



Regency Square Area Society

NEWSLETTER 136

May 1998

It Pays to Advertise

Following the "Situation Vacant" ad in our last issue we now have a new Secretary. Andrew Walker of Chartwell Court has been a society member for several years. When he saw the ad he decided he would offer his services - an offer the committee was pleased to accept.

Brighton in Bloom

It's springtime and we are planning to join the Council's Brighton in Bloom scheme again. It will cost £212 for flower baskets on two lamp-posts in Regency Square. We are hoping the Council will also put flower troughs on the railings around the square as they have in previous years.

If you can make a donation to help meet the cost please send it to the Treasurer, Roger Hinton, 39 Regency Square.

Tis the Season ...

Good news for Christmas - the Council has confirmed that they will be providing us with a 25 ft Christmas Tree in Regency Square for at least one more year.

Star Sign

Following a request from the Society, the Council has replaced the street name sign in Clarence Gardens - and it has little stars around the name.

Where will the traffic go ?

Big changes are coming in Preston Street which will result in the loss of several parking spaces. Spaces will also be lost in Little Preston Street in order to make it easier for restaurant refuse to be collected.

But where will the cars go that used to park in these spaces ? Residents in Castle and Stone Street are worried that they will see even more illegal parking in their streets.

Or maybe when Preston Street is one way and more pedestrian friendly, less traffic will come into it in the first place. This could improve things in neighbouring streets.

We need to keep a close eye on what happens. In the meantime, the Society has written to the Council to ask for more resident spaces in Castle and Stone Streets to allow for the extra houses which have been developed there.

SRB - one day it may happen

Remember the plans to improve our squares with Single Regeneration Budget money ? The current position is that a consultants report was sent to the Heritage Lottery Fund in March.

The consultants will develop detailed plans (to replace the previous detailed plans). These will be the subject of a public consultation exercise "in May" - but don't hold your breath !

SOCIETY CONTACTS

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Residents ... what residents ?

Last month there were road works in Western Road which went on until 2 in the morning. Society committee member Diana Dunn, who lives in nearby Clarence Gardens, complained to the Council and managed to persuade them to stop at midnight.

The Council officer she spoke to explained that although he knew Brighton well he had not realised anyone lived near that part of Western Road !

No Noise News Yet

Engineers have been trying to solve the problem of noise from ventilation units on the Metropole Exhibition Halls.

We are still waiting for a report from the Environmental Health Officers about the noise. They spent a considerable time in Queensbury Mews, recently taking sound measurements - but since then we've heard nothing.

Except for the ventilation units, which are still disturbing residents.

Glaring Omission

Committee member, Pat McCulloch from Queensbury Mews was missed off the committee list published in the last issue. Sorry Pat !

News from Norwich

Many members will remember Richard Pau who was Society secretary for several years until he moved to Norwich. He is now retiring and emigrating to Australia where his wife Jaynie has been appointed Professor of Fine Art at the University of Melbourne.

Dialogue

We said to the Council, "When is the rubbish collected?"

The Council said to us "An every day collection service is operated in Regency Square, Bedford Square and Russell Square. All collections in these areas are in the afternoon between 3 pm and 5pm."

We said to the Council that collections often don't happen at the weekend and certainly not at the times mentioned. When collectors do come they miss some areas such as the north east corner of Regency Square.

The Council said to us that they had reminded the contractor "that he must provide a consistent weekend collection in the area including the north east corner of Regency Square."

We say

RUBBISH!

Collections still do not take place every day.

At the weekends the collectors often take rubbish from one side of the road and leave equally large piles untouched on the other.

New rubbish bags appear within minutes of the collection. Result: the streets are permanently littered with rubbish.

Collectors pick and choose what to take - for example a bag of rubbish can be removed but a piece of old carpet and a bit of hardboard apparently cannot. Recently an old cooking stove that had been dumped was left on the pavement for several days, even after it had been reported. It's all rubbish and the Council should take it away.

We have written to MP, David Lepper to ask for his help in persuading the Council to solve these problems and clean up our town.

They Can Do It on the Costa del Sol

Newsletter editor, Roger Hinton reports from Spain:

I recently spent a week in Marbella. No, I didn't get involved in any conversations about English football or women.

Marbella is a pleasant coastal resort with an "old town" in which the narrow streets are packed with restaurants, bars, shops, hotels, private houses and flats.

In some ways it's like Brighton. Everyone puts their rubbish out in the street. But that's where the similarity ends because Marbella's streets are clean and tidy.

How do they do it? Easy: the rubbish collectors come round the old town at the same time, early every (yes every) morning. So everyone puts their rubbish out late at night - and not at other times.

If they can do it, so can we. People would have to learn to put their rubbish out at the right time. But there is no hope of it working until rubbish collections happen consistently at the same time every day. That is a job for the Council.

Perhaps a couple of Council officers should go on an expenses paid trip to Marbella - it would be worth it if they could learn how to run a proper refuse collection service!

Councillors Have Their Say

In the last issue we reported a comment made at the AGM that none of our local councillors had come to the meeting.

Roy Pennington has written to send his apologies for not being there: he was at a Social Services meeting.

Now that Brighton and Hove is a unitary authority he has "more work load and hence, at times, less opportunity to attend local meetings at which in fact the major concerns tend to be precisely those which in the past we, as Borough councillors, could "pass the buck" back to the County."

Nimrod Ping, has also replied. He takes the slightly different view that it would not be right for a councillor to attend a Society's meeting unless invited. He thinks that "there may be occasions when the society would wish to debate matters in confidence, or indeed may be totally opposed to a Council policy, which would put a councillor, as a member of that society, in a completely invidious position."

He adds that he would be "most happy to attend any meeting at which you feel my contribution would be of interest, or if you would wish to present to me concerns you may have about any aspect of Council policy."

Both councillors have accepted invitations to our Society meetings in the past.

Is Your Membership up to Date?

If there is a cross in the box below it means your subscription is now due.

To Roger Hinton, 39 Regency Square, Brighton. ✂

I would like to renew my membership of the Regency Square Area Society for the year 1998/99 in the category ticked below:

	£
Ordinary member	4.00
Family	4.50
Senior Citizen	3.50
Junior	2.00
Associate (non-resident)	3.50
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