

REGENCY SQUARE AREA SOCIETY NEWS LETTER N°3 JUNE '79

A BIT OF HISTORY

The site of Regency Square was originally known as Belle Vue Field, named after Belle Vue House owned by Count de St Antonio. It was a well-known fair ground used for shows and reviews.

The present residential square was developed as a speculative enterprise by Joshua Flesher Hanson. Over the 10 years from 1813 the houses were built by the two building firms of Wild, the largest builders in Brighton at that time.

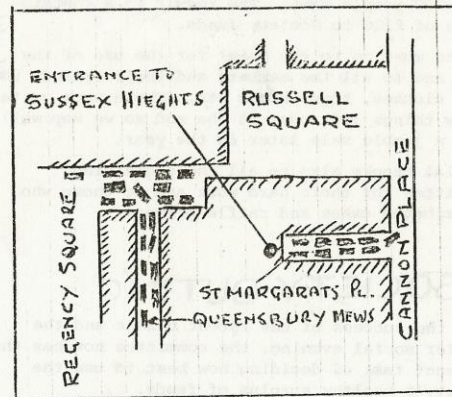
They built the ground floor portion of the facades in stucco and the rest in brick. Number 13 is the only house left in the square with this original exterior finish.

West Brighton with the Grand and Norfolk Hotels formed an almost self-contained town independent of Brighthelmstone with its smelly beach and fish market. It was soon felt that the west end should have its own pier where the delights of a promenade over the water could be enjoyed with steam boats from along the coast and the Isle of Wight.

The West Pier was opened in 1866 at a cost of £30,000. The people of elegant Regency Square protested vociferously against the pier being built opposite their homes. They said the square toll houses were an unsightly obstruction to their view of the sea.

And now we are fighting to keep it there. Times have changed! More history in future issues. Contributions welcome.

EXHIBITIONS THE TRAFFIC PROBLEM



The North East End of Regency Square and the whole of Queensbury Mews and St Margaret's Place are regularly blocked by lorries cars and vans for long periods when exhibitions in the Metropole are being loaded or unloaded.

According to figures worked out by the Council, each exhibition involves an average of 500 lorry movements in Queensbury Mews alone. There are 42 exhibitions booked already for the next twelve months.

During these blockages considerable delay would be caused if there were a fire or other emergency.

Residents have reported that on a number of occasions police officers and wardens have told them that these roads are closed and have prevented them from driving to their houses and garages. Are the police helping the lorry drivers to break the law by letting them block the road?

Our Chairman and other members of the Society have written to the police. As a result a meeting was arranged with Chief Superintendent Hooker who explained the police's point of view.

He confirmed that it is the police's responsibility to keep the roads open. They do not have the right to close them just to help the exhibition lorries.

He admitted that it was very difficult for the police to keep the roads open at all times. However, he was very aware of the problems raised by the Society and would see that everything possible was done to solve them.

If you find at any time that your way is blocked by exhibition vehicles ask the drivers to move. If they don't, call the police (tel.660744) and ask them to send someone to clear the road.

Make a note of what happens and send it to the Chairman (Eddie Edwards, 38 Regency Square) so that he can build up a full picture of the extent of the problem and go back to the police if it does not improve.

CLEAN UP THE SQUARES

As a result of the Society's contact with the Council a number of dust bins have been placed around Regency Square. There has also been a promise that bins will be placed in Russell Square and that the roads will be swept daily.

Do you think that the roads have been kept cleaner of late? Let the committee have your views (secretary, Carol Clipsham, 51 Regency Sq.)

OVERHEARD IN REGENCY SQUARE

A Council roadsweeper to his mate who had just picked some rubbish from the bushes: "Put it back - that's not out responsibility; that's Parks and Gardens."



COFFEE
MORNING

Jill Mason invites members to a coffee morning between 10 am and noon on Tuesday 10 July at Brighton House, 52 Regency Square. Admission 20p. All members very welcome.

LITTLE THEATRE

The next play to be presented at the Studio Theatre in Clarence Gardens will be The Black Swan Winter, a contemporary family drama written in 1969 by John Hale.

The production opens on Sunday 8 July at 7.30 pm and runs through until Saturday July 14; performances on the other nights start at 7.45 pm. Ticket from Mrs C Green telephone 778151.



The Regency Square Society

and

The French Connection

One of our members is preparing a talk on "Brighton and the French" to be given at the Brighton and Hove French Circle.

In a book by Clifford Musgrave called Life in Brighton there is reference to a Sussex - Normandy Fair held in 1966 at which, amongst other things, "wine was sold by the glass in the open in Regency Square."

If you remember this or any other French influenced event in Brighton, or even better if you have any photographs, please contact Suzanne Hinton, 38 Regency Square (tel. 21794).

GRAND BAZAAR. SUCCESS

Our first bazaar was held at the Portland House Hotel on 16 June. It was very successful and over 100 people came. The result is a contribution of £120 to Society funds.

Thanks must go to the Hotel for the use of the room and to all the members and their friends who gave clothes, toys, books etc. There were quite a few things left over at the end so we may well hold a jumble sale later in the year.

Special thanks also to all the organising committee for their hard work and to those who contributed cakes and raffle prizes.

A SOCIETY OUTING

With the success of the recent bazaar and the earlier social evening, the committee now has the pleasant task of deciding how best to use the Society's healthy surplus of funds.

One idea that is being investigated is for a Society outing using a hired coach. Society funds could be used to subsidise reduced prices for senior citizens and children.

What do you think? The committee will be meeting at the beginning of July to make a definite decision. Send your views on the proposed outing to the Secretary, Carol Clipsham (51 Regency Sq.) and she will pass them on to the committee.

Any other suggestions for spending the money will also be welcome.

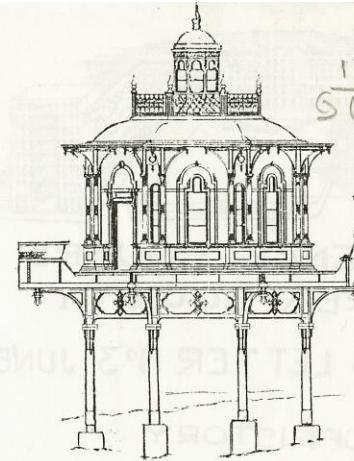
If an outing is arranged it will probably be in late August or September. Full details in the next newsletter together with a booking form.

WINTER IS COMING

The committee is considering what sort of events to organise in the winter months. Do you have any ideas for talks or other functions?

Some suggestions already being considered are whist drives, a firework display on November 5, a darts match in a local pub and a Christmas Party for the children.

Let the committee have your views and ideas.



Kiosk

THE WEST PIER GOOD NEWS!

The new Minister of Transport, Norman Fowler, has approved the Parliamentary Order for the Brighton West Pier Society Ltd to be able to purchase the West Pier, once the Society has access to £800,000 to repair it.

Professional fundraisers are preparing to launch a campaign to raise the money needed.

The West Pier Society are hoping soon to be able to open one of the kiosks on the front and mount an exhibition explaining to the public why the £800,000 is needed.

Car stickers, pens and badges are now available and many fund raising activities are being planned.

Join the West Pier Society and help to buy, repair rebuild and run our own West Pier. If you wish to help or to join the Society contact our chairman (Eddie Edwards Tel. 27935) who has been elected onto the West Pier Society Committee.

STOP PRESS! -

THE SHOP ON WEST PIER WILL OPEN SOON! CAN YOU HELP TO FORM A ROTA OF HELPERS?

£
175
505