

1 Howard Road  
Reigate  
Surrey RH2 7JE

27 August 2007

Nina Porter  
Project Manager  
Reigate and Banstead Borough Council  
Castlefield Road  
Reigate

Dear Reigate and Banstead Borough Council,

Whilst the detailed decisions are being finalised for the restoration of Reigate's Priory Park, may I just point out Lady Henry Somerset's reminder that the area to the south front is still consecrated ground - in other words, sacred or hallowed.

My mother Audrey Ward's description of this area in her book *'Discovering Reigate Priory - The Place and the People'* (page 64) as a 'beautiful garden' and a 'peaceful retreat' should have guided the Borough Council rather than the current notion of a "Pleasure Garden" and designs based on an elaborate plaster ceiling encompassing Lady Henry Somerset's initials. It is necessary to mark the fact that it was originally a Priory garden. Has the Borough Council ever considered something more natural, in tune with the original intentions?

By the way, there are no grazing animals in the park nowadays so isn't the historical French ha-ha device completely superfluous and even a hazard? Will the Borough Council be able to keep it clear of litter?

Yours sincerely

Grace Filby

Churchill Fellow of 2007

cc. Mr and Mrs D.H.Ward  
Surrey Mirror newspaper