



Regency Review

CONSIDERING THE PAST...FRAMING THE FUTURE

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THE NEWSLETTER OF THE REGENCY SOCIETY

Proposed Albion Stadium at Falmer

The Society objected to proposals by the Brighton and Hove Football Club for a 22,000 seat community stadium at Falmer, next to Brighton University. Those proposals also involve a new access road to Sussex University which would impact on the listed Lodge Gatehouses to Stanmer Park.

At the initial Inquiry we confined ourselves to supporting the case of the Sussex Downs Conservation Board which was ably presented by Martin Small. The Inspector found in an unequivocal report that the proposals should be rejected.

The report was presented to John Prescott and that should have been the end of it. But following intensive lobbying, Mr Prescott decided to re-open the Inquiry, indicating that he needed to know more about potential alternative sites.

A preliminary meeting for the re-opened inquiry was held on 13 October 2004 with a new inspector presiding. The inquiry is to examine seven named alternative sites vis: Brighton Station, Brighton Greyhound Stadium (in Hove), Shoreham Harbour, Sheepcote Valley, Toad's Hole Valley, Waterhall and Withdean Stadium, and any other realistic sites advocated by objectors to Falmer.

Since the initial Stadium Inquiry opened planning permissions have been issued and construction work started that will probably preclude both Brighton Station and the Greyhound Stadium. This is regrettable as we firmly considered that both these sites were preferable to Falmer.

So what's our strategy now?

Like the Inspector at the initial Inquiry, we feel that one sustainable strategy would be for the Albion to stay at Withdean and make better use of the site's potential until a suitable brownfield site becomes available, which it will, given time.

Nonetheless, given the scope of the re-opened inquiry, if Falmer is to be defeated, it will be important for us to explore the potential of other sites, but we shall focus on brownfield sites. Sheepcote Valley was favoured by the Local Plan Inspector; it's not in the Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty and is largely a brownfield site, having been used as a tip. Shoreham Harbour may have more potential than was found at the initial inquiry, and two other sites worth exploring are Shoreham Airport and East Quay at Newhaven.

The Inspector wants all written proofs of evidence submitted by 7 January 2005 for preliminary scrutiny prior to the inquiry re-opening on 2 February. The Inquiry is scheduled for 12 working days, sitting three and a half days per week, and should finish on 22 February. A detailed programme will be published as soon as it is available, so Members can come along and lend support to our case.

Because of the widened importance of the inquiry, the Society has instructed Hazel McKay, a member of the Society who lives in Hove and a graduate of Sussex University, to act for us. Hazel has had a distinguished career in town planning involving private consultancy and senior posts with local authorities, including a spell as Deputy



Post Withdean... Whither?

Planning Officer of Adur District Council. She was President of the Royal Town Planning Institute in 1994 and only the second woman to hold the office. At the original inquiry she gave persuasive evidence against the Falmer proposals and from discussions, we feel she shares our stance. In preparing her evidence she will liaise with our Planning Sub-Committee through its convenor, Dr. Michael Ray.

The 2005 Study Tour of the Society will take place from June 27th to July 2nd and will be based in Bath where accommodation has been arranged at the Frances Hotel. The itinerary is still in preparation and is expected to include visits to Tyntesfield, Bowood House, Lacock, Clevedon Court and Pier, Wells Cathedral, Dyrham Park and the American Museum in Bath as well as a guided walking tour of Bath itself.

A number of members from previous Study Tours have already asked to be included in the 2005 Study Tour and a waiting list may have to be introduced—particularly for single room accommodation.

Inclusive prices (except travel to Bath) have not been finalised but are expected to be in the regions of £530 for those in a single room and £430 for those in a double room.

Enquiries to Stella and Tony Mercer at 01372 458641 or e-mail to TonyMercer@bookham240.freeserve.co.uk

James Gray Online

Members will be aware of The James Gray Collection that the Society owns: some forty volumes contain many thousands of historic photographs showing the buildings of Brighton and its surroundings. This collection is kept within the Royal Pavilion and is available for inspection by bona fide researchers, by appointment with the Society. This arrangement is obviously onerous in museum staff time, and the effects of repeated handling of fragile material cannot be overlooked. The obvious solution is to make a digital copy that may be viewed on-screen at the Museum, as well as on the internet.

As a start, the first volume *The Seafront* has been digitally copied and been made available on the Society's web site at www.regencysociety.org/gray, complete with the comments and annotations made by Mr. Gray in his originals.

We shall have to seek financial assistance for digitising the rest of the collection, which is a substantial task. The benefits will be threefold: firstly, a copy of the Collection will then exist, which as well as being a prudent safeguard against loss will allow reproductions of photographs to be made without recourse to the originals, with the

concomitant costs of time and potential damage. Secondly, we shall be able to make the Collection viewable at all times without curatorial oversight, and with no risk of damage to originals, by installing a high resolution copy on a computer within the Local History section at Brighton Museum, and thirdly by making a copy available on our web site.

The photographs give a matchless overview of the development and change that has taken place, and is a reminder of the continual state of flux to which a dynamic city is subject. Donkeys and goat carriages on the sea front, as well as Embassy Court with letting signs in 1936, and the life and death of the Palladium Opera House. All is here. There is much to be done before this project becomes reality, but it could make a real contribution, both in an educational and historic context.



From theatre, to Opera House, to Cinema...now the Brighton Centre!



Embassy Court...to let



Sun or rain?

The Western Esplanade, 1902



Your carriage awaits



Harold George Turner

Following the refusal of planning permission for a development of 36 flats to be built on the site of 3 family homes in Dyke Road, Hove, the Council is to undertake a characterization study of the area. The Barrowfield Estate, until 1931 in the ownership of the Marquis of Exeter, extends to some 21 acres, and following its sale (apparently to the Stanford Estate) was developed for housing. Barrowfield Lodge, now as flats, remains, while family homes have been built on the rest of the estate.

The architect Harold George Turner was appointed, although purchasers of the individual plots were able to employ others, subject to oversight by Turner.

The architectural grammar employed is characterized by tile-hanging, exaggerated rainwater brackets and bay windows: all in all this is the vernacular of mid-Sussex, not the coastal fringes, and it is interesting that Turner employed house types he had also used at Haywards Heath and Eastbourne. Clearly, here was a man who was not going to let the *genius loci* interfere with his preconceptions!

Some of the houses illustrate another standard Turner design which looks slightly classical or Georgian, by virtue of their symmetry and porch details. Other houses illustrate Turner's art deco details and his Lutyens' like use of creasing tiles.

Interestingly, in mid-Sussex a Turner house is considered special and marketed as such, emphasizing design and quality: no such knowledge



Mid-Sussex vernacular by the coast

apparently exists in Brighton and Hove.

We are fortunate that the Society will be able to share the knowledge of committee member architect Peter Bareham, who has become the leading authority on Harold George Turner, at his lecture on January 4, 2005 at The Old Market, Hove.

Perhaps now is the time for the work of this architect to receive some posthumous local appreciation, and possibly for his work to gain some measure of protection. Certainly pressure for redevelopment cannot be ignored, and increased traffic that has been concerning the area of late must be considered in evolving policies that reflect changing circumstances.

Signature details: tiles and brackets



Forthcoming Lectures

Tuesday January 4 at 7pm

The Old Market, Upper Market Street, Hove

Peter Bareham, Architect
**Harold George Turner, architect:
his houses in Sussex and the
Barrowfield Estate in Hove**

Tuesday February 1 at 7pm

The Old Market, Upper Market Street, Hove

Stuart Page, Architect
**The Restoration and Conservation of
Ightham Mote, Kent**

Tuesday March 1 at 7pm

The Old Market, Upper Market Street, Hove

Patrick Conner
Director of the Martyn Gregory Gallery, London
Oriental Architecture in the West

Tuesday April 5 at 7pm

The Music Room, Royal Pavilion

Paul Atterbury, Historian
The Pugins and the Gothic Revival
to be followed by the
Annual General Meeting of the Society

Admission free to members, others £5 / concessions

Florence Mary Wood

Artist and Teacher 1908–2004

Mary Wood, well known to many of our members, died peacefully on October 23. As she wished, she remained in her own home until the end. It is possible that she was our oldest member, and until a few months ago she took an active interest in all our activities.

Mary joined the Society in 1969 soon after she retired from teaching, when membership was £1 and lecture guests were charged three shillings (15p.). In 1979 Antony Dale asked her to join the committee, and she was a valued member until 1999. As far as we know she never missed a committee meeting apart from the occasional holiday. In addition she and her great friend Pat (Marjorie) Carter gave invaluable service addressing and filling envelopes and delivering nearly



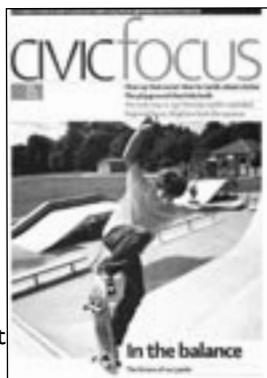
all the Regency Society literature in Brighton and Hove: their knowledge of the lesser-known parts of the city was remarkable.

In 1980 Mary gave a lecture to the Society on 'Landscape Painters in Watercolour of the Regency Period' in the King William IV Room of the Royal Pavilion. About this time an exhibition of her paintings was shown at Langfords Hotel in Hove. She took part in nearly all of the long week-end visits, Chester in 2000 being her final one; she always spoke with particular pleasure of Guernsey in 1974 and of Pitlochrie in 1998. And she went every year (including this summer) by rail, to stay with her friends in the Lake District and her former students in Skipton, some of whom attended her funeral on November 8.
P.Q.

The Civic Trust

Members will be aware that the Society is registered with the Civic Trust, as are the Brighton Society and Hove Civic Society (together with some other local amenity groups). The Civic Trust is currently running a series of short items entitled *Regional Focus* in which our three city-wide societies are featured.

The reports about Brighton and Hove were the result of short telephone interviews but the publication is of interest: any member who wishes to receive a copy should telephone our membership secretary, Jackie Fitzgerald on 01273 601069 and she will send one to you.



Marina and King Alfred set to hit high-spots

The City council recently signed a legal agreement with Karis Holdings for the re-development of the King Alfred site on Hove's seafront. This signals the start of detailed design development for the housing, by Gehry Partners, leisure facilities by HOK Sport with co-ordinating architects CZWG and a sculptural intervention by Anthony Gormley. A full planning application is expected at the end of June. Meanwhile, Karis is carrying out further consultation. A meeting with the Society is planned for mid-February, before final decisions on the planning application proposals are taken.

At the Marina, Brunswick Developments Group's

proposals for housing, designed by Wilkinson Eyre, have been released and a planning application is expected soon. Exhibitions of the design proposals are currently taking place, in Brighton, Hove and at the Marina. Extensive consultation has already occurred with English Heritage, CABE and English Nature. The Society is concerned that to date insufficient liaison seems to have taken place between Brunswick Developments and BIA, who are developing their designs for the events stadium and housing at Black Rock, over the co-ordination of vehicle access and improved public transport, which will be essential to service these huge developments.