

REGENCY SQUARE AREA SOCIETY NEWS LETTER N°33

JULY 1984

SHANGRILA

According to the dictionary, Shangrila is a remote or imaginary utopia. For many people Brighton's Shangrila is far from remote and is nothing like utopia.

It is a late night drinking club in the basement of the Hotel George IV in Regency Square.

At about 1 am on the morning of Saturday 30 June there was a disturbance inside the club and the police were called. What followed had to be seen to be believed.

In the end there must have been eight police cars outside the club. There was also an ambulance and at least one person was carried from the club injured.

In the street the police were engaged in what can only be described as running battles. One police woman was knocked to the floor.

Police dogs appeared on the scene barking for all they were worth. Plain clothes police officers went into the club to find out what had happened.

Eventually peace was restored and the club was closed by the police for the rest of the night.

WHAT SHOULD WE DO ?

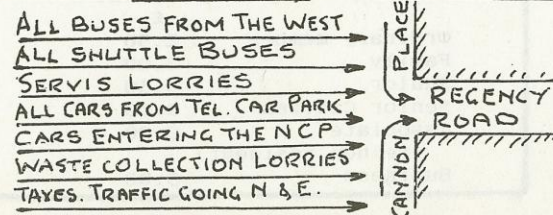
This Society believes that a club of this sort should not be allowed to operate in the middle of a residential and hotel area. This view is shared by the vast majority of people in the area.

Following the events described above the Society organised a petition. The petition was sent to the police since they have the power to apply for the late night liquor license to be withdrawn. It seems likely that they will now do so.

In the meantime the Society is also appealing to the local council not to renew the club's entertainment license which also runs to 2 am. This license is due for renewal this month.

It will be considered by the Council's licensing sub-committee at 4 pm on Tuesday 31 July at the Town Hall. The meeting is open to the public. Members of the Society will be there.

If you can come please do. The more local residents who are present the better since it will help to show the committee that local people are not prepared to have the peace of their area destroyed in this way.



RUSSELL SQUARE CLARENCE SQUARE CANNON PLACE

TRAFFIC TRAFFIC EVERYWHERE

The County Council have now announced their new plans for traffic around Churchill Square.

If you live in Cannon Place, Russell Square or Clarence Square the new scheme means significant changes for you.

For example, traffic using the British Telecom carpark will in future have to drive through Russell Square and Clarence Square. On Saturday mornings there is a tail back from that carpark into Cannon Place. In future it could tail back through the narrow exit at the north east corner of Clarence Square.

Meanwhile Cannon Place itself is likely to become even more congested than it is now. There will be buses coming down from Western Road and parking opposite the car hire office; all the delivery vehicles going under Churchill Square will have to come up Cannon Place and turn right, as will cars going into the car parks.

The scheme is very complicated and these are only a few of the points about it. We believe that it will create much worse traffic conditions in our area.

If you want to know more there is a detailed plan of the scheme on display in the Planning offices at 83 North Street.

If you want to object to any aspects of it you can do so by writing to The County Secretary, Pelham House, St Andrew's Lane, Lewes by 4 August 1984.

DEFEAT IN REGENCY MEWS

In spite of vigorous opposition from the Society and other local groups, the Council has given planning permission for office development on the old Dutton Foreshaw site in Regency Mews.

The plans include old people's retirement flats which we welcome. But the main development will be a large office block which will tower above the houses at the top of Regency Square and cut out much of their light.

The silliest part of the whole thing is that there are already empty offices all over Brighton.

The old garage building still looks much the same from the outside but in fact it has already been demolished. Only the end walls remain.

Detailed planning permission is still needed before building work can start. The Society will be making extensive comments to the planning committee when the detailed plans are published.

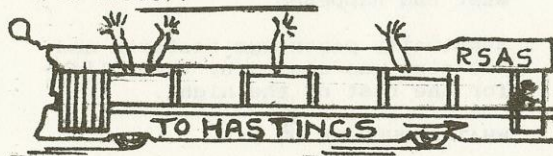
We are particularly concerned about the following points:

Will traffic be allowed to pass through the new development between Russell Square and Regency Mews? We would oppose this except for a pedestrian way through.

There must be strict controls on the amount of noise caused by the office heating plant.

The Council must ensure that work on the retirement flats starts at the same time as work on the offices. We do not want to find that we get the offices and then the plans for flats are abandoned.

If there are any other points you think need to be considered please contact the chairman, Eddie Edwards, 38 Regency Square (Tel 27935).



Come with us for a day trip to Hastings. The Society has booked a coach for Sunday 9 September.

It will leave from Regency Square at 10-30 am and drive to Hastings with a stop on the way for coffee. We will return in the early evening and be back in Brighton by 7 pm.

The fares for members will be £3 for adults and £1.50 for children under 16 and senior citizens.

Non members can come as guests and their fares will be £4 and £2.

Please book early if you want to come.

You can get a ticket by sending your fare to the treasurer, Roger Hinton, 38 Regency Square.

SUBSCRIPTIONS

A few members have still not renewed their subscriptions. Please renew now and help to ensure that our Society represents a wide cross section of our local community.

Subscriptions are as follows:

	£
Ordinary member	2.50
Family	3.00
Junior	0.50
Senior Citizen	2.00
Associate	2.00
(ie non resident)	
Business	5.00

CASTLE STREET DEVELOPMENTS

Two planning applications for properties in Castle Street have been opposed recently by the Society.

One was for a billiard hall and the other for a social club.

Both applications have been allowed by the planning committee but with a condition that neither premises may operate after 11 pm.

SEAFRONT ART - FOR AND AGAINST

Art is often the subject of disagreement.

The same goes for the seafront art exhibition which appears each summer at the bottom of Regency Square.

Several members complained to the Society that it blocks their view and is unattractive. So we decided to try to collect a petition asking the council to put it somewhere else next summer.

But once we started to collect signatures we found that there are more people who like it where it is than there are those who don't.

Please send your subscriptions to the treasurer, Roger Hinton, 38 Regency Square.

SPECIAL ISSUE

Because this newsletter contains details of the major new traffic scheme we have circulated copies to all properties in Cannon Place, Russell Square and Clarence Square as well as to members.

If you would like to see our newsletter regularly you can do so by joining the society.