



Regency Square Area Society

NEWSLETTER 116
May 1996

Your New Committee

Following the election at the Annual General Meeting the committee of the Society is now as follows:

Chairman: Brian Smith, Regency Square
 Secretary: Pat McCulloch, Queensbury Mews
 Treasurer: Gail Simons, Regency Square
 Committee: Clive Buxton, Regency Square
 Diana Dunn, Clarence Gardens
 Roger Hinton, Regency Square
 Harold Lawson, Chartwell Court
 Traude Tappin, Sussex Heights

Mrs M Forbes of Sussex Heights has subsequently been co-opted.

Thanks . . .

. . . to everyone who helped with the AGM, especially Roy Pennington for the loan of a screen, Joyce Chester for transport and the Metropole Hotel for the use of the room and the sandwiches. Also to those who donated prizes for the raffle, which raised £51 for Society funds.

No Sitting on the Pavement !

The Regency Restaurant at the bottom of Regency Square is a hive of activity at lunchtime on a fine day. Diners sit at outdoor tables, breathing in the sea air and the fumes from the passing traffic.

So the restaurant applied for permission to extend the area of outdoor seating further onto the pavement. The Council officers recommended against the request and it was refused.

The reason ? Well the restaurant have already taken over most of the pavement with boards displaying their menu. They have had several requests from the Council to remove them but have failed to do so.

It's Already a Mess so a Bit More Won't Matter

This, apparently is the philosophy of the Planning Department who recommended approval of a planning application in Clarence Square.

It relates to the rear of the Sussex Stationers building in Western Road. The upper floors of the building have been converted for residential use. But the developers could not find room inside the building for a rubbish store.

So they asked for permission to build one behind the rather attractive curved railings at the back - just opposite the betting shop in Clarence Square. The Society opposed the application saying it would spoil the appearance of the corner and would encourage the dumping of rubbish bags.

The Planning Officer expressed the view that the proposed rubbish store would be no worse than rubbish skips already along the top of the Square. The Planning Committee agreed, so one more corner of this so called conservation area will disappear under the creeping tide of plastic bags and litter.

Meanwhile in Castle Street

Remember the flats recently built in Castle Street ?

The Planning Committee had insisted on rubbish storage areas at the back. They were therefore concerned to hear about the large piles of rubbish bags often seen in the street at the front of the flats.

The problem is that there is no way for the bin men to get to the back of the building. So people put their rubbish in the street. The Committee has asked the enforcement officer to take action.

Spot the Taxi Rank

Society member Ken Kennar was slightly disorientated when he read a notice in the paper about a night time taxi rank which is to be created in Kings Rd (Regency Square).

In fact he has suggested that we hold a competition to see who can get nearest to guessing exactly where it will be. The notice says that the rank will be "on the north side from a point 14.0 metres (46 ft) east of the southwards prolongation of the existing kerbline of Regency Square (western side), extending eastwards for 20 metres (66 ft).

So where is that exactly ? Answers, accompanied by a copy of "The Complete Plain Words", to the Borough Engineer please - so he will know where to paint the lines. And if you want to cheat, there is plan available for inspection at the Town Hall Enquiry Office.

SOCIETY CONTACTS

CHAIRMAN Brian Smith tel 325175
 SECRETARY Pat McCulloch tel 773275
 TREASURER Gail Simons tel 202690
 NEWSLETTER Roger Hinton tel 321794

Quick ! We're on TV

Remember the great storm of 1987 ? Society committee member Roger Hinton and his family do. The chimney of their house in Regency Square was blown through the roof, trapping a young student in his bed and totally destroying the upper floors.

It took the rescue services several hours to free the student. Fortunately he lived to tell the tale. And he has now told it to the BBC TV programme 999 who will be showing a dramatised reconstruction of the disaster at 9:30 pm on Friday 17 May.

Part of the programme was filmed in Regency Square last summer, with a large wind machine re-creating the effect of the great storm. The interiors were filmed in a different house, currently being re-developed in Brunswick Square.

The parts of the unfortunate student and his friends are played by actors but many of the rescue workers who were there on the night in 1987 will be showing off their acting skills.

Lamp Posts Found in Regency Square

We reported recently that the Council did not know whether there were any lamp posts in Regency Square from which they could hang baskets of flowers as part of Brighton in Bloom.

After extensive research they have discovered that there are. So from the end of May until September there will be four baskets of flowers hanging from two lamp posts in the Square.

The cost are being met by a donation of £200 to Brighton in Bloom, coming equally from Topps Hotel and the Society. The Council also say that they hope to put some planters round the car park entrance.

BUPA Move In

The office building in Regency Mews has been empty ever since it was built. It has now been bought by the private health insurance group BUPA. We are planning to make contact with them to establish relations with our new corporate neighbour.

More Trees in Russell Square

We have been told by the Council that they plan to plant more trees in Russell Square. There will be a walnut tree at the eastern end and two limes at the west. We are suggesting to the Council that there should also be a litter bin in the Square for use by the many people who sit on the grass.

Play Away Please !

The top part of Regency Square is dog free and fenced off from the traffic. A good place to take the kids. But it has a notice prohibiting ball games. Is this a bit mean ?



Well no one objects to a couple of kids kicking a ball around. But sometimes the area is turned into something more like the Goldstone ground (as was) when a gang of fully grown adults use it for a game.

The result is that anyone who wants to sit on the grass is banished to the unfenced part of the garden, which is also used as dog toilets. The Society is looking for possible ways of discouraging full scale football matches of this kind.

Rumour has it that an approach from Brighton and Hove Albion has also been turned down !.

How to Spend £2 million

Plans are starting to be formulated for the spending of the single re-generation grant money which has been allocated to this area.

One idea which is already well advanced is for traffic calming in Preston Street. It is not yet clear what form this will take. Some restaurants want to be able to put chairs and tables on the pavements.

A questionnaire is to be circulated shortly to find out people's views. It will go to addresses in Preston St Little Preston St, Stone St and Castle St.

Meanwhile working groups are being established to look at projects for Regency, Russell and Clarence Squares. The Society will be represented and we will keep you informed as ideas develop.

Have You Paid Your Sub ?



To Gail Simons, 28 Regency Square, Brighton.

I would like to renew my membership of the Regency Square Area Society for the year 1996/97 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.