



REGENCY SQUARE AREA SOCIETY

**NEWSLETTER
NUMBER 40
NOVEMBER 85**

SOCIAL EVENING

We have arranged a society social evening.

It will be on Thursday November 28th at the Apollo Hotel at the bottom of Preston Street.

The tickets are £2 each including wine and buffet. There will be music and a raffle.

Come along and meet your neighbours in a friendly and relaxed atmosphere.

To get your tickets use the application form below

To Roger Hinton, 38 Regency Square

Please send me _____ ticket(s) for the social evening on 28 November at £2 each.

I enclose £ _____

Name _____

Address _____

Please make cheques payable to the Regency Square Area Society.

SKYLINE SAVED

A SMALL SUCCESS IN REGENCY MEWS

When the Regency mews site first came on the market the Society campaigned for the Council to develop it as housing for all types of people including some sheltered accommodation.

That proved to be impossible. The site was eventually bought by Hargreaves Construction. They have now finally won planning permission for an office and town house development.

But not before the society had discovered that their original plan was for a building that would be visible from the seafront above the houses in Regency Square. We estimated it would be about 1.5 metres above the roof line.

They submitted new plans showing a reduction in height of just under 1.4 metres. Who can say whether that is enough to hide the building?

We were not confident so we asked the planning committee not to give approval for the specific height shown, but to impose a general condition that the building must not be visible.

This appears to be what they have done. They have also imposed other conditions that we asked for. We are waiting to receive the full wording of the permission. Details in the next newsletter.

So on paper we have won a victory. We must now wait and see what we can see when the building is up. We have taken a series of photographs of the square from various angles. So there will be no dispute about what the view was before the building was built.

BEHIND THE SCENES

The shops in Western Road all look very smart as you walk past the fronts. Go round the back into Clarence Square and you get a different picture.

Some shops seem to think that the street outside their back doors doesn't matter. So they leave unsightly rubbish piled on steps, in gardens and sometimes even in the street itself.

Traders' rubbish in Clarence Square



But Clarence Square does matter. People live there. It has an attractive garden in the centre. Visitors to the town wander through in their thousands.

We think the traders in western road should help clean up Clarence Square.

REMEMBER REMEMBER

Hope for a fine night on Tuesday November 5th.

The Society will be holding a free firework party on Regency Square. The display will start at 7pm followed by refreshments and sparklers for the kids.

Come along and bring your friends - but please don't bring any fireworks. There will be a properly controlled display, thanks again to the generosity of one of our members who has donated the fireworks.

If it rains we will postpone the party until the first fine night.

EMPTY HOTELS

The Council has a policy of increasing the number of hotel bedrooms in the town to enable Brighton to compete with other conference towns like Bournemouth.

One way they do this is to deny planning permission to hotel owners wanting to convert their properties into flats.

The result is empty or run down hotels. There are three examples in our area, the George IV and Portland House in Regency Square and the Churchill Centre in Russell Square.

An application to convert the George IV to flats was withdrawn after long delays by the Planning Committee in reaching a decision.

The Society has taken up this issue. We had a useful discussion with Councillor Andy Winter who represents Regency Ward and is a member of the Planning Committee.

We are hopeful that the Council is beginning to change its attitude and look at each application on its merits rather than applying a blanket policy.

First evidence is their decision to give permission for half of the Portland House Hotel to be converted to flats. The development will also include three new town houses in Queensbury Mews.

A DATE FOR YOUR DIARY

There will be another chance to enjoy an evening in the Starlight Room at the Metropole Hotel early next February.

Make a note in your diary for Saturday 2nd February.

The price for the meal will be £11.25 (excluding wine). Full details in the next newsletter.

COACH TRIP CANCELLED

Unfortunately we had to cancel the planned coach trip to Bournemouth.

In previous years we have had a good response from members wanting to go on our coach outings. But this year only seven tickets were sold so it was not possible to go ahead.

What went wrong? Is Bournemouth too far? Was the date too late in the summer? Should we try again next year with a different destination?

Please let us know your views.
Telephone Roger Hinton (21794).

COUNCIL LITTER BUGS



Meter bag in Russell Square



A parking meter is not a pretty sight at the best of times. But a parking meter with a tatty yellow plastic bag hanging off it is even worse.

The plastic bags are used by the council to hood the meters when they are suspended. The problem is that the bags get torn off.

They end up hanging from the meter or littering the streets.

So the council is adding to the litter problem which it should be trying to solve.

Bring back the canvas meter hoods!