



Regency Square Area Society

NEWSLETTER 63
December 1989



AN INVITATION

to all members
to meet Peter Bramich,
General Manager of the Metropole Hotel
and members of the Society Committee
at the
switching on of the Christmas Tree lights
in Regency Square
at 7-30 pm
on Thursday 14th December
an afterwards at
the Regency Tavern



METROPOLE MANAGER TO LIGHT UP TREE

Thanks to Paul and Paula Collins of TOPS hotel who have once again provided a Christmas tree for the Society in Regency Square.

We have invited Peter Bramich, the new manager of the Metropole Hotel, to switch on the lights at 7-30 pm on Thursday 14 December.

Mr Bramich took over the top job at the Metropole earlier this year when Fred Hutchings retired.

After the switch on, committee members are planning to go to the Regency Tavern for a Christmas drink and look forward to seeing other members there.

COMPLAINTS NEEDED

We moan a lot about rubbish which is dumped in the street. But do we moan to the right people?

Apparently not. A recent report prepared for one of the Council committees showed that during a typical week Council officers might receive anything between 200 and 800 complaints about collection of domestic refuse. Complaints about street refuse never exceed 25 a weeks, and in some weeks there were none at all. The figures relate to the whole of Brighton.

So, if you're not happy about rubbish in the street, make sure the Council knows. Phone Brighton 29801 and say you want to report rubbish dumped in the street.

A RARE WORD OF PRAISE

Residents of Queensbury Mews do not have many kind words to say about the Metropole Exhibitions Halls and the traffic that they generate.

However, one resident was overheard to say that recently the Metropole staff have been doing a good job cleaning up after exhibitors who leave rubbish in the street.

STOP THE ROT!

The Assembly Rooms in St Margarets Place used to be a centre of fashionable Brighton Society. Now it is just a facade with a loading bay behind it. So too are the two houses alongside in Cannon Place.

The loading bay was built in order to reduce the congestion and disruption caused during exhibitions in the Metropole (!)

The facade is a listed building. That is why the loading bay had to be built behind it. There is now a planning application by National Car Parks to put an illuminated sign on the facade at the corner of St Margaret's Place and Cannon Place. The sign will direct motorists to the carpark beneath Sussex Heights.

If you have seen the photographs in the recently published "Back Street Brighton" you will know how the building of the car parks on the east side of Cannon Place destroyed some beautiful old town centre streets.

We must do all we can to stop the awful visual effect of car parks and their associated signposts from spreading to the west side of the street.

The Society has written to the Planning Officer objecting to the proposed sign: the facade of original 19th century buildings were surely not preserved in order to hold up illuminated advertising signs.

If you agree, please write and tell the Planning Officer (Bartholomews House, Bartholomews Square, Brighton).

SEASONS GREETINGS

The committee is hoping to see as many members as possible on December 14th. But if you can't make it on that occasion can we take this opportunity to wish you all the very best for Christmas and the New Year.

FIRST CENTURY

For the first time the number of paid up subscriptions has passed the hundred mark. At the last committee meeting the treasurer announced that he had just received the 101 st.

Since many of them are family memberships it does of course represent far more than 100 individual members.

The more members we have the more we can expect our views to be listened to by those in power. So if you have any neighbours who are not in the Society, show them the newsletter and get them to join! A new member who joins now does not have to renew until February 1991.

FIRE!

A large bonfire made up of building waste was started one evening recently in the empty site in Regency Mews. The Fire Brigade were called and they quickly put it out. The fire was dangerously close to nearby buildings.

The mews site is a security and safety risk in a number of ways at the moment. It is often left open which makes it an attractive but dangerous place for young children. While open it also poses a security risk for properties backing onto it.

The site was sold earlier this year by Hargreaves to a company called Blackwall Securities. Since then another firm called Mount Manor Property Development seems to have taken over the project. They appointed Lovell Construction to carry out the planned development. However, the Council have just turned down the planing application.

This would suggest that the development will not go ahead yet. There seems to be some confusion at Lovell Construction about this point: we have had two letters from them. One says that Lovell have no contract to work on the site and hence they cannot be held responsible for security. The other says that they are taking steps to secure the

We are taking steps to find out which letter to take seriously.

Planning permission for the office development was turned down because the Planning Committee felt that the proposed office building was unattractive and too large for the site. The result is that the site could well stay empty for some time longer.

Alternatively the new owners may decide to appeal to the Secretary of State. They could even decide to build what could turn out to be an even uglier building for which permission was granted a few years ago.

If you find this all very confusing, you are not alone. See the next newsletter for news of further complications.

REPAIRS NEEDED

The car park under Regency Square is run by National Car Parks but is actually owned by the Council.

A recent survey of the car park revealed serious problems arising from water penetration. The electrical system is being affected and will need renewing. Two of the main beams which support the roof slab and gardens were also found to be in need of repair.

The electrical works will cost about £85,000. While they are being done the opportunity will be taken to improve lighting in the car park in order to remove areas of shadow and hence improve public safety.

GUNSHOP TO GO

The gun shop on the corner of Preston Street and Regency Square has been holding a closing down sale for quite some time.

Once it goes it will be replaced by - yes you guessed it - a restaurant, for which planning permission has just been granted.

JOIN YOUR LOCAL SOCIETY and help to protect and improve the town centre environment

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

Please enrol me as a member of the Regency Square Area Society for the period ending 28 February 1991 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

SOCIETY CONTACTS

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

