

## Regency Square Area Society

NEWSLETTER 89  
April 1993

### Your New Committee

At its AGM last month the Society elected a new Chairman, Harold Lawson, who has been the Society's treasurer for several years. Richard Pau was re-elected as secretary and Brian Smith was elected as the new treasurer.

The following members were elected to the committee:

Harold Lawson (Chairman)	Chartwell Court
Richard Pau (Secretary)	Regency Square
Brian Smith (Treasurer)	Regency Square
Ros Boulden	Queensbury Mews
Clive Buxton	Regency Square
Diana Dunn	Clarence Gardens
Roger Hinton	Regency Square
Pat McCulloch	Queensbury Mews
Neil Rosborough	Sussex Heights

### Creeping Blackstuff

The tarmac footpaths which replaced the paving stones in Russell Square has now started to creep around Clarence Square.

It seems strange that in a conservation area, the Council can get away with using materials which are so obviously out of keeping with the surrounding historic buildings.

In the past we have been told that some parts of conservation areas are more special than others: that is why Regency Square still has paving stones. We are asking the Council to confirm that this policy still applies and that the blackstuff will not start to creep there as well.

### Déjà Vu

One of the things which led to the formation of our Society was the problems which resulted when a late night drinking club opened in the basement of the former George IV Hotel in Regency Square.

Revellers leaving the club in the early hours regularly caused disturbances. Local people organised protests and gave evidence in court but all to no avail. The problem only went away when the club went out of business.

Part of the problem was that no one objected to the club when it first applied for planning permission and licensing approval.

The aim of those who formed the Society was that in future local people would have advance warning of such applications and would be able to voice their objections collectively if appropriate.

A report in the Argus a few weeks ago shows that the problem has not gone away:

"Neighbours are furious after a Brighton club was given permission to open until 2am six days a week."

The club is in St James Street and there are people living directly above it one of whom complained that "you can hear the bass constantly." Another neighbour said "When we bought the flat it was just a wine bar. We had no idea it would be turned into a night club."

### Slipping into Chaos

We are entering the most chaotic period of the year as far as rubbish collection is concerned.

Following the two Easter bank holidays the "slip a day" system means that rubbish collection should move from Thursdays to Mondays.

And then there will be two more holidays in May each of which will result in a change of collection day.

The streets are already littered with rubbish put out on the wrong day. What a ridiculous system!

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

0800 525573.

### Cable is Coming - but not yet a while

The good thing about cable is that it offers the possibility of a wider choice of TV programmes and cheaper telephone calls.

The bad thing is that it will involve the pavements being dug up and unsightly junction boxes being located around the area.

We have been told by the Council that Nynex, the firm installing the cable, do not expect to do this area until "some time in 1994".

The Council's Planning Division will be consulted before any junction boxes are located in the Regency Conservation Area and the Conservation Areas Advisory Group, on which we are represented, will also be kept informed of developments.

One suggestion, which has been put to Nynex, is that the boxes could be located in basement areas rather than at street level.

### PLEASE RENEW YOUR SUBSCRIPTION

Help to keep the Society strong by renewing your membership today, if you have not already done so.

To Brian Smith, 45 Regency Square, Brighton.

I would like to renew my membership of the Regency Square Area Society for the year 1993/94 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.



## Knitting for Good Causes

Society member, Kate Dessau is a greater knitter. She has decided to use her talent to help charity.

If you would like a jumper knitted to your own choice of colour and design, Kate will do it and give half the price you pay to the charity of your choice.

Prices range from £11 for a baby's jumper to £35 for an adult. Special items like blankets, shawls, coats, cardigans and skirts are also available.

For more information contact Kate Dessau (tel 326184).

## Boating Pond Clean Up

At the AGM one member raised the problem of the rubbish which collects in the boating pond to the west of the pier.

We have been told that the Council clean it out at the start of the summer season. After that it is the responsibility of the concessionaire who runs the boats.

## Something Nasty in the Basement Area

The former offices of solicitors, Dell & Loader in Regency square have a disgusting collection of refuse collecting up in the basement area.

Because the rubbish is not in the street it does not get cleaned up by Council street cleaners. If it is left to fester it could well become a health hazard so we have asked the environmental health department to do something about it.

## NCP Sees Sense

Congratulations to Sussex Heights residents who have finally persuaded NCP to let them have keys to the door in Queensbury Mews.

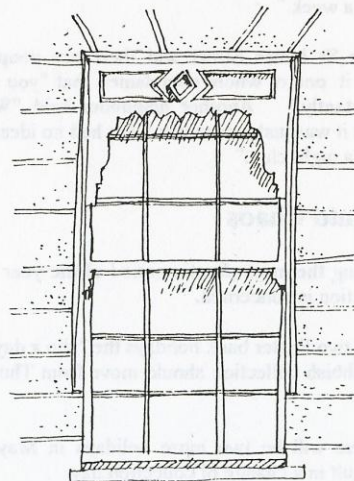
The door was closed up as a security measure thus depriving residents of a well used short cut. At first NCP were unsympathetic but after receiving a petition they agreed to let the residents' association fit a lock to which people could have a key.

## The Last Word on 32

In response to our recent comments on the design of the front windows of 32 Regency Square, one member has drawn our attention to a book called "The Englishman's Castle" by John Gloag.

The window tax was repealed in 1851. The Victorians liked lots of windows, and improvements in glass manufacture accommodated this liking. Sash windows could now be glazed with single large panes of glass, so that the rectangular window opening, while still retaining the proportion of the double square, was divided into two parts only. These large panes of excellent glass let in more light, but windows lost the neat appearance which the white painted glazing bars had imparted to them in the Georgian age."

So it seems that the new windows that have been fitted, an example of which is illustrated here by committee member Diana Dunn, are correct copies of the originals



### SOCIETY CONTACTS

CHAIRMAN Harold Lawson tel 328203  
SECRETARY Richard Pau: tel 326711  
TREASURER Brian Smith tel 325175

## Council Employs Answerphone Machine to Combat Late Night Noise !

At the AGM there was a suggestion that the Council has an anti-noise patrol operating at night to deal with rowdy parties and other disturbances.

As far as we can discover this is not the case. The actual position is that if you are disturbed by noise you should phone Brighton 712717. Outside office hours you will get an answer machine: if you leave a message action will be taken the next working day.

The action, is likely to be legal rather than direct prevention. This means that if you are disturbed it is essential to make a written note of the date, time and nature of the noise.

What this seems to indicate is that nothing has changed yet as far as noise prevention is concerned: the Council can take action against persistent offenders but only by means of lengthy legal procedures.

We are planning a meeting with the Council Officer responsible for dealing with noise problems and will report any further information in the next newsletter.

## Thanks to the Bedford Hotel

Normally the Society holds its meeting in the Hotel Metropole and we had in fact booked a room there for the AGM. However at the last minute the room was not available so the Bedford Hotel came to the rescue: they provided us with an excellent room. They also provided an extremely enjoyable buffet.

We have written to thank the manager of the hotel and have made a contribution to the staff gratuities fund.

## WEST PIER CAN STAY OPEN LATE

The Council has given the West Pier Trust permission to open the pier during the same hours as the Palace Pier.

The Trust will need to open the Pier in the first place before they can take advantage of these new permitted hours. There are certain problems that they have to overcome before that happens !

(But seriously though, this could mean activity on the existing root end of the pier going on until midnight !)