



Regency Square Area Society

## NEWSLETTER 57

October 1988

### FIREWORKS

We will be holding a firework party in Regency Square. It will be on Saturday 5 November starting at 7 pm, weather permitting. If it rains we will postpone it until the first fine evening.

Once again the fireworks have been donated by a generous member. Hot soup and snacks will be provided. As in previous years we will not be charging for the food, though contributions to the cost will be gratefully received. In response to requests in previous years we will also provide some canned drinks, for which we will have to charge.

One of the advantages of an organised firework party is that the fireworks can be properly supervised by adults. Please don't let your children bring their own fireworks.

In fact, fireworks are not safe for children to play with at any time!

#### Society Contacts

Roger Hinton (Chairman) Tel 21794  
Richard Pau (Secretary) Tel 26711  
Harold Lawson (Treasurer) Tel 28203

### THANKS

Many thanks to John Ford for his interesting talk on Images of Brighton last month. About 50 members and guests came to the Metropole Hotel to hear the talk. Mr Ford talked specifically about the history of the Regency Square area.

The excellent buffet was prepared by members of the Society and was much appreciated. Thanks are also due to the Metropole for the use of the room and to the Brighton and Hove French Circle for the loan of their projector and screen.

### Bench Stolen !

The Society used to have two benches at the top of Regency Square. Now we only have one.

The missing bench was bought with money donated by members in memory of our founding chairman, Eddie Edwards who died in 1984.

There was a commemorative plaque screwed to the bench but it could easily be removed, unlike the remaining bench which has the Society names carved in the wood. Perhaps this saved it from also disappearing. We have now chained it to the railings just in case.

It is sad to think that someone would steal a public bench but it looks as if that is what has happened. We have notified the police but do not have much hope of them finding it.

However, a member of the Society has offered anonymously to pay for a replacement. The committee has accepted this generous offer and a new bench is being ordered. It will have the Society name carved in the wood and it too will be chained.

On behalf of the whole Society, we express our thanks to the member concerned.

### Paint it Right !

Advertisements have been circulating recently for processes for protecting property by covering them in special textured coatings.

These coatings are much thicker than ordinary paint. As a result they tend to obscure some of the finer architectural details of period properties. If you are considering using such a process on a property in a conservation area, you would be well advised to consult the borough planning officer first. It would be very costly to have to strip it off and start again, which could happen if you contravened planning regulations.

Remember also that in Regency Square there is a uniform painting scheme which specifies that all houses must be painted in a standard colour. The colour has various names and is best specified by its British Standard number BS 10 C 31. Note that the colour called "Regency Cream" specified by Hove Borough Council is not acceptable.

The only exceptions to this scheme are houses which were another colour before the scheme was introduced in 1981; they can be re-painted the same colour as they were.

### A Market in Clarence Sq ?

The latest wierd idea to find its way into the pages of the local press is the suggestion that there should be a street market in Clarence Square. The Argus reported recently that Labour Councillor Bob Davies wants the Council to run a street market and Clarence Square is one of the suggested sites.

No firm proposal seems to have been made yet, but we have alerted our local councillors and will keep a careful watch on the situation.



## Dogs Top the List

A report was recently presented to the Council of an opinion survey taken in four parts of Brighton, including Regency ward. The aim of the survey was to find out what problems worry people the most.

People were shown a list of possible problems and asked to say which they thought were "a big problem" and which "a bit of a problem."

In Regency 87% of those questioned thought that dogs were a problem. This was followed closely by poor housing (80%), unemployment (77%) and vandalism (75%).

In each of the other three areas, Woodingdean, Whitehawk and Preston, vandalism came top of the list.

Of the items listed, the ones least perceived as problems in Regency were public transport (10%) and behaviour of the police (10%). Perhaps the survey should have been taken during the Tory Conference!

## MORE SNOOKER ?

Once again the snooker club in Castle Street has applied for an extension to its opening hours. They want to stay open until midnight.

Recently the owners of the club asked the Society if we would support them in applying for an extension. We carried out a survey of residents living in Castle street. Almost everyone we spoke to objected strongly so we decided not to support the application.

It is not that the club members are a rowdy bunch. Most of them behave quite sensibly. The problem is that what counts as sensible behaviour in the day can sound like a near riot in a narrow street late at night. A regular succession of "Goodnights" followed by car or taxi doors and engines make sleep an impossibility.

So the Society has written to the Planning Committee asking them to refuse the application.

## CONFERENCE TALES

Last year it was the great gale. This year it was the security cordon round the Tory Conference.

Everyone has their own personal experience to relate. Like one of our members who was cleaning some rubbish off a roof at the back of his house when there was a knock at the door. It was the police warning him that someone was climbing on his roof!

And there was the other member who was asked to hand over his keys before walking through the security door into the Metropole. Once he was on the other side, the security guard handed him back the keys ... through the door. No alarms went off!

Do you have an amusing story about the conference? If so let us have it. We will publish the best ones in the next newsletter.

(Send your story to Roger Hinton, 38 Regency Sq.)

## CONGRATULATIONS

.. to the Beach Hotel in Regency Square.

The hotel was recently restored to its original appearance and the Society nominated it for the Borough Council's award as the best restored building.

We are pleased to report that it won the award and will soon have a plaque to prove it.

## 100 Years

Earlier this month the French Church in Queensbury Mews celebrated its one hundredth anniversary with a special thanksgiving service.



## Litter Update

As a result of our meeting with local councillors, we have now got a second litter bin in Clarence Square. There are also now two bins at the top of Regency Square again, though they both seem to be sponsored which means that the original Council bin has still not re-appeared.

We have obtained some information about street sweeping. Churchill Square and Western Road are swept fully between 6 am and 8-30 am each morning; three men then work continuously keeping these areas clean until 4 pm.

Clarence Square is swept once a day but the Director of Technical Services in a letter to Councillor Andy Winter admitted that there are "difficulties in this area due to the deposit of trade refuse from the Western Road shops." The Enforcement Officer has been asked to investigate.

Meanwhile we are maintaining our regular survey of rubbish dumping. At present we are finding an average of about 16 dumps each time we survey the area.

Don't forget, if rubbish is being dumped regularly near your house, contact the Town Hall and report it (Tel 29801). The Enforcement Officer will try to find out who is dumping it.