



Regency Review

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE REGENCY SOCIETY

ISSUE 25 AUTUMN 2009

CONSIDERING THE PAST... FRAMING THE FUTURE

Message from the Chairman

Welcome to our 'new look' newsletter. In this issue, we thought our members might be interested in hearing a little about the activities of our sub-committees as well as our ideas for the future. Originally founded as a preservation and conservation society, over the years the Society has broadened its remit and it is perhaps useful to remind ourselves how diverse we have become.



The focus of the Society must remain on Brighton & Hove, and the conservation of our historic architecture, but no vibrant city can stand still. We therefore monitor planning issues, particularly through our involvement with the Council's Conservation Advisory Group, trying to ensure that good decisions are made and that sustainable development is encouraged. Our lecture programme and plans for social events and study tours also feature in this newsletter.

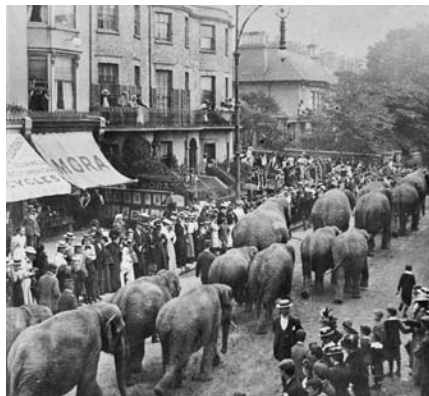
The James Gray Collection

As you know, the Society is the proud owner of the James Gray Collection of photographs. James Gray had a passion for the streets of Brighton & Hove, and he built up a massive collection of topographical photographs which cover the years from the 1860s to the 1950s, and show the gamut of Brighton life. Although there is a great interest in old photographs today, this was not the case when James Gray started his collection in the 1950s. He had

great foresight to assemble this unique record of our city.

The Society purchased the collection to make it available to researchers and interested parties. There are about 7,500 photographs in 39 volumes. 30 volumes have now been digitised and are available on the Society's website at: www.regencysociety-jamesgray.com where they may be freely viewed. There were over 490,000 viewings in the first seven months of this year.

Many local organisations and private individuals have assisted by sponsoring a volume – or more, in some instances – and credits are

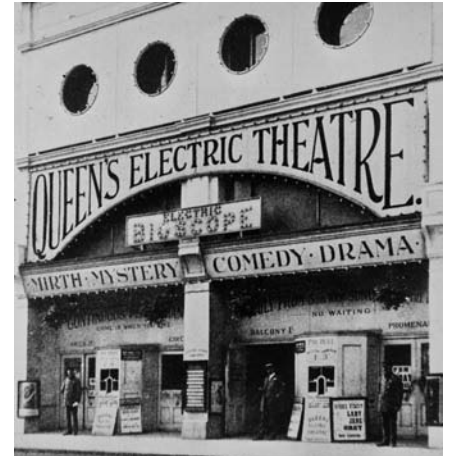


Barnham & Bailey's Procession, Old Western Road, 1899

given on the index page as well as on every page of the sponsored volume. Thanks to the generosity of the Montpelier and Clifton Hill Association, the volume covering the Western Road area is now online.

Completing the project

Further sponsorship is needed for the nine outstanding volumes. If you, or your organisation, would like to sponsor a complete volume, or give a donation towards part of the overall project, please contact me at nrobinson36@hotmail.co.uk



Queen's Electric Theatre, Western Road, 1909

Commemorative plaques

Some years ago, Eileen Hollingdale spent much time researching the various commemorative plaques that have been put up around the city. A copy of her report was then issued to the Regency Society committee. This has now been digitised and Eileen is in the process of updating it. I am hopeful that in due course it will be available to everyone through our website.

Hard work appreciated

Everything happens because of someone's hard work. Committee members all put in many unpaid hours to ensure that the future of our city and the Society is protected. In this issue, I would particularly like to single out and thank Lesley Clarke, our Membership Secretary, for all the time she has put into updating and 'cleaning' our membership database and communicating with individual members; and Lianne Jarrett, Chair of the Social and Membership Sub-committee, who has worked so hard to improve what we offer members. I am very grateful to them and to all the committee members for making the Society what it is.

Nigel Robinson

SUB-COMMITTEES AND MEMBERSHIP



Photograph courtesy of Eileen Hollingdale

Alison Minns and other Regency Society members at the Midsummer Garden Party

Finance and Administration Sub-committee

This sub-committee was formed to assist the Treasurer with financial issues and budgeting. It also considers such dry issues as the terms of reference of the various sub-committees as well as the job descriptions/responsibilities of the Society's officers. We now have a modern Constitution but it is important that the officers, and particularly any newly appointed ones, know what is expected of them! In due course, I would like to see all these documents available on the website.

Nigel Robinson, Chair

Planning Sub-committee

Planning applications are one of the key reasons for all amenity societies and the Regency Society checks the Council's plans list weekly. Many of the grandiose schemes, for instance the King Alfred and the Black Rock arena have been abandoned as a result of the credit crunch. The Brunswick scheme for flats on the outer harbour of the Marina has been delayed, while the Explore Living's scheme for the Marina's Asda site will be decided at a public inquiry.

American Express has recently submitted a planning application for 5 and 7 storey offices on Carlton

Hill, which is of particular concern because of its impact on the Carlton Hill Conservation Area and its listed buildings: St John the Evangelist church, Tilbury Place and the Mighell Street farmhouse.

An appeal into the plans to extend the Old Market in Hove has been submitted. The Council is preparing a planning brief for the Royal Alexandra Children's Hospital following a public inquiry at which Taylor Wimpey's scheme for the site was dismissed.

The Society is represented on the Conservation Advisory Group which advises the Council on conservation areas and listed buildings.

Selma Montford MBE & Robert Nemeth,
Sub-committee members

Social and Membership Sub-committee

This sub-committee organises the Midsummer Garden Party, Christmas Party and Spring Dinner.

We are currently working to extend the range of activities on offer to Regency Society members and aim to include topical debates on the architecture and future developments of Brighton & Hove; guided walking tours to discover fascinating, but lesser-known buildings in our city; and visits to interiors in the area that are not generally open to the public.

The Society will also run a three/four day UK Study Tour and its first European City Tour for many years, if there is sufficient interest.

We are making links with other societies so that, where appropriate, we can exchange information and set up joint ventures. If you have ideas for a lecture or a special event that you would like us to consider, please contact us on info@lja.uk.com

Many of our events are open to guests, so please bring your friends along and encourage them to join.

Lianne Jarrett, Chair

Midsummer Party in the Secret Garden

This year's Midsummer Party, which took place in Kemptown's magical secret garden, with the generous permission of Mrs Yvonne Dale, was a great success. It was a very lively gathering. A record number of members and their guests attended to enjoy convivial company, mouth-watering refreshments and incidental music against a backdrop of summer flowers. *Join us again next year on Saturday 21 June, 2010.*

MEMBERSHIP

It is now the policy of the Regency Society to communicate with members by email wherever possible. The opportunities for this will expand in the future. Email communications include reminders to annual members that subscriptions are due. If you change your email address, or have changed it over the past year, please let me know so that you are not put onto the lapsed membership list. I am very short on email addresses for life members and should be grateful if those of you who have one would send it to me. If anyone has queries about membership or associated activities please, don't hesitate to contact me.

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REGENCY SOCIETY CHRISTMAS PARTY



Illustration from THE GEWGAW; or BRIGHTON TOY.

Image courtesy of Henry Smith Esq.

Wednesday 2 December 2009, Old Market, Hove 7pm – 9pm

A 'one off' event devised for a special Regency Society evening.

These festivities will feature Georgian and Regency music, performed by an ensemble of singers and players, with songs, dances and instrumental pieces a number of which – such as *The Regent's Hornpipe*, *Brighthelmstone Hot Bath* and *This my Lady* – have been discovered in the Library of the Sussex Archaeological Society and arranged for the occasion. There will also be readings from authors of the period – Jane Austen, Thackeray, Smollett and Fanny Burney – as well as contemporary writings including Wallis's guide book to fashionable Brighton, *The London Art of Cookery* and *The Mirror of The Graces*. The programme has been devised by Robert Carrington and Sally Morris, who are also two of the performers. Come and enjoy Christmas revelries, with 'bubbles' on arrival and a light supper of seasonal delicacies.

All inclusive cost per person: £9.50. Admission by ticket only.

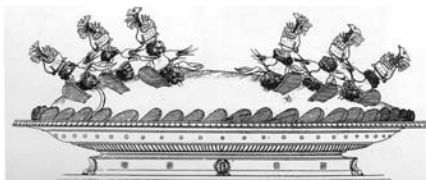
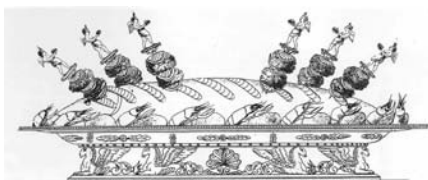
Bar will be open. An invitation and application form are enclosed.

Members may bring guests, but please book no later than 31 October to avoid disappointment. The Garden Party was oversubscribed!

REGENCY SOCIETY DINNER Thursday 18 March 2010
Gallery Restaurant, City College, commencing at 7pm

The evening will begin with a Reception, with sparkling wine, followed by a four course dinner (with wine and coffee). We are anticipating a superb meal, as it will be prepared by the renowned City College Catering Department, a number of whose former students have become leading chefs and restaurateurs. **All inclusive cost per person: £35**

To reserve a place, please complete the enclosed form, with remittance.



UK STUDY TOUR

Early Summer 2010

The Society hopes to re-establish a Study Tour, though no definite plans have yet been made. Douglas Chamberlain would be willing to help co-ordinate arrangements if others are enthusiastic. One suggestion for a future tour is Cardiff. Members should contact Douglas if this is of interest, or with other suggestions: dac@dachamberlain.co.uk

STUDY TOUR TO BERLIN

2010 or 2011

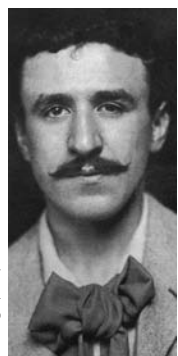
A three/four day tour to Berlin, staying centrally, has been proposed. It would include highlights such as the Brandenburg Gate; Unter den Linden; Schloss Charlottenburg and gardens; and Potsdamer Platz – created in the 1990s by Richard Rogers, Renzo Piano, Arata Isozaki and Jose Rafael Moneo. We could visit the Reichstag, transformed by Norman Foster with a stunning glass dome; and Daniel Libeskind's Jewish Museum. Other places of interest include the State Library and the Philharmonie Concert Hall (we would try to include a concert with the Berlin Philharmonic and Simon Rattle). Acclaimed international museums include: Gemäldegalerie (Old Masters); Neue Nationalgalerie, designed by Mies van der Rohe (Modern Art); Neues Museum, restored by David Chipperfield; Altes Museum, designed by Schinkel, and Pergamon Museum (both with Antiquities). There are also classic early modern buildings by such architects as Bruno Taut, Erich Mendelsohn, Alvar Aalto and Le Corbusier.

Professor David Robson would lead the tour. The cost would include return scheduled flights to Berlin; transfers between the airport and a central hotel; bed and breakfast; and coach travel to places of interest, where necessary.

Please contact Audrey Simpson on post@audreysimpson.com for further details and costs.

7 October 2009

The strange case of the architect who vanished in the night – or, who was Charles Rennie Mackintosh?



Photograph by J. C. Annan c.1903

John McKean has published four books on Mackintosh's life and works, but when his major biography was published in 2000, much fuss accompanied his suggestion that

Mackintosh may have had Asperger's, a condition less known among the general public a decade ago. Was this suggestion illuminating?

4 November 2009

Singled Out – the story of two million women left without the prospect of marriage after the First World War

Virginia Nicholson is a well-known writer and the grand-daughter of the painter Vanessa Bell. She is Deputy Chairman of the Trustees of Charleston, former home of members of the Bloomsbury Group. *Singled Out*, her recent book, tells the story of a generation of women, brought up in the unquestioning belief that marriage was their birthright, but who discovered after the 1914–18 war that there were not enough men to go round.

6 January 2010

Classical Antiquity and the Georgian Garden

Roger White is an expert on Georgian gardens, an architectural historian, contributing editor to *House and Garden* and former secretary of the Georgian Group and the Garden History Society.

From the early 17th century Englishmen increasingly travelled to Italy, and especially to Rome, to further their education, start an art collection, or simply have a good time. They returned home full of impressions of classical antiquity – or what they thought was antiquity. For the 18th-century English gentleman, raised on Greek and Roman literature and fortified by the experiences of the Grand Tour, the evocation of antiquity, and of a lost Arcadia, was a preoccupation that frequently found expression in the garden. In creating the celebrated 'temple-scapes' of Georgian England, what did they think they were doing? And what relationship, if any, did they all bear to reality?

3 February 2010

George IV as a Patron and a Collector

Giles Waterfield, Chairman of the Trustees of Charleston, is well known for his work on the Regency period and for publications such as *Servants in Art*. George IV is well known to us all as a regular visitor to Brighton and the builder of the Royal Pavilion. But what shaped his taste and what were his interests as a patron?



The Prince of Wales in Garter Robes, 1799.

Courtesy of The Royal Pavilion and Museums, Brighton and Hove

3 March 2010

Local architects at work in the City of Brighton and Hove c.1860–1914.

Nick Antram is co-editor of the Pevsner guide *Brighton and Hove* and editor of the Pevsner *Buildings of England* for East Sussex. When working on *Brighton and Hove* he became interested in the architects who worked in the city, such as Clayton and Black and the Lainsons. Their work played a major role in the layout and look of major parts of the city and brought some of the latest London styles here.

14 April 2010

Royal Pavilion, in the Music Room 7pm, before the Society's AGM

John Nash – Architect of the Royal Pavilion and his work



The Royal Pavilion, from Nash's Views.

The Royal Pavilion and Museums, Brighton and Hove

Geoffrey Tyack, an eminent architectural historian, is a Fellow at Kellogg College, Oxford, and Director of the Stanford University Programme. He is writing a book on John Nash, which gives a new interpretation of the history and work of this architect, whose impact on the Royal Pavilion we all know. Nash also designed two country houses in West Sussex. His development of Regent's Park and Regent Street may have influenced Thomas Read Kemp, who financed Busby and Wilds to design the original Kempdown.

Lecture programme devised by Dr Sue Berry, author of *Georgian Brighton*, and editor of the forthcoming *Victoria County History: City of Brighton & Hove*.

All lectures are on Wednesdays, commencing at 7pm. They take place at the Old Market, Upper Market Street, Hove BN3 1AS (apart from the final lecture on 14 April – see above). The Old Market bar is open from 6.30pm until 10.30pm, and you are most welcome to meet up with other members and friends there, before and after each lecture.