

STREET LAMPS AND TREES.

You may have noticed the disparate array of street lamps that adorn the majority of our streets within the Montpelier and Clifton Hill conservation area. Of course, when many of the streets were built street lighting did not exist. However, we feel that street lamps of an older design would be more in keeping with the area than the varied and often ugly modern replacements we now have. The only street with a complete set of older style lamps left is Clifton Terrace, right. These are original electric lamps, not gas conversions. They were made by BLEECO (Brighton, Lancing and Eastbourne Electricity Company) and were installed in the 1930s.

The current lamps have been grouped into four major types that we have arbitrarily designated A, B, C and D, although some additional odd variants also exist. Examples of these are shown below. The association has been in negotiations with the City Council who have agreed to fund the replacement of street lamps within our area following our cataloguing what's currently in place. The council have also agreed to fund the replanting of trees within the area. A number of trees have been lost over the years due to disease and road works etc. The details of the lamp and tree surveys can be seen at our website www.montpelierandcliftonhill.org (Area - Lamps and Trees). The surveys have been submitted to the council and we are awaiting a decision on when works will proceed. **RK**



2005 CHRISTMAS PARTY

On December 1st association Members and friends dressed in their finery were in full festive mood to enjoy the Christmas party at Montpellier Hall, hosted by our Chairman, Roger Amerena. Good company with plenty of good wine and delicious canapés were accompanied by harpist Mr Andrew Ballentyne. Fun was had by all when the generously donated prizes were raffled off. Mrs Marsh's raffle raised £350 for the Association. **GT**
(photos Paris Stone)



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THE
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Newsletter

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COACH HOUSE SAVED

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Brighton and Sussex University Hospitals NHS Trust is now planning its withdrawal from the hospital sites, which include the Royal Alexandra Children's Hospital and the first of these sites to be sold is the historic, grade II listed Clifton Hill Coach House.

The Trust is delighted that agreement has been reached for the sale of the Coach House to the City of Brighton and Hove Historic Buildings Conservation Limited. This organisation is assisting in making this building available for the establishment of the City of Brighton and Hove Historic Buildings Conservation Trust which will be restoring the building and developing it as a community centre and local museum for the Montpelier and Clifton Hill Conservation Area. This is part of the establishment of a historic buildings trust for the city to further develop similar conservation projects.

John Small past chairman of MCHA, secretary of the Regency Society announced the establishment of the Historic Buildings Conservation Trust at the Annual General Meeting of the Regency Society on Tuesday 4th April at the Royal Pavilion. "We are delighted that this development will be able to be progressed to provide a focus for historical amenities societies within Brighton and Hove". Lee Soden, Director of Facilities and Capital Development for the University Hospitals Trust, said "We are delighted that this grade II listed building will be saved and restored for the City of Brighton and Hove".

Funds are now needed to help the Trust purchase and restore the coach house.

To become a member of the Trust which will be in charge of restoration, please contact Mr Roger Amerena at rogeramerena@isiscapital.com, or Martin Foster on 01273 729998.



AWARDS

Winners of our Conservation Award

Kate and Richard Hall of 8 Montpelier Crescent were the deserving winners of the Montpelier and Clifton Hill Association Award, 2005.

Their house in the magnificent Regency crescent was recently renovated, decorated and converted back into a family home.

Photographed here for the Argus are Roger Amerena, MCHA's chairman, Mr. & Mrs. Richard Hall and Gabi Tubbs, the MCHA award organiser.



Award Schemes for 2006

Conservation Award

This year we will repeat this scheme and award a plaque for the best conservation project which members feel has improved our area. Gabi Tubbs

will be taking photographs of nominations. Interested members are asked to forward their suggestion to Martin Foster, 11 Victoria Street, BN1 3FP (tel. 01273 729998) by no later than 31st August. You need not necessarily be the owner of the nominated house, feel free to put forward what you think deserves an award.



Garden Award

This year we are thrilled to announce that we have a separate award scheme for gardens - small or large, courtyard garden or roof terraces, we look forward to receiving as many entries as possible. The winning garden will be awarded a year's membership of The Royal Horticultural Society. In this case the gardens do not have to be within the Montpelier and Clifton area. Gabi Tubbs is keen to visit your garden and take pictures for this award. The best time is between May and June when gardens are at their most beautiful. Again, please contact Martin Foster as above. We will be voting the winners at our autumn meeting (to be announced). **GT**

THEN AND NOW

Upper North Street

I moved in to Upper North Street in 1959, at that time it was decidedly run down, a number of the properties were let by the room and many had old sacking hanging in the windows in place of curtains. Although only a matter of yards from Western Road it had numerous shops, everything from a dairy to a fishmongers. It had two eateries, where a 2 course meal could be had for a half-crown (12.5 p), my local was The Princess Victoria. Much has changed now, the road is within our conservation area and all the properties have been done up. Nearly all the shops became antique shops, although I was heartened to see that a grocers, Saffron, has just opened at number 33.

The area was once part of medieval Brighton, as old as the sea front and The Lanes, although all traces of that heritage are long gone. In the 18th century North Street used to continue past Western Road and up what is now Dyke Road. A number of houses were built on the southern side of the eastern corner of what became Upper North Street (see photo right). Behind these ran a maze of alleyways within which was a working smithy. Those houses have all gone, replaced by the Crown House office block (top right), what a tragedy! Examining maps of the area one can glean that Upper North Street did not exist prior 1808, by 1824 the houses at the eastern end had been erected, and by 1838 construction had continued along the southern side almost to where The Windmill pub now stands. A path used to run northwards from there, what is now Clifton Place, up to two mills, Clifton Gardens mill and Vine's mill. The north side was then

developed, the larger houses in the middle section were built first with the smaller ones to the right and left following shortly after. By 1846 the road as it appears today was in existence. A remarkable feature still present in the 1950s was the pavement. From the road there was a grass verge running along both sides and then an all brick pavement. This too has now gone having been replaced with a mix of tarmac and flagstones. Views of the western end towards St Mary Magdalen's, taken around 1870 and 1965 respectively, are shown below, left.

I moved out of Upper North Street in 1977, I loved living there and will always have fond memories of that road. **Robert Gregory, Compton Avenue.**



PLANNING

Planning conservation success.

92 Montpelier Road, ref 2004/0479 listed building consent application.

On MCHA recommendation a council enforcement notice was issued on 14 contraventions, it was appealed against on the 10th Jan 2006. The decision was split, the developer was able to retain most of the alterations within the building other than the majority of the 164 down lighters distributed throughout the house! MCHA's concerns about the front elevation alterations were upheld at the appeal. The down lighters in the eaves will have to be removed together with the modern ceramic tiles to the steps, front path and the balcony. **RA**



ARTIST IN RESIDENCE

Visit one of our members, Myles Dacre, at The Villa Studio, 15 Montpelier Villas during the Brighton Festival (6th-28th May) where he will be showing indoor and outdoor sculpture, paintings and drawings along with fellow artist John Thompson.

Weekends only; 12 - 5pm;
tel. 07984 952608.

DIARY DATES

Our AGM will be held on Tuesday 30th May at the Brighton and Hove High School, 7.00 pm. After the meeting all paid up members will be invited to the coach house for refreshments, a talk on its future and singing by Donald McDowell and friends.

The Summer outing will be on Sunday 9th July to Hatfield House

The Late Summer outing will be on Sunday 3rd September to the Sir John Kederminster's Library and Pew at Langley Marish and Stonor Park.

The Autumn outing will be on Sunday 24th September to Walmer and Deal Castles in Kent.

In addition to the above there will be three local outings to Rottingdean Windmill on Sunday 21st May and the Brighton Sewers on Saturday, 3rd June.

Christmas party 2006, 7th December.

Champagne trip, April 10th-13th, 2007.

Please contact Martin Foster for further information.

OBITUARY

Helen Marsh of Park Royal, a stalwart member and fundraiser for MCHA, especially at the Christmas parties, unexpectedly passed away at the age of 92 this February. An active member of over 15 years despite her failing eye sight, she will be remembered for her joyous personality and will be greatly missed. **RA**