



NEWSLETTER 78
December 1991

IF AT FIRST YOU DON'T SUCCEED

It was in 1987 that the Snooker Club in Castle Street applied for permission to stay open after midnight. The application was turned down on the grounds that disturbance would be caused to nearby residents.

The club re-applied in 1988 but were turned down again.

It seems that they are now thinking of trying yet again. The owner of the club has approached the Mayor to try and win his support for an application.

The Society has always opposed developments in Castle Street which are likely to make conditions worse for the residents.

In the past both Brighton Planning Committee and the Department of the Environment have supported our view. Let's hope they continue to do so.

SOCIETY CONTACTS

CHAIRMAN Roger Hinton: tel 21794
SECRETARY Richard Pau: tel 26711
TREASURER Harold Lawson tel 28203

Brighton Little Theatre, Clarence Gardens

next production:
SEE HOW THEY RUN
by Philip King
January 26 - February 1

Details: phone Brighton 205000

FAREWELL TO TESCO

Ease of access to the shops used to be one of the attractions of living in the town centre. Not any longer it seems; at least not for food shopping.

The closure of Tesco really confirms what was already fairly obvious about Churchill Square: it is dying commercially.

As more shops in the Square close, less shoppers will visit it. Empty premises will attract vandals and graffiti artists. The spiral of decay and dereliction will accelerate.

And all this in the very heart of Brighton!

Clearly the recession is one cause of the problem but other shopping areas still struggle on and manage to keep looking lively and busy, even though they are probably not selling as much as they used to.

What is wrong with Churchill Square? And more important, what will happen to it?

The land on which it stands is owned by Brighton Council. The Council is also the planning authority which will have to authorise any new development.

Does the Council have a view about what should happen to the area? We have written to the Chief Executive to find out.

And as for buying your food locally, be nice to the people in Waitrose: we don't want them closing down as well!

REGENCY SQUARE RAILINGS

Councillor Nimrod Ping suggested that the railings around the garden in Regency Square could be painted. In the last newsletter we asked for your views.

Although one or two people expressed some support for the idea, the majority view was that they should be left as they are.

The general feeling seems to be that they are inconspicuous at present. There are in fact two different designs of railings and this inconsistency might become more apparent if they were painted.

THANKS

To Sussex Heights Residents Association and to the 14 individual members who have made contributions towards the cost of our Christmas Tree.

The tree is now standing in Regency Square, with its lights shining, making these cold winter days seem a bit less dreary.

We have not received enough money to cover the full cost of the tree so if you are able to contribute please send your donation to

Harold Lawson
Treasurer
Regency Square Area Society
14 Chartwell Court
Russell Square
Brighton

HAPPY CHRISTMAS



DON'T BE DISTURBED

As promised in the last newsletter, we have written to the Secretary of State for the Environment about the problem caused by car alarms.

We have now had a reply. The most interesting fact in it is that it is already an offence to have a car alarm which sounds for more than 5 minutes. A fine of up to £1,000 can be imposed on car owners who fail to comply.

So, although the police do not have the legal power to enter a car and silence an alarm, they could prosecute the owner.

A recent Government report suggested that these regulations should be tightened up by reducing the time limit to 30 seconds and allowing for fixed penalty notices (like parking tickets) for offenders.

The Department of Transport is also considering giving the police the power to enter a vehicle to silence an alarm.

So clearly this is a problem which is receiving attention.

In the meantime, if you hear a car alarm which sounds for more than 5 minutes, phone the police and ask them to take action against the owner. If necessary you can quote the Road Vehicles (Construction and Use) Regulations 1986.

SEASONS GREETINGS

The Society's committee wish all members a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.



WHAT DO YOU THINK OF WESTERN ROAD ?

The new traffic scheme does seem to have reduced the amount of traffic in Western Road. On the other hand traffic conditions in Upper North Street are apparently much worse than they were.

It also seems that some bus drivers have taken the opportunity to drive much faster along Western Road, which does not do much for the safety of pedestrians.

Meanwhile the much discussed Sunday opening of shops has created something of an anomaly. Cars can use Western Road on Sunday so there is a serious risk that if Sunday opening becomes established, traffic conditions on that day will be even worse than they were before the new scheme was introduced.

The scheme is only a trial at present and the Society will want to make comments to the Council before any decision is made about it becoming permanent.

What do you think about the scheme? Has it caused you any problems? Has it made parking in this area easier or more difficult? Should the scheme become permanent.

Phone or write to Roger Hinton with your views. (Tel 21794. Address 39 Regency Square)

NCP LOSES ITS HALO

National Carparks (NCP) wanted to put three "halo effect" illuminated signs on the side of their new building at the bottom of Cannon Place.

The Planning Committee has refused permission.

KEEP ON PHONING

Don't forget to phone the Council if you find rubbish dumped in the street. The free number to call is

0800 525573.

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

To Harold Lawson, 14 Chartwell Court, Russell Square, Brighton.

I would like to apply for membership of the Regency Square Area Society for the year 1991/92 in the category ticked below:

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

Name

Address

Cheques payable to the Regency Square Area Society please.

