



Regency Square Area Society

NEWSLETTER 109
September 1995

Moan Moan Moan

If you were a Council official you might be forgiven for thinking that the people around Regency Square do nothing but moan. Hardly a month goes by that we do not write to the Council about something.

But it has always been so. Society member Phyllis Edwards is researching into local history and she recently came across some letters from a Mr Clarke of Ship Street who wrote to the Council in 1873 on behalf of the Regency Square Committee. to complain that one of the taps supplying water to Regency Square was not working.

The square now has sprinklers rather than taps. But things don't change because they don't work either. Well things do change actually because in 1873 the Council Works committee resolved to spend £13 fixing the taps that Mr Clarke had complained of.

Perhaps the reason they felt they had to fix it was that the Regency Square Committee, which had responsibility for maintaining the square, had paid the Council £5 for a tap and a water supply.

Let's Do It Again !

The Society has resolved to pick up where the old Regency Square Committee left off. We are planning to set up a Regency Square Improvement Fund. The money collected will be kept entirely separate from normal Society funds (which pay for the Newsletter, social events etc.) It will be used for real improvements to the Square.

What we can do will depend on how much we raise. The first fund raising event is a Grand Draw, tickets for which are now available.

Many local businesses and residents have contributed prizes.

The first prize is a flight to Paris for two. It has been donated by Raj Annamalei who is the proprietor of the Sussex Arts Club in Ship Street and has recently also taken over the Hotel George IV in Regency Square.

The second prize is a weekend for two at the Queens Hotel. Other prizes include a night for two with breakfast at the Grand, Regency and Topps hotels, and meals for two at Mama Mia, Casalingo, the Granville Hotel, the Oak Hotel, the Jasmine Restaurant, Il Teatro the Parthenon, the Dudley Hotel and Fudges.

The many other prizes include various bottles, a water colour, hair dressing, beauty treatments, vouchers for M&S, Boots and other local businesses, and much more.

Buy Your Tickets Today !

You can get tickets at the following places:

The Newsagents in Preston Street
The Pantry in Preston Street
Mama Mia in Preston Street
The Regency Hotel in Regency Square
Daisy Fresh Cleaners in Imperial Arcade
The Regency Tavern
The Sussex Arts Club in Ship Street
The porter's desk in Sussex Heights

Each ticket costs £1.

Several hundred tickets have already been sold !
So don't delay. Get yours today !

The Grand Draw

The grand draw will take place on October 19th 1995 at the Beach Hotel in Regency Square. Be there - and bring your tickets ! You may not go away empty handed !

Thanks

As the summer draws to a close it seems an appropriate time to say thank you to all those people in the area who have had flowers around their properties.

A special mention is deserved by the hotel and guest houses in Regency and Russell Squares, some of which have looked absolutely splendid.

Don't Bin It - Recycle

What will you do with this piece of paper when you have read it ? Don't answer that - but if you do have any old newspaper you need to get rid of, why not take them to the re-cycling bin at the bottom of Queensbury Mews. ?

Churchill Square - Latest News

The plans to re-develop Churchill Square have generated a lot of reaction - not surprisingly. The Society made extensive comment, as reported in Newsletter number 107.

The developers have now responded and we are pleased to report that they have already accepted some of our points.

One comment was that we were disappointed that there would be no improvements to the Cannon Place facade. They are now planning to improve its appearance by plastering it and painting it in cream.

They will also replace the rusty windows and heating vents.

The Society also objected to the closure of Regency Road. This is an important route into our area both for vehicles and pedestrians.

The developers say that the closure of the road is an essential part of their plans. It is the only way that a sufficiently large increase in shopping floor space and car parking can be achieved.

That is the bad news. The good news is that if you want to close a road and anyone objects, there has to be a public enquiry. So the battle to save Regency Road is far from over.

What's Happening on the Pier

The West Pier became a focus of journalistic interest during the summer when it was occupied by squatters who were protesting at being turned out of the nearby arches.

But two other pieces of news may well have much longer term significance for the future of the pier - if it is to have one.

The first is that the West Pier Trust has made a bid for National Lottery money - £33 million of it. If they are successful - or even partly successful - the future of the pier will be secure.

The other news is that Bryan Spielman has resigned as Chairman of the Trust. He took over in 1991 from John Smith. He has worked tirelessly since then to keep the Trust going, and to ensure that hopes of saving the pier did not disappear. He is now stepping down because of ill health.

His place is being taken by Admiral Lindsey Bryson, Lord Lieutenant of Sussex. A number of other new directors have also been appointed.

Should We Ask for it Back ?

It was about 47 years ago that Brighton Council took over responsibility from the residents for maintaining Russell Square. And the agreement under which they did so placed an obligation on them to maintain it properly.

Well, to be fair they have made quite a nice job of the gardens, which were laid out in their present form using money donated by a former resident.

However, the railings and kerbstones are a complete mess. We have been pressing the Council for months to do something. They have promised to paint the railings and to replace the kerbstones. They even told us that they had spare stones from the St Peters church site which they would be using.

But so far no action. Things move so slowly ! Perhaps after the next 47 years we might see some action !

Stone Street

The pavements in Stone Street need repairing. There is particular problem behind the Kentucky Fried Chicken restaurant where greasy water collects in potholes each time they wash down the loading area.

The Council had promised to do the repairs but they have now told us they will have to be postponed until the next financial year (starting in April 1996).

SOCIETY CONTACTS

CHAIRMAN Harold Lawson tel 328203
SECRETARY Pat McCulloch tel 773275
TREASURER Brian Smith tel 325175
NEWSLETTER Roger Hinton tel 321794

Ask Your Friends to Join !

To Brian Smith, 45 Regency Square, Brighton.

Please enrol me as a member of the Regency Square Area Society for the year commencing March 1995, 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

Name

Address

Cheques payable to the Regency Square Area Society please.