

**NEWSLETTER 63**  
November 1989

## BRICKS AND APPLE TREES

The border between Brighton and Hove was once the centre of a thriving brick making industry. And at one time places like Clarence Gardens really were gardens, supplying fresh produce to the large hotels and houses.

These were just two of the fascinating facts revealed by local historian Geof Mead at our social evening a couple of weeks ago. Mr Mead combines a vast knowledge of Brighton with the ability to entertain his audience; he uses anecdotes and his excellent collection of slides to make history come alive.

We are very grateful to him for an enjoyable evening.

Thanks also to the committee members who prepared the buffet, with a special thanks to Jackie Penfold from the Regency Tavern. And of course thanks to the Metropole Hotel for the use of the room.

## SQUATTERS

Number one Clarence Square has been empty for some time. Now squatters have moved in. They have put a legal notice in the window advising passers by that it is their home and that it is a criminal offence to attempt to evict them without a court order.

Enquiries have been made by residents to the Council, who are unable to take any action themselves. It is only the owners who can act to evict squatters and at present the owners have not been traced.

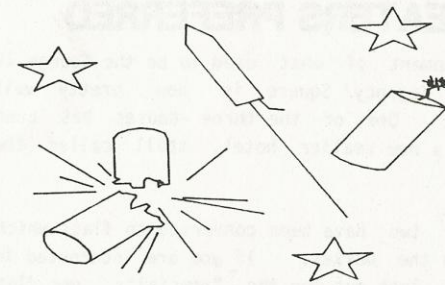
Some residents in the Square are unhappy at the behaviour of the people occupying the house. They say that the property is being damaged and that the occupiers make a nuisance of themselves by fighting in the street and throwing things out of the windows.

### BUILDERS FINED FOR CAUSING NUISANCE

Park way shop fitters spent three months in Clarence Square working on the re-furbishment of the Next store in Western Rd. During that time they created endless dust and disturbance for residents.

Eventually they were taken to court by the Council and fined £100 plus costs. The fine will probably not bankrupt them, but perhaps it will be a deterrent to other careless builders.

Congratulations to our member in Clarence Square whose complaints to the Council led them to take action.



## FIREWORK PARTY

Don't forget the Society firework party. It will be on Sunday 5 November at 7 pm in Regency Square.

There will be a display of fireworks followed by sparklers for the youngsters. Hot soup and potatoes will round off the evening's fun.

Everyone is welcome. Please bring your friends and neighbours.

But in the interest of safety please don't bring your own fireworks.

If the weather is bad the party will be postponed until the first fine evening after the 5th.

### Society Contacts

Roger Hinton (Chairman) Tel 21794  
Richard Pau (Secretary) Tel 26711  
Harold Lawson (Treasurer) Tel 28203



## FLAT FOR SALE NON-EATERS PREFERRED

The development of what used to be the George IV Hotel in Regency Square is now pretty well completed. One of the three houses has been opened as a new smaller hotel, still called the George IV.

The other two have been converted to flats which are now on the market. If you are interested in buying one, look out for the "special": one flat has two bathrooms but no kitchen!

## FAREWELL TO GEARINGS

Gearings the greengrocer's has been trading in Preston Street for as long as most people can remember.

Now at last it has closed. A number of other small foodshops in Preston Street, have closed over the past few years. There was even one in Russell Square at one time. As a result we now have to travel almost to Hove for our nearest food shop which is open outside normal hours.

An application has been made for a change of use for Gearings. Yes, you guessed it: the new owners want to turn it into a restaurant!

## TOW AWAY SCHEME TO BE REVIEWED

We have complained to the Police about the policy of not towing illegally parked cars away from residents' spaces. One of our members walked round Regency Square recently and counted 8 cars parked illegally in resident spaces.

The present contract with the firm that does the towing away is due for renewal next August. Before then the Police and the Council will be reviewing the scheme and will consider, amongst other things, the use of clamps instead of towing away.

## MONEY TO GIVE AWAY

Property owners in Regency Square are being offered money by the Council.

Grants are available to help with the maintenance and improvement of old buildings in conservation areas. Apparently not all the money has been allocated since the Council is writing to property owners suggesting what improvements they might make.

One member was surprised to receive a letter suggesting that the roof of his house could be renewed: he was surprised because a new roof had been fitted 12 months ago!

Perhaps some of the spare money could be used to help improve number 32 Regency Square which is in serious need of re-decoration.

If you want to know more about the grants, contact the Planning Department at Brighton Council (tel 29801).

## MORE CHANGES IN CASTLE STREET ?

Geof Mead ended his talk with some slides of Castle Street and Stone Street including a charming reminder of the apple tree which can still be seen growing in one back yard.

Things never stand still in Castle Street. One of the terraced cottages at the eastern end was vacated recently and has been boarded up. What is going to happen to it?

It would be very sad to see any of those charming little houses demolished. We are making enquiries with the Planning Department to see what, if anything, can be done to protect them.

## IS YOUR NEIGHBOUR A MEMBER ?

New people are moving into the area all the time. If you have a new neighbour who might like to join the Society, please show them the newsletter.

Anyone joining now will have valid membership until February 1991.

To Harold Lawson, Treasurer, Regency Square Area Society, 7 Chartwell Court, Russell Square, Brighton

Please enrol me as a member of the Society in the category of membership ticked below.

	£
Ordinary member	3.00
Family	3.50
Senior Citizen	2.50
Junior (8-18)	1.00
Associate (non-resident)	2.50
Business (non-resident)	5.50

Cheques payable to the Regency Square Area Society.

Name

Address