

REGENCY SQUARE AREA SOCIETY

NEWS LETTER N° 22 MAY '82

YOUR NEW COMMITTEE.

At the Society's AGM last month there was a hearty vote of thanks to Howard Ward who has resigned as Secretary after two years of valuable service. His place will be taken by Richard Pau who was elected un-opposed.

Howard has not only served the Society as Secretary but has also been our representative on the Conservation Areas Advisory Planning Committee. This is a voluntary committee which advises the Planning Authority on developments in the town's various conservation areas. Howard, who re-elected as an ordinary committee member will continue with this work.

Following the elections your officers and committee are now as follows:

CHAIRMAN Eddie Edwards, 38 Regency Sq tel 27935
SECRETARY Richard Pau, 40 Regency Sq tel 26711
TREASURER Roger Hinton, 38 Regency Sq tel 21794

COMMITTEE

Mrs S Dean, Flat C, 7 Clarence Sq
Mrs A C Dear, Flat 4, 11 Clarence Sq
Miss B Fyfe, Flat 3, 14 Clarence Sq
Mrs J Mason, 51 Regency Sq
Mrs L O'Connor, Ground Floor, 30 Regency Sq
Mr H Ward, 43 Little Preston Street

Mr J Henderson, Chairman of the Sussex Heights Residents Association has also been co-opted as a member.

Please feel free to contact any officers or committee members if there is something you would like to see the Society do.

GLIMPSES OF THE PAST.

The fine houses of Regency Square were built originally for the aristocrats and diplomats who were obliged to follow the Prince Regent when he came to spend time by the sea.

Number one Regency Square, now a fish restaurant, was then the meeting place of high society. Preston Street contained some of Brighton's finest shops.

In the 1870s there was a large empty space behind where the Metropole hotel now stands; it was used as a roller skating rink. The church after which St Margaret's Place is named was originally built "speculatively" by a property developer. Sussex Heights, a tower block of flats now occupies the site.

These are just a few of the fascinating bits of our area's history revealed by Robert Gregory when he spoke after the AGM last month. His talk was illustrated with a series of slides showing views of the area at various stages of its history.

One picture which aroused particular interest showed the house in which our retiring secretary, Howard Ward spent his childhood: its site is roughly where the circular restaurant now stands in Churchill Square.

THANKS

Thanks to the Brighton and Hove French Circle for the loan of their projector and screen for our AGM.

URBAN STUDIES CENTRE OPENS

We are pleased to report the opening of the Lewis Cohen Urban Studies Centre. It is located at 68 Grand Parade and has been set up to provide help and advice to local groups and individuals interested in any aspect of the urban environment.

The Director of the Centre is Selma Montford, secretary of the Brighton Society and well known in the town for her tireless campaigns against thoughtless developments.

The Centre opened with an exhibition of displays by various local society's including our own.



For the past three years we have had a Society outing during the summer. We have been to Eastbourne, and Bognor for example.

Do you have any ideas where we should go this year? Suggestions to Lyn O'Connor please 30 Regency Square (ground floor).

DON'T FORGET YOUR SUB

Some members have still not renewed their subscription which were due on April 1st.

Please send you subscription (cheque or cash) to the Treasurer with the form below.

If you are not sure whether you have renewed you can easily check by telephoning the Treasurer Roger Hinton (Tel 21794).

To Roger Hinton, Treasurer, Regency Square Area Society, 38 Regency Square, Brighton BN1 2FJ

Please renew my membership of the Society for the year starting 1 April 1982 in the category of membership ticked below:

Ordinary	2.00
Senior Citizen	1.00
Family	2.50
Junior	0.50
Business	5.00
Associate (non-resident)	1.00

Name _____

Address _____

Cheques should be payable to the Regency Square Area Society

BENCHES ON THE GREEN

If you have been able to spend any time enjoying the sunshine by sitting on Regency Square you will probably have noticed the smart new bench placed there by the Society. It was bought with surplus funds left after the Royal Wedding day party last summer.

There is an inscription on the bench to commemorate the wedding.

The new bench shows up the poor condition of the other benches on the green. These belong to the Council but we have decided to try to improve them a bit.

There will therefore be a grand bench cleaning party on the green on Sunday 6 June - weather permitting. It will start at about 1030 am and continue as long as there is work to be done.

The idea is to rub down the benches and give them a coat of preservative. We have the full support of the Parks and Gardens department who have advised us what type of preservative to use.

Please come and help out if you can spare an hour or two. There will be tea and cakes, good company and, we hope, sunshine. For more information contact Eddie Edwards, 38 Regency Square (Tel 27935).

SEE OTHER SIDE

CHURCHILL CENTRE HOTEL

Members in Russell Square have been very worried by a planning application put in recently for the Churchill Centre Hotel. The owner wants to change it from a hotel to a hostel for mentally handicapped adults.

We have tried to find out more about the proposal and the Council Planning Officer has been very helpful.

The hostel will cater for 23-25 adults of mixed sex. They will live there on a permanent basis. Most will probably come from hospitals in the East Sussex area.

The hostel will be managed by a Mr Tilley who has worked with handicapped people before; he will be assisted by two qualified nurses; in addition there will be care assistants and a cook.

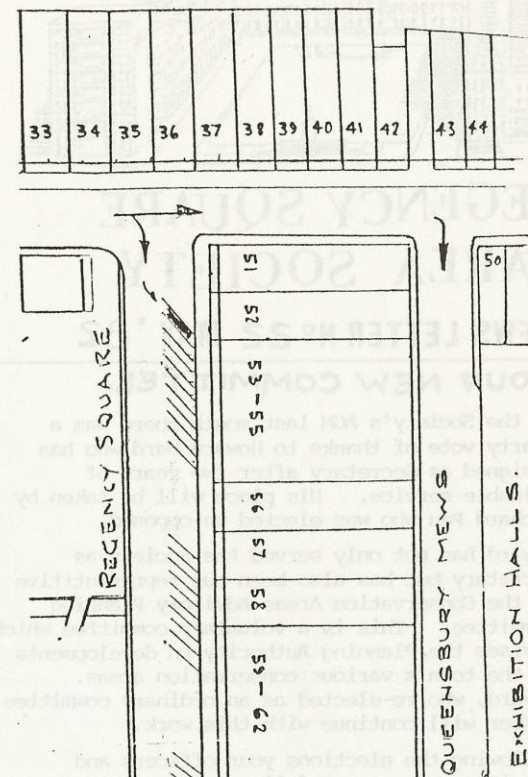
The hostel would be registered with the Social Services department who would make regular inspections.

After considering all the factors involved the Committee has come to the view that Russell Square is not a suitable location for a hostel of this kind. The house is not detached and has no grounds of its own. It is in the centre of a major conference and tourist area.

We have decided therefore to oppose the application. We are writing to the Planning Committee. Local councillor Mrs Nettleton has also expressed her willingness to support local residents who are objecting. She refers to a number of other hostels of this kind in the Regency Ward and feels that there should be no more.

Mrs Nettleton's advice is that personal letters of objection have the greatest effect on the Planning Committee. Anyone who wishes to object can do so by writing to the Borough Planning Officer, 83 North Street, Brighton BN1 1PB.

ECHOLON PARKING



THIS IS PART OF A DRAWING SENT TO THE COUNCIL LAST JUNE, ASKING FOR 9 EXTRA RESIDENT PARKING PLACES. NOTE, THE CAR EXHAUSTS POINT AWAY FROM THE HOUSES.

The parking arrangements on the eastern side of Regency Square have recently been changed. The Society supported this change when it was proposed because it gives a number of new resident's bays.

Not everyone likes the new arrangements now that they are in force. What do you think. Please send your views to the Secretary Richard Pau, 40 Regency Square.