

REGENCY SQUARE AREA SOCIETY NEWS LETTER N^o 37 APRIL 1985

YOUR NEW COMMITTEE

Following the Annual General Meeting last month your officers and committee for the coming year are:

Chairman	Roger Hinton 38 Regency Square Tel 21794
Secretary	Richard Pau 40 Regency Square Tel 26711
Treasurer	Harold Lawson 7 Chartwell Court Tel 28203
Committee	Mrs W Brasemere-Davis Cannon Place
	Mr W Hampson Regents Court
	Mr J Henderson Sussex Heights
	Mrs M Lewin Sussex Heights
	Mrs A Simpson Kings Road
	Mrs T Tappin Imperial Arcade

THE AGM

We had an enjoyable evening at the Metropole Hotel. The formal business was dealt with fairly quickly.

There was an excellent buffet prepared by Mrs Davis and Mrs Tappin - many thanks for their work. After a short break to enjoy the food and a glass of wine, we heard an entertaining talk by Robert Gregory.

Mr Gregory has lived in Brighton all his life and has spent much of his time researching the history of its streets and buildings. With the help of his marvellous slide collection he took us on a guided tour of our area showing us what it looked like in the past.

Not only does he know a lot about Brighton's history, he also knows how to present it in an interesting way. The committee is looking into the possibility of inviting him to lead a real guided walk round the area in the summer.

Thanks to Mr Gregory for his talk; also to the Manager of the Metropole for letting the Society use the York Room without charge.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Society member, Rosalind Boulden, who lives in Queensbury Mews is following a course to become a qualified local guide. She soon hopes to be leading groups of tourists around places of historic interest such as the Lanes

Following a suggestion from the Society, the Council has built a paved footpath across the lowest green of Regency Square. It is now possible to get to the car park exit without muddy feet.

The Brighton Metropole Hotel made "record profits" last year according to the report from its owners Lonrho.

The Beach Cafe by the boating pool may soon be opened up as an amusement arcade if a planning application at present before the Council is accepted.

GEORGE IV

The Hotel George IV occupies three fine houses at the top of Regency Square.

For many years it has done little business as a hotel. Its main contribution to the life in the area has been a night club in the basement. This has caused endless noise and disturbance.

The whole building is now closed. A planning application has been made for conversion to residential use.

The Council has a policy of opposing such changes. Their aim is to maintain the number of hotel bedrooms in the town centre. We have written to the Council encouraging them to allow a change of use in this case.

After talking to the architect involved with the proposed development we believe that the prospective developer is a reputable company which will convert the buildings well and save their crumbling facades.

It will be far better to have the buildings put to good use as flats than for them to stand empty as a hotel no one wants to run, or worse still open up yet again as a night club.

If you agree with this view, write to the Planning Officer at 83 North Street, Brighton and tell him so.

PLEASE RENEW!

Subscriptions for 1985/6 are now due. If you have not paid yours yet, please do it today.

Send your money (cash or cheque) to Harold Lawson, 7 Chartwell Court, Russell Square.

The rates are:

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

FOCUS ON RUSSELL SQUARE

Russell Square has some beautiful houses in it. Now that the daffodils are out in the garden it should be one of the nicest parts of the town.

Far from it. Russell Square is a mess!

THE CHURCHILL CENTRE HOTEL

In a prime position at the western end is the Churchill Centre Hotel. Some months ago the wall round the basement area was removed leaving a dangerous drop from the pavement. This has now been fenced off by the Council for safety reasons.

The result is that the whole pavement is blocked. Pedestrians are forced to walk into the road. The Society has complained to the Council about this. In replying the Borough secretary says that they regret the obstruction but feel it is preferable to "persons falling into the basement area".

They have served notice on the owners of the hotel requiring them to replace the wall. In fact they have offered a grant to pay for railings to be used matching the other houses. The owners have apparently undertaken to complete the work by October this year. It is a slow process!

We also wonder whether the hotel has anywhere to store bins. At present they seem to stack rubbish in the street at the side of the building.

DUTTON FORESHAW SITE

Walk round the square to the north from the Churchill Centre and you pass first the old Dutton Foreshaw garage entrance. The garage behind has been demolished. The site is now owned by a company called Hargreaves Construction.

They have been responsible for quite a bit of development in Brighton. They built the new British Telecom offices near Preston park and they are working at present on a big site in Dyke Road.

They have applied for permission to build offices on the Regency Mews site with some housing at the Russell Square end.

The previous owners had already won outline approval for offices with sheltered housing. This new scheme has replaced the sheltered housing with town houses. This is a backward step. The Society has always pressed for some sheltered housing on the site.

Old people living alone need to be in the town centre so that they can still get around to the shops and other facilities. They can also benefit greatly from having their own home but with a resident warden nearby to help out if needed.

We think it is a great pity that this part of the plan has been dropped. We have also sent in detailed comments on other aspects of the plans which will be the biggest development in our area for a decade or more.

Whatever plans are finally accepted they should improve the appearance of that corner of Russell Square.

21 - 23 RUSSELL SQUARE

Continue round the north side of the Square past some well kept property and you come face the face with numbers 21 to 23.

Number 21 is by far the worst eyesore in the square. Like the Churchill it has missing railings. These have been replaced with a rusty piece of scaffolding, which provides minimal safety. The facade is crumbling. The front steps are usually littered with bags of refuse.

What can be done? It is hard to know how anyone can allow a beautiful building to fall into such a state. But if someone chooses to neglect their property in this way, what can their neighbours do?

Numbers 22 and 23 are also in a sorry state. But we are pleased to report that there is a planning application in for conversion of number 23 to self contained flats. The house on the opposite corner has just been converted and looks very smart; let's hope that number 23 gets the same treatment.

NUMBER 46

The house on the southern corner of the square faces into Cannon Place.

It has been empty for some time. Work was started to convert it into flats. Then nothing happened for a while.

However, we have been in contact with the owner's representative who assured us that work will be continuing soon.

LITTER

"Litter" can mean a lot of things. People who leave cigarette boxes in the gutter are certainly guilty of it. And Russell square has its fair share of that.

It also has an unfair share of plastic bags full of household refuse which pleases no one except perhaps dogs. Maybe some larger litter bins at the end of the square would help. What do you think?

If it is a case of litter to leave a cigarette box in the gutter, then what about people who park their cars on double yellow lines? This is happening more and more along the south side of the Square.

The roadway there is extremely narrow and has double yellow lines along the full length. It is completely unsuitable for parking. Once one car is there others seem to appear - safety in numbers perhaps.

ON THE WAY UP?

So that is Russell Square in Spring 1985. Like all Brighton's fine squares it has its ups and downs. Right now it is fairly low down but we are hopeful it will soon be on the way up. The Society will do all it can to help.

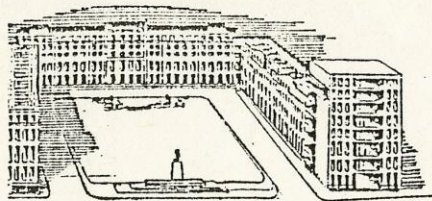
BETTER THAN 1000 WORDS!

We always seem to find plenty of words to fill the newsletter.

Some pictures would be nice. Can anyone draw? Would you have the time to do sketches or cartoons to illustrate the stories.

You don't have to be a great artist - all we need is something to liven up the appearance of the newsletter.

Contact Roger Hinton (tel 21794) if you are interested.



REGENCY SQUARE AREA SOCIETY

If you cannot come to the meeting but would like to join the Society then simply fill in the form below and send it together with the appropriate subscription to Roger Hinton, Treasurer, Regency Square Area Society, 33 Regency Square, Brighton.

Do you know

Why the residents of Preston Lodge are no longer kept awake at night by a noisy ventilator plant ?

Why National Carparks Ltd failed in their attempt to open a new car park in Russell Square ?

Why there is a free firework display each November in Regency Square ?

Why 63 Regency Square is no longer being allowed to fall down ?

Why there is a "Royal Wedding" commemorative bench in Regency Square ?

If you are a member of the Regency Square Area Society you will have read the answers to all these questions in the Society's Newsletter.

And, what is more, you will know that in each case your Society played an important part in each of the above achievements.

If you are not a member can we invite you find out more about the Society by coming to our fifth anniversary meeting. It will be held in the

YORK ROOM
HOTEL METROPOLE

at
8 pm
on

MONDAY 26 th MARCH

Refreshments will be served and there will be a slide show illustrating the Society's first five years.

To Roger Hinton, 33 Regency Square

Please receive my subscription to the Regency Square Area Society for the year ending 28 th February 1985.

(Tick your category of membership.)

Ordinary member	£ 2.50
Family (2 adults and any number of children)	£ 3.00
Junior (8-18 years)	£ 0.50
Senior Citizen	£ 2.00
Associate member (ie not resident in the area)	£ 2.00
Business (run by non resident)	£ 5.00

Name

Address