



Regency Square Area Society

## NEWSLETTER 106

April 1995

### As seen by ...

It's not that Society committee meetings are boring. Let's just say that some members can do more than one thing at a time.

For example, during one recent meeting Diana Dunn produced this view of our departing secretary, Richard Pau.



### Your New Committee

At the Annual General Meeting the following people were elected as officers and committee members for the year 1995/6:

#### OFFICERS:

Chairman: Harold Lawson, Chartwell Court  
Secretary: Pat McCulloch, Queensbury Mews  
Treasurer: Brian Smith, Regency Square

#### COMMITTEE:

Clive Buxton Regency Square  
Diana Dunn Clarence Gardens  
Roger Hinton Regency Square  
Kate Page Dean Street  
Richard Pau Regency Square  
Trudy Tappin Sussex Heights

We are pleased to welcome Trudy Tappin back to the committee to represent Sussex Heights. She was previously a member between 1984 and 1990.

Richard Pau has been secretary of the Society from April 1982 until last month, thirteen years in all. At the AGM the Chairman thanked him for all the hard work he has done for the Society. He will continue as a committee member until he leaves Brighton later this year.

Pat McCulloch, who joined the committee in April 1986, has been elected as secretary.

### Thanks

... to everyone who helped make the Society's AGM a success. In particular to John Roles of Brighton Museum for his fascinating talk about theatres and cinemas in the area. Also to the Metropole Hotel for the use of the room and for supplying some excellent sandwiches.

### Now You See It

In a recent issue we reported that the Council was planning to put some smart new benches in Regency Square and to extend the paved footpaths leading to the carpark stairway.

We have now learnt that they cannot do either of these things - yes you guessed it - not enough money.

They are still planning to paint the railings black and clean up the war memorial.

### A New Society

The newly formed Regency Community Association is campaigning for a closed circuit TV camera to be located in Regency Square to discourage crime and anti social behaviour.

The camera would be located near the war memorial, allowing it to pan round and give a view of most of the square.

As yet there is not enough money to pay for the camera. An appeal is being launched to encourage people to contribute towards the cost. So if you live in Regency Square or run a business there you can expect to be asked for some money.

#### SOCIETY CONTACTS

CHAIRMAN Harold Lawson tel 328203  
SECRETARY Pat McCulloch tel 773275  
TREASURER Brian Smith tel 325175  
NEWSLETTER Roger Hinton tel 321794



## Movies on the Menu

You may know that the Burgher King restaurant in North Street used to be a cinema. In fact the screen is still there.

But did you also know that the Regency Restaurant in Regency Square was the venue for the first ever moving picture show in Brighton? Well, to be quite honest, no one really knows if that is the case. But the first recorded moving picture performance certainly took place in a public hall near Regency Square. The exact location is not known for certain but the Regency Restaurant in the south west corner is the most likely candidate.

This was just one of the interesting bits of information presented by John Roles in his talk at the AGM. He took us for a trip round many of the theatres and cinemas in central Brighton - past and pleasant, and evoked some memories on the way.

## Bins, Bikes and Fitness

The Council has given planning permission for the Fitness Factory in Castle Street to expand its operations onto the ground floor.

However, in response to requests from local residents and the Society, they have imposed two conditions. Off street parking must be provided for 8 bicycles and a rubbish storage area must also be provided on the premises.

## Tuesday is Refuse Day

Following the Easter holidays the collection day for most parts of our area is now Tuesday.

## Keeping the Public Informed

Brighton Council makes a great thing about the importance of keeping people informed about their activities. They even publish their own newspaper.

But when it comes to planning applications they are not quite as informative as they might be.

The society made written comments on the planning application for the Fitness Factory (see previous story). So once a decision had been made by the Planning Committee we received a letter back telling us what the decision was, namely "approved with conditions".

But what were the conditions? The letter didn't say. You have to phone or make a visit to the Planning Office to find that out.

## When is a Reply not a Reply?

When it's a carefully worded response. Which is what we received from the Council after making a formal complaint about the way they had dealt with the planning application to extend the opening hours of the snooker club in Castle Street.

The Society committee has not yet had an opportunity to examine the response in detail but first impressions are that it does not really deal with the complaints.

We now have to decide whether to take the matter further by referring it to the Local Government Ombudsman.

## Privatising the Railway

We have been sent a number of copies of a leaflet which explains briefly how privatisation will affect this area. It also tells you how to make comments on the plans if you want to do so. If you want a copy call Roger Hinton (321794).

## Cable is Coming

Work will be underway to cable Regency Square and Queensbury Mews in May and June. Most of the cables will be located under the street rather than the pavement. Two distribution boxes will be needed, one at the north east corner of the Square, inside the railings, and the other on the east wall of the French Church in the Mews.

A number of streets in the area are being cabled this summer. The whole project is due for completion in September and the full cable service should be available once it is finished.

## Please renew Your Subscription

To Brian Smith, 45 Regency Square, Brighton.

Please renew my membership of the Regency Square Area Society for 1995/96 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)	5.00

Name

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Address

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Cheques payable to the Regency Square Area Society please.