



REGENCY SQUARE AREA SOCIETY

NEWSLETTER NUMBER 35

December 1984

This will be our last newsletter in 1984 so the Society committee would like to wish all members a very merry Christmas and a happy New Year.

We are planning two social events early in the new year.

Meet BUZZ the clown

The first is a children's party to be held at 3pm on Sunday 6 January. Thanks to the generosity of the proprietor, it will be held in the cafe on the lower seafront next to the boating pool.

There will be music, dancing, games and a party tea. The high spot of the afternoon will be entertainment by Buzz the clown. Many children will remember Buzz from his popular shows on the beach deck last summer.

Tickets for the party will cost £1.50 for members' children and £2 for guests. Parents come free and are welcome to stay and watch the fun if they wish.

You can get tickets from Roger Hinton at 38 Regency Square. Please book early and bring your friends.

Dinner by Starlight

The second social event is something for the adults.

On Thursday evening January 10th the Society will be taking over the Starlight Room restaurant on top of the Metropole Hotel for a dinner and dance.

Tickets will cost £9.95 which covers the a three course meal with coffee, including VAT. Wine and gratuities are not included.

There will be live music for those who like to dance.

Tickets can be obtained from Roger Hinton at 38 Regency Square. Members and guests will be welcome. Please book early so we can tell the hotel how many will be coming.

WHOSE LAW ?

On the morning of Sunday December 2nd a large crane was being moved into Queensbury Mews to lift some equipment out of the Metropole Exhibition Hall.

It was so big that it took about half an hour for it to negotiate the corner at the top of the mews. At one stage it came dangerously close to hitting the house on the corner and the crane arm had to be lifted to prevent it from doing so.

The main reason for the problems was that there were cars parked all along the street, as there always are.

These cars were parked quite legally. Even so staff from the Metropole produced police no parking cones which they placed along the sides of the road to discourage other vehicles from parking when a space appeared.

Do they have the right to use police signs to ban parking on the street ?

Staff from the Metropole also bounced one car onto the pavement to create room for the crane to move. Do they have the right to move other people's cars and put them on the pavement where they are then illegally parked ?

This is just one occasion out of many when staff from the Metropole have taken it upon themselves to behave as if they were police officers or traffic wardens.

On other occasions they have blocked off St Margaret's place and turned taxis and other cars away which wanted to get through to Sussex Heights.

Heavy vehicles have parked for hours on double yellow lines in Cannon Place, apparently with the approval of traffic wardens.

Drivers who have tried to drive down St Margaret's Place while an exhibition was being loaded have been subject to verbal abuse from exhibition staff.

Who administers the traffic law in this area ? Is it the police or is it the Metropole Hotel ?

The Society is having discussions with the police about this on-going problem.

If you have any experience of incidents similar to those described please send details to Harold Lawson, 7 Chartwell Court. If possible make a note of times, dates and vehicle numbers.

IN MEMORY

A new park bench will soon appear on Regency Square in memory of Eddie Edwards, our founding chairman who died in September.

The bench will be paid for by subscriptions from members and from Society funds.

The Council Parks department have kindly offered to obtain the bench for us and fix a memorial plaque to it.

LITTER

Let's make a new year resolution to try and clean up the streets of litter.

In recent weeks the problem of litter in our area has been getting worse and worse. The pavements and roadsides are permanently strewn with plastic bags full of rubbish, discarded building materials and other debris.

In Regency Square recently a large glazed door was left on the pavement. When the wind blew it over the glass smashed. As a result broken glass lay on the pavement for days.

At least one dog suffered a cut foot as a result and more serious injuries could have occurred given the large numbers of people who walk through the square both by day and night.

There seem to be two main causes of the problem.

One is litter which blows over from Churchill square and other shopping areas. The other is that many residents in the area do not seem to have adequate rubbish bins and so leave their household rubbish in the street. These plastic bags soon get torn open by animals or irresponsible pedestrians.

What can we do ?

We are contacting the Council to find out how often they are supposed to sweep the streets in this area. We will make a strong plea for more regular sweeping.

Meanwhile, we should all try to ensure that we are not adding to the problem and encourage our neighbours to do the same.

Some people live in properties where the landlord does not provide adequate rubbish bins. But that is no excuse for leaving rubbish around the streets. There are large litter bins available, such as those at the top of Regency Square. These are emptied daily by the Council.

Save our Post Office

The Post Office at the corner of Hampton Place is threatened with closure next year. Local people are objecting strongly that it should be kept open.

Many elderly people living in the area rely on it to collect their pensions. The local Labour party has organised a petition against closure. Our borough councillors organised a survey of local opinion which they have submitted as evidence that it should stay open.

The Society Chairman wrote to the postmaster asking why this particular office was being closed and arguing that since it was usually busy it should stay open.

Here are some extracts from the reply:

"...we are considering closing Hampton Place not because there are too few customers but because the building in which it is housed is very costly to maintain..... there are two other main Post Offices plus a sub-post office within half a mile.... the generally applied criterion for provision of Post Offices in urban areas is that they should normally be not less than a mile apart..... the proposal to close Hampton Place results from the need to reduce the overall cost of providing counter service so that we can use the money saved to modernise and introduce new technology."

These arguments will provide little comfort for those who in future will have to battle through crowds in Western Road and North Street, or climb the steep hills behind Western Road to collect their pensions or post a parcel.

The final decision is not yet made. The Head Postmaster did say in his letter that he would take our feelings fully into account before making a final decision.

We should therefore make sure he is in no doubt about what we think.

The Post Office is a publicly owned monopoly. We do not have the option of going elsewhere if we are dissatisfied with their service.

So we must tell them what we think. If you want to see Hampton Place kept open then write to the Head Postmaster and tell him so.

He is

Mr Michael L Hayes
Head Postmaster
51 Ship Street
Brighton
BN1 1AA

And remember, you hardly need to put a stamp on a letter to the post office.

Since the Post office is a nationalised industry it is also worth writing to our MP. He is

The Rt Hon Julian Amery MP
The House of Commons
London SW1

A Fine Night

Monday November the fifth was a fine clear night, just right for a firework display.

People from all over the area gathered on Regency Square to watch the Society's fireworks. Good food, music and a mini-bonfire all added to the party atmosphere.

At one point one of the youngsters threw a banger into the fire which caused something of a shock but fortunately nothing worse. How can we teach young people the dangers of fireworks ?

Some people suggest banning them altogether but that would have robbed us of a very enjoyable evening.

Many thanks to all those who helped with the organisation and the excellent food. And a special thanks to the member who donated the fireworks.



HAPPY CHRISTMAS