



NEWSLETTER 117
June 1996

How's Your General Knowledge

Come to the Society's PRIZE QUIZ and find out.

It will be at 8pm on Wednesday 3rd July at the Regency Hotel, 28 Regency Square. The question master will be Martin Boggon. There will be teams of up to four. You don't need a team before you come - we will form the teams on the night.

The questions will be on general knowledge and there will be a prize for the winners.

It will cost you £3 to get in which will cover the quiz and refreshments.

There will also be a raffle and proceeds will go to the Regency Square Improvement Fund. If you can donate a prize for the raffle please contact Gail Simons (☎ 202690).

New Committee Member

Welcome to Nairin Forbes of Sussex Heights who has been co-opted as a new committee member and who attended her first meeting last month.

More News about those Millions

We have reported in previous issues that the Council has allocated over £2 million of Government "regeneration" money to improve this area. More detail is now starting to emerge.

The money will be made available over a number of years. More importantly, it will only be available if it is matched £1 for £1 by locally raised funds.

So the big job facing us is to find a corresponding £2 million or so from other sources. The Society's own Regency Square Improvement Fund currently stands at just over £2,300 and will grow as we organise more fund raising events.

It is nice to know that the regeneration money will effectively double our fund, but it is only a drop in the ocean. Some much more substantial contributions will need to be found if the Government money is not to be lost.

Steering Committees

The Council is establishing steering committees to decide what to spend the money on and to look for funding partners. There is already a committee for Preston Street.

Two others are being formed in our area, one for Regency Square and one for Russell and Clarence Squares. It is planned that schemes for the smaller squares will be started in October next year and for Regency Square in October 1998.

If you think that is a long way ahead, spare a thought for Bedford Square which is also part of the scheme but has to wait until the year 2000.

The Society is represented on these working parties. If you have any ideas about what to spend the money on, or how to raise the matching amounts, please contact Brian Smith or Harold Lawson.

24 Hour Service

Did you know that the Council has a 24 hour emergency number? It is not an answering machine but a real person whom you can speak to about anything you think the Council should take action on outside of normal office hours.

The number is

Brighton 509122

The number is only for emergencies. So don't call with an enquiry about your Council Tax! Some problems that the emergency staff might be able to help with out of hours are:

- a noisy party
- a dog in a "no dogs" area
- a football match in a "no ball games area"

The person answering your call may be able to help, or may simply say that there is no one on duty to deal with the problem - but it's worth a try!



Part Time Parking

If you live in this area and own a car, then, for a fee, the Council will reserve parking spaces for you - but only for part of the time.

What is so special about 9 am to 6 pm Monday to Saturday? Don't residents need to park outside these hours? It's true that these are the hours when shops are open so there are lots of people coming into Brighton with their cars.

But shops are also open on Sundays. And in the evenings people drive into Brighton for restaurants, clubs, theatres, etc.

Why should residents be protected against weekday shoppers, but not against Sunday shoppers or evening visitors?

We will be putting these questions to the Council. But don't move your car yet!

What Time is it in Cairo ?

If you need to know then pop into the lobby of Russell House, the office building in Russell Mews. You will find clocks telling the time in various parts of the world.

The reason is that the building, which has stood empty since it was built, is now occupied by BUPA International.

The company has moved from smaller premises in Queens Road. They own the whole property, including the freehold of the housing development at the end of Russell Square.

There are currently 110 BUPA staff working on the first and second floors of the building. They work in two shifts, some as late as 10pm. Their main business is dealing with enquiries about health insurance from people overseas.

The top three floors of the building are still empty. If BUPA's business continues to grow as it has recently, they expect to occupy another floor in the future. They may also introduce 24 hour working. They are looking for tenants for the rest of the space.

More traffic ?

Will all these extra workers mean more traffic ?

There are 33 parking spaces under the building. These are shared by the staff on a rota basis. There is also space for cycles and a number of people are coming to work on two wheels.

The good news for people in Russell Square is that there will be no access to the building for vehicles from Russell Square. All access is from Preston Street through Regency Mews.

There is also a pedestrian entrance from Castle Street. If you saw some Pickfords vans in Castle Street recently it was BUPA moving in.

More Security ?

The other good news is that the building has a security officer on duty 24 hours a day.

There are four video cameras in the car park under the building. They have infra red night lights and they record everything that happens in the area. The recordings are kept for about three months.

So having BUPA as a neighbour means better security.

Good Neighbours

Society chairman Brian Smith and other committee members have met Mike Jones, BUPA's General Manager and Alan Farley the Building Manager.

They have assured us that BUPA wants to be a good neighbour and to get involved in the local community. We hope that one way they will be doing so is by joining the Society.

Kentucky Clean Up

Thanks are due to Mr K Mitchell of the Council's Environmental Services Department for arranging for the mess in Stone Street to be cleared up.

The problem was caused (again) by the Kentucky Fried Chicken restaurant in Western Rd. They put waste outside their back door which results in fat on the pavement and in the gutter. There is also an unpleasant smell.

Let's hope we won't have to ask for Mr Mitchell's help again.

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Don't forget the Prize Quiz
8pm Wednesday 3 July
Regency Hotel
Admission £3 including refreshments
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SOCIETY CONTACTS

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

Have You Paid Your Sub ?



The subscription rates shown below 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 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

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

Name _____

Address _____

Cheques payable to the Regency Square Area Society please.