



## NEWSLETTER 128 August 1997

### Act Now on Preston Street

The Society complained to the Council that there had been inadequate publicity for the public consultation on plans to improve Preston Street.

A further consultation is now under way. Letters have been sent by the Council to local properties marked "The Occupier". As a result blocks of flats, have only had one letter. Sussex Heights which has 116 flats was sent one letter!

This may be much more important than seems at first sight. The letter gives details of a scheme to improve Preston Street by widening pavements and restricting traffic flows to northbound only, except for cycles. However the scheme depends on single regeneration budget money being available.

Fears have been expressed that if there is a poor response to the second public consultation, money for the scheme will be re-directed to other parts of the town.

So if you have had the letter please reply giving your views about the scheme. If not, phone Samina Khan at the Council on 292345 and ask for a copy.

Act now because the closing date for comments is 22 August.

### Labour Pain

The Labour Conference will be in Brighton at the end of September. The security arrangements seem likely to cause more inconvenience for local residents and businesses than ever before.

The party in power obviously needs more security than the opposition. But recent Tory conferences did not cause so much trouble because the Grand Hotel was used as the party's HQ. This meant a secure "island" could be created consisting of the Kingswest, the Brighton Centre and the Grand.

The Labour party has chosen the Metropole Hotel as its HQ. This results in a need to secure a much larger area, including many residential streets.

The Society has obtained a detailed schedule of traffic restrictions and road closures. Some of them can best be described as "draconian". For example:

- No unauthorised pedestrians in Cannon Place between Kings Rd and Russell Square
- Suspended parking bays in Russell Square, Queensbury Mews and parts of Regency and Clarence Squares
- No waiting or unloading at any time in Russell Square and parts of Cannon Place, Regency and Clarence Squares.

Some extra residents bays will be provided on the western side of Regency Square and there may be arrangements for residents to use the Regency Square NCP car park.

There are also numerous restrictions to traffic flows. For example, if you wanted to go from Russell Square to the Regency Square car park you would need to do so via the Palace Pier roundabout!

These are only a few of the details. If you want to know more contact Roger Hinton (321794) or Brian Smith (325175).

Why should we be expected to put up with this chaos? Certainly many local businesses benefit from the

conference trade but if the Tories could make do with the Grand as their HQ why can't Labour? Perhaps in future both parties should simply be told that, "for security reasons", they have no option but to use the Grand - let's share the restrictions around a bit!

### Daily Rubbish Collection

Many thanks to Jim Harris of Russell Square who has drawn our attention to correspondence he has had with the Council and our new MP, David Lepper.

It makes clear that domestic refuse is now supposed to be collected from Russell, Clarence and Regency Squares every day of the week, including weekends.

This should be a big improvement over the previous level of service. But, as Mr Harris has pointed out, it doesn't always happen.

### Still Wrongly Delivered?



Have you noticed any improvement in the accuracy of mail deliveries? In response to our recent complaint a Post Office spokesperson replied as follows:

"There is no excuse for mistakes of this kind (mail being put through the wrong letterboxes) when letters are clearly and correctly addressed, and the staff concerned have been suitably instructed to take more care to ensure a safe and prompt delivery. This officer (i.e. the postman) was totally unaware of the incident and has apologised most profusely. I trust the action taken will ensure there will be no repetition of this annoying incident."

If you still get a wrongly delivered letter please make a note on the envelope saying where it was incorrectly delivered, with the date and time, and the date and time it arrived at the intended destination. This might not be easy if helpful neighbours just pop things into the right letterbox, but any evidence we can get should help in resolving the problem. Put the envelope through our chairman's door at 45 Regency Square and he will forward all evidence collected to the Post Office



## Clairvoyant May Draw Winners

Tickets for the Society's prize draw will be on sale towards the end of August. The draw will take place on December 11th at the Beach Hotel. We are hoping that Eva Petulengro will draw the winning tickets but details are still to be confirmed.

The first prize will be a weekend for two in Paris by Eurostar, including bed and breakfast. Other top prizes include

- a day out for two on the Orient Express
- a weekend for 2 at the Malvern Hotel (B&B)
- a night for 2 at the Regency Hotel (B&B)
- dinner for 2 at the Grand Hotel
- dinner for 2 at Mamma Mia
- Sunday lunch for 2 at Fudges Restaurant
- ... and many more.

Tickets will be available from Daisy Fresh Cleaners, the Newsagents in Preston St., West Pier News and the Regency Tavern. If you can help selling tickets please contact Traude Tappin (735167).

Suggestions that Eva Petulengro already knows who will win the trip to Paris are pure speculation !

### SOCIETY CONTACTS

CHAIRMAN Brian Smith ☎ 325175  
SECRETARY Pat McCulloch ☎ 773275  
TREASURER & NEWSLETTER Roger Hinton  
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## Oops ... wrong way !

In our last issue we said wrongly that it was illegal to turn from Western Road into Clarence Square. Thanks to those members who pointed out that it is the opposite manoeuvre which is illegal. The problem we were discussing of conflict between cars and pedestrians is still the same of course.

## Changes at Topps

Topps Hotel in Regency Square will be changing hands next month. Paul and Pauline Collins, the present owners, have been active members of the Society for many years.

We wish them the very best for the future with many thanks for all their work to improve the area and their generous support for the Society.

## CAAG Revived But Only Just

The Conservation Advisory Group, on which the Society is represented, was originally set up by Brighton Council to advise the Planning Committee.

When Brighton and Hove were combined in April this year it seemed there was a risk that it might disappear. We are pleased to report that it has been reconstituted, but in future it will only be asked to advise on "major developments". This is because the Planning Committee itself will only consider "major" plans, leaving officers delegated powers to decide smaller applications.

As a Society we are not happy with this change to the Group's role because we have gained much from the opportunity to discuss applications, large and small with people from other groups and with planners.

We have made our views known to the Council.

## A Memory of Horses & Carriages

Between numbers 42 and 43 Regency Square is a pair of doors which probably used to be a carriage entrance to Regency Mews. It is now used as a store. An application has been made for permission to convert it to a flat. The Society has commented that if permission is given, the conversion should be consistent with adjacent buildings, which means that a proper bay window and railings should be built.

## Membership Renewal Form

Many thanks to those members who have paid their subscription for this year. There are still a few outstanding. If there is a cross in the box below it means your subscription for 1997/8 has not been received.

The subscription rates shown are the minimum payable for membership. If you are able to give more, please do. You can give a donation for general Society funds or for the Regency Square Improvement Fund which is reserved specifically for environmental improvements.

To Roger Hinton, 39 Regency Square, Brighton.

I would like to renew my membership of the Regency Square Area Society for the year 1997/98 in the category ticked below:

	£
Ordinary member	4.00
Family	4.50
Senior Citizen	3.50
Junior	2.00
Associate (non-resident)	3.50
Business (non-resident)	6.50

Optional donation: £ \_\_\_\_\_ for  
Society funds OR Regency Sq. Improvement Fund  
(delete one)

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Cheques payable to the Regency Square Area Society please.

**A cross in the  
box means your  
sub is due !**

