



**Regency Square Area Society**

**NEWSLETTER 118  
July 1996**

## Your Chance to Have a Say

The Council are planning to use part of their regeneration grant to improve Clarence, Regency and Russell Squares.

Before finalising any plans, they want to find out what local people think are the priorities. Local people are being invited to give their views.

With this newsletter you will find a Council questionnaire. Please fill it in and return it to the freepost address shown as soon as possible to make sure that your views are taken into account. The latest date for comment is August 2nd.

## Thanks ...

... to everyone who contributed to the quiz night at the Regency Hotel. Especially Martin Boggon for his brainteasing questions, to Gail and Ambrose Simons for inviting us to the hotel, to Traude Tappin for the organisation and to all those members who donated prizes.

The event raised about £100 for the Society's Regency Square Improvement Fund

## Bryan Spielman

Many members will remember Bryan Spielman who retired last year as Chairman of the West Pier Trust. He died on 2 July at the age of 71.

## Conservation Must Wait

Many of the houses in this area are old and very expensive to maintain. In recent years the Council has been able to provide grants to cover part of the cost of repair, provided the work involved repairing or restoring original features.

Now property owners will have to manage without the Council's help. Currently grants are only available for properties in the East Cliff Conservation Area.

The Council hope that grants will be available again in this area from April 1988, with the help of funds from English Heritage.

In the meantime, keep buying the Polyfilla!

## Come Back Tesco !

Before Christmas we had a members' meeting with Mike Hannigan of Standard Life, the company that owns Churchill Square. If you were there you will remember that one of the things we said to him was that we would very much like to see food store in the new shopping mall.

He said that they had not yet been approached by any food retailers. Society member Mrs J Liu decided to take the initiative and wrote to Tesco to suggest they might consider returning to Churchill Square.

They replied saying that one of their priorities is to find a site for a new "Tesco Metro" store in the heart of Brighton. They have approached Standard Life

but have been told that the shop units being planned will not be suitable for the Metro format.

But this may not be the end of the matter. Tesco say that they are continuing to try to persuade Standard Life to let them into the mall. The Society has done its bit by writing to Mike Hannigan to remind him how much local support there is for a new food store in the area.

## A Change of Plan

The developers of Churchill Square have finally reached agreement with BT who occupied some of the dilapidated office buildings above the shops. BT will move out, allowing the buildings to be demolished, much improving the appearance of the new shopping mall.

However, this has resulted in some other changes to the plans. The Society is particularly concerned about the impact at the top of Cannon Place by the Prince of Wales pub.

The new scheme shows additional shops being built to the west of W H Smith. As a result the pedestrian access to Western Road from Cannon Place could become a rather narrow passageway.

This is an important pedestrian route, not only for local people but also for visitors and conference delegates, using the Grand, the Metropole and the many smaller hotels.

When compared with the splendid new steps to be provided from Cranbourne Street up to the eastern end of Churchill Square, our route into the shopping mall looks rather unimpressive.

We have written to the Council expressing our views.

## More Disabled Parking

The bridge over Cannon Place which leads to the carpark above Churchill Square is to be retained as part of the new development. We understand that the overhead car park will provide parking for disabled visitors to the new shopping mall.



## Get Ready for a Final Walk Through

A date has been set for the closure of Regency Road. It will happen in October this year. Demolition will then start on the car parks on the northern side of the road.

So if you are beginning to feel nostalgic about our short cut to West Street, get ready for a final walk through in the Autumn.

## Sprinklers and Bells

Residents of Queensbury Mews were woken at 2am on 18 June by alarm bells in the carpark below Sussex Heights.

There was no fire, but vandals had managed to damage a water pipe that supplies the sprinkler system. As a result water started pouring into the carpark and the fire alarms started.

No one in the Metropole Hotel (which owns the building) seemed to know how to turn them off. The car park is run by NCP and it took them about an hour to find out how to stop the noise.

We have written to the Metropole and NCP encouraging them to have better arrangements for silencing the bells promptly next time there is a false alarm.

## Looking Up in Preston Street

The lower part of Preston Street is pretty scruffy at the moment but things could be looking up. Properties on the eastern side near the back of Le Flemmings Hotel are being improved.

A planning application has been submitted for the boarded up shops north of the casino (numbers 9-11). It is for a restaurant of course, but it should look better than what's there at present. The planning officer has recommended approval.

## Who Owns Regency Mews

Regency Mews runs behind the buildings at the top of Regency Square, between Preston Street and the office building recently occupied by BUPA. It is now used by BUPA as the way into their car park and the route for all their deliveries.

It is also used as a car park and work area for a number of the small businesses which have premises there.

According to the notice at the entrance to the mews, it is "Private Mews". But who owns it?

We have approached the Council to try to find out. We have also raised the question of whether it should become a properly adopted road. This would mean that the Council would become responsible for its safety and maintenance.

## Chairman Snapped with Flowers

Society chairman Brian Smith was photographed recently standing near the floral decorations in Regency Square. The Society helped fund the decorations as part of Brighton in Bloom which is being featured in the next issue of the Council's free Newspaper.



## 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.