets				
Tangible fixed assets at cost				
Furniture on loan to the Royal Pavilion ¹	1,715.00		1,715.00	
James Gray Photographic Collection	10,000.00			
Storeroom ²	-		-	
		11,715.00		11,715.00
Investments at market value				
CAF UK equity stock ³	50,521.09		42,304.44	
7%% Treasury Stock 2012-2015	19,110.00		19,110.00	
		69,631.09		61,414.44
Total fixed assets		81,346.09		73,129.44
Current assets				
Bank account – CAFBank current	1,000.00		1,000.00	
Bank account – CAFBank deposit	3,853.78		3,800.31	
Bank account – Lloyds Bank current	6,609.61		795.42	
Sundry debtor	-		195.00	
Total current assets		11,463.39		5,790.73
NET ASSETS		92,809.48		78,920.17
Funds				
Unrestricted funds		92,809.48		78,920.17
		92,809.48		78,920.17

Independent examiner's report to the trustees of the Regency Society of Brighton and Hove (Charity No. 210194)
I report on the accounts for the year ended 31 December 2012, which are set out on this page.

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner: The charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The charity's trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 43(2) of the *Charities Act 1993* (the Act) and that an independent examination is needed. It is my responsibility to: Examine the accounts under section 43 of the Act; Follow the procedures laid down in the General Directions given by the Charity Commission (under section 43 (7)(b) of the Act); and state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of independent examiner's report: My examination was carried out in accordance with the general Directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from you as trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently I do not express an audit opinion on the view given by the accounts.

Independent examiner's statement: In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention: 1. Which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in, any material respect, the trustees have not met the requirements to ensure that: proper accounting records are kept in accordance with section 41 of the Act; and accounts are prepared which agree with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the Act; 2. To which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Mike Jackson ACMA CGMA
16 Maldon Road
Brighton BN1 5BE
8 March 2013

1 – The assets lent by the Society to the Royal Pavilion are accounted for at cost: valuations are unchanged from 2010 and are reported as follows: 1. Candlesticks £5,000; 2. Circular table in elm £25,000; 3. State armchair £30,000; 4. Bust of George IV £10,000.

2 – Given to the Society in 2004. It is vested with the Charity Commission's Official Custodian.

3 – £5,000 of Equity stock was sold during 2011.

Rupert Radcliffe-Genge, honorary treasurer

These accounts were approved by the trustees at their meeting on 11 February 2013 and signed on their behalf by Mary McKean, chair.