



REGENCY SQUARE AREA SOCIETY NEWS LETTER NUMBER 19

THE WEST PIER - LATEST DEVELOPMENTS

Our Society was represented at a recent meeting of local community associations when the latest moves in the attempt to save the Pier were outlined.

At present there are two groups working in separate ways to save the Pier. Both were at the meeting to describe their policies.

The West Pier Society is the group which has been running a shop at the Pier entrance during the summer. Martin Foster, the Society's treasurer, said that the shop had been quite a success. As a result the Society now has reserves in hand with which they plan to start repair work.

Their first phase will be to repair a small area at the landward end of the Pier on which they plan to open a bigger and more attractive shop. They believe this will encourage support for their project since it will show that there are people who have actually done some repairs, even if only on a small scale.

The repairs will involve the replacement of some of the girders under the landward end to make it safe. However, they believe that using voluntary labour the first phase can be completed for a few hundred pounds, a sum which they have readily available.

The other group is the West Pier Trust headed by John Lloyd. Their approach is totally different. The Trust has succeeded in getting an Act of Parliament giving them the right to own the Pier. They will be able to buy it from the present owner, the Crown Estate, for £100 as soon as they can show that they have access to £300,000 with which to start repairs.

Brighton Council has now agreed to take part in a joint study group to be set up by the Trust. The aim of the study group will be to examine whether in the long term the Pier could be a commercially viable business. The Trust see this as a major achievement since it is the first time that any of the West Pier campaigners have been able to get the Council involved in serious discussions about saving the Pier.

Both groups claim that their two approaches are not in opposition. It will be interesting to see which, if either makes any progress.

This is only a brief report of the current state of play. If you are interested in hearing more detail on any points contact Roger Hinton who represented the Society at the meeting. (Tel 21794)

FIRE WORK NIGHT NOV. 5TH BANGERS AND BANGS

Don't forget the Society's firework party to be held on Regency Square at 7 pm on Thursday 5 November.

Every one will be welcome - members and friends. Food and hot soup will be provided - and of course a firework display.

If the weather is too bad the party will be postponed until the next fine evening.

CHILDREN'S PARTY JAN. 10TH

OLD TIME SOCIAL EVENING JANUARY 19TH.

Make a note of two dates planned for next January. On the 10th we are planning a post Xmas party for the children.

This will be followed by a social evening for the adults on Tuesday 19th. We are hoping to get some live musical entertainment. Period costume will be the order of the evening so now is the time to start digging out those o. hats etc.

Look out for more detail in the next newsletter.

ON THE AIR

Next Friday - 5th November - look out for ATV film cameras which will be filming on location outside numbers 26 & 27 Regency Square.