



NEWSLETTER 110
October 1995

Save Regency Road

The re-development plans for Churchill Square involve the closure of Regency Road. That is the covered road linking Russell Square and West Street.

It is not one of Brighton's more pleasant places to stroll. But it does serve a very important function for people living in this area. Without it, pedestrians wanting to get to Duke Street, the Lanes and beyond would have two, less than attractive options:

they could walk down to Russell Road (behind the Brighton Centre). The new scheme will mean that all the carparks will exit into Russell Road so it will be very busy, and it has no proper pavement.

or they could walk up the hill to Churchill Square and then back down the other side - quite a hike - particularly for those who are not so young, or who have children with them.

Regency Road also provides an important vehicle access to Russell Square and adjacent areas. If it is closed then residents who park in that area will need to use Russell Road or the seafront (Cannon Place will no longer be one way at the bottom).

The Society objected to the closure of Regency Road for these reasons. However, the Council has approved the scheme. The reason seems to be that

the developers say that they cannot get the extra shopping space needed if the road remains open.

However, that is not the end of the story. Before a road can be closed a road closure notice has to be issued by the Secretary of State. If there are objections then a public enquiry may have to be held.

The Society plans to object, and thus hopefully force a public enquiry. The expense and delay that this would cause for the developers may persuade them to find some way of revising their plans so as to keep the road open.

We must object as soon as the Road Closure notice is published. So we need to look out for it in the local papers. If you see it please phone one of the Society contact numbers.

It Could Be You !

....provided you've bought a ticket.

There are only a few days left to buy your tickets for our draw. You can get them at the Regency Tavern, Daisy Fresh Cleaners, the Newsagents in Preston Street and anywhere else you see the poster.

They cost £1 and the proceeds will go into a Regency Square improvement fund.

The draw will be at the Beach Hotel, Regency Square on ~~Monday~~ ^{Thursday 19} 16 October (7:30 for 8:00 pm). We are hoping that a guest celebrity will be there to pick the winning tickets.

And most important of all - the prizes. There are lots of them, all donated by local businesses and individuals. They include

- Two air tickets to Paris
- A weekend for two at the Dean's Place Hotel in Alfriston
- Nights for two at the Grand, Regency and Topps Hotels
- Meals at several local restaurants
- ...and much more.

(The second prize was wrongly described in the last newsletter as a weekend at the Queens Hotel. It is in fact a weekend at the Dean's Place Hotel, donated by the Queens Hotel.)

Wot no fireworks ?

Thanks to the generosity of anonymous society members, Regency Square has resounded to the bangs and crackles of fireworks every November the fifth since 1979.

Things will be quieter this year: we have decided not to hold a firework party. This is partly because the fireworks are no longer being donated, but it also reflects growing concerns about the problems of organising the event, particularly from the point of view of public safety.

Asset Stripping ?

Careful readers will remember that we reported some time ago that the stones around Russell Square were going to be renewed using spare stones from the works at St Peters Church.

Brighton Council, whose best laid plan this was, had overlooked one vital fact. The stones "belong" to East Sussex County Council. So, instead of being available to stop the winter weather washing away yet more of the soil from Russell Square, they've been whisked away to Lewes.

(Given that East Sussex County Council is soon to lose all jurisdiction in Brighton, perhaps we should be on the look out for more cases of things moving to Lewes. Keep your eye on the local schools !)

The Council plans to put some boards on the south side of Russell Square as a temporary solution. They will also be removing the netting which was put round part of the fencing as a wind break - they think it no longer serves a useful purpose.

And what happened to the plan to paint the railings - we keep asking the question but never get a straight answer.

If You Want to Know the Day Ask a Dustman

The famous slip a day system has finally slipped away. Rubbish collection days will now remain the same regardless of bank holidays.

But which day is it? For most of the area around Regency Square it is Thursday. Queensbury Mews is different. A member who lives there has asked the Council several times to confirm the collection day. And the answer has always been the same, on paper and by phone: it is Wednesday.

But the dustmen collect the rubbish in Queensbury Mews on Thursday just like they do everywhere else?

No Sooner Said than ...

We had a little moan in the last Newsletter about the pot holes in Stone Street outside the back of the Kentucky Fried Chicken restaurant. And almost before the ink was dry the Council had been round and laid some nice new tarmac.

So there are no more potholes full of greasy water. Unfortunately, as reported last time, the rest of Stone Street will still have to wait for new pavements.

Topps is Tops

Congratulations to the Topps Hotel which came first in the best veranda category of the Brighton in Bloom awards. Also to the Adelaide Hotel on the other side of the Square for coming third in the best overall frontage category.

Christmas is Coming

One of the main benefits of our annual firework party has been the opportunity for people living in the area to meet. This year we would like to organise a similar kind of social event related to the switching on of the Christmas tree lights. If you have any suggestions please contact a committee member.

Regency Square Improvement Fund Prize Draw

Thursday 19 October
The draw will be made at 8pm
on Monday 16 October 1995
at the Beach Hotel in Regency Square

The Snooker Club - again !

Last year the Council gave permission for the snooker club in Castle Street to stay open after midnight.

Local residents and the Society opposed the proposal vigorously because of the potential disturbance as people left the club. The Planning Committee gave permission for a trial period of one year.

So a further application is now being considered to make the extended opening hours permanent.

Residents in the street have found their sleep disturbed by noise late at night. So we have written again to the Planning Committee asking them to withdraw the permission.

It seems obvious to us that it is wrong to allow late night entertainment premises to operate in a residential street. It doesn't matter how well behaved the club members are, if they come into the street in the early hours of the morning they are likely to disturb people sleeping in houses nearby.

Chair Needed

At the last AGM Harold Lawson said that this would be his last year as chairman of the Society. So we need to find a replacement. Any ideas?

Short Term Misery

Whatever final plans are agreed for Churchill Square, the period of re-development will be extremely unpleasant for those living nearby.

The developers have been granted a license to work from 8am to 10pm, seven days a week. !

SOCIETY CONTACTS

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

An Offer Too Good to Miss

Do you have a friend or neighbour who would like to join the Society? At this time of year we offer new members the chance to have membership until March 1997 - for one year's subscription.

To Brian Smith, 45 Regency Square, Brighton.

Please enrol me as a member of the Regency Square Area Society for the year commencing March 1996 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.