



## Regency Square Area Society

# NEWSLETTER 54

May 1988

## Bench Cleaning

Spring is here and it is time to clean our two benches in Regency Square.

Members will be meeting at 11 am on Sunday 5 June at the top of Regency Square. Please come and help. All materials will be supplied. All you need is enthusiasm and a bit of elbow grease.

Afterwards we will have a picnic. Bring your lunch - and something to sit on - the benches will be wet with varnish.

## PETITION REJECTED

The Society submitted a petition to the Council asking for the centre green of Regency Square to be fenced and made dog free.

The reason was that the Home Office will not allow more than one third of any open space to be dog free.

However, the Council hope soon to introduce "poop scoop" byelaws which will require dog owners to clear up after their dogs in certain open spaces. Regency Square will be included.

## PARKING

New rules about residents parking are proposed. They will mean that there will no longer be a waiting list. This in turn will mean that more residents will have permits so there will be more pressure on spaces.

In order to try and reduce the number of non-residents parking illegally in residents' places, the Council plan to reduce the number of yellow lines to provide more public parking.

The Society is opposing any reduction in yellow lines in this area. The streets are already too crowded with parked cars. Some space is needed.

## BUILDING EVERYWHERE

Big things are happening in our area. Development work has started at last on the George IV Hotel: most of it is going to be converted to flats; a huge hole has been dug at the rear where an extension is being built.

The ballroom and restaurant of what used to be the Portland House Hotel have now been demolished in Queensbury Mews to make way for 5 town houses. It was in the ballroom that the founding meeting of our Society was held almost ten years ago.

A planning application has been made for town houses and sheltered flats on the Regency Mews site. Previously permission had been given for a large office building on part of this site. The Society has welcomed the new scheme which will provide more residential accommodation and will not involve such a large building.

We are opposing plans for an office building in Preston Street next to the launderette. The proposed development would be much higher than adjoining buildings and would completely block a side window in one.

## HOW SILLY

After requests from local people the Council has planted some bushes on the lower east side of Regency Square. Within a week they were dead because of lack of water. What a waste !

## SUBSCRIPTIONS PLEASE

Subscriptions for 1988/89 were due in March. A few members have not yet re-newed. Please use the form below to re-new your membership.

To Harold Lawson, Treasurer, Regency Square Area Society, 7 Chartwell Court, Russell Sq, Brighton.

Please renew my membership of the Society for the year ending 28 February 1989 in the category of membership shown below.

|                          | £    |
|--------------------------|------|
| Ordinary member          | 3.00 |
| Family                   | 3.50 |
| Senior Citizen           | 2.50 |
| Junior (8-18)            | 1.00 |
| Associate (non-resident) | 2.50 |
| Business (non-resident)  | 5.50 |

Cheques payable to the Regency Square Area Society.

Name

Address



# LITTER

The newspapers have been full of the Clean Up Brighton Campaign. The streets are still full of rubbish.

The Society was invited to take part in the campaign and at first we thought it was a good idea. We planned to spend a Sunday morning cleaning Preston Street.

Then we thought about it a bit more and decided it would be pointless. Within a few days things would be just as they were before.

The solution to the litter problem must lie with the Council who have responsibility for regular cleaning of the town. So we wrote to the Council to that effect. Our letter received coverage in the press.

Our main point was that rubbish collection is badly organised. Road sweepers do nothing about bags of rubbish in the street; nor do they do anything about rubbish in the gardens. The team who empty the litter bins drive past piles of bags of rubbish in the street if they are not next to a bin. Rubbish collection times are changed without people knowing so rubbish is left out for days uncollected.

Our criticisms were not well received. The road sweepers took them as a personal attack on the way they do their job. In fact it was the management that we were criticising.

The Director of Technical Services, the Council's senior officer responsible for cleansing, did apologise for the confusion about collection times over Easter. He also said that responsibility for keeping the town clean must be shared with the people who use it because it is they who create the rubbish.

This is true up to a point though we would still argue that once the litter is there, the Council must clear it up.

What is to be done? We have decided to try to encourage better habits amongst residents. We will be producing a leaflet which we will distribute to everyone in the area. It will give advice on how to dispose of rubbish and how to get rubbish cleared once it has been dumped.

## Annual General Meeting

The AGM was well attended and we had a very useful discussion about a number of issues. Perhaps the most important point for the committee was that members gave a clear indication of what they think the Society should be doing.

Firstly we must continue to act as a pressure group, trying to protect and improve the environment. Secondly there was support for the idea of meetings, similar to the AGM, at which a speaker gives a talk and shows slides. The general feeling was against informal social evenings with entertainers, of the kind we tried, unsuccessfully, to organise earlier in the year.

The meeting ended with an illustrated talk by Geof Mead who took us on a tour of central Brighton illustrating with some excellent slides how at one time there had been a flourishing market garden industry in the town. All the streets called "Gardens" were in fact market gardens.

Many thanks to the Metropole Hotel for the use of the Starlit Room for the meeting and to the Brighton and Hove French Circle for the loan of their projector and screen.

## COUNCILLOR MEMBERS

The election of Andy Winter as a councillor for Regency Ward means that all three councillors for this area are now members of the Society.

## West Pier

The Pier is still there even though one section has been removed for safety reasons. The fact that it was not blown away in the storm last year suggests that it could still be there for many years to come.

The Trust which owns it is now trying to find a developer who would be willing to invest in it. They have asked estate agents, Stiles Harold Williams to publish an invitation to potential investors to become a partner with the Trust. If a partner is found they could eventually become the owner of the Pier once it had been restored.

Once restored, the Pier would provide about 100,000 square feet of space for leisure and shopping use. This includes a large new glass roofed building at the shore end of the Pier designed by Machin Designs.

If you know anyone with £8 million or so who would like to own a Pier contact Neil Cooper (tel 21200).

### YOUR COMMITTEE

At the AGM in March the following officers and committee members were elected:

Roger Hinton, Chairman, 38 Regency Square Tel 21794  
Richard Pau, Secretary, 40 Regency Square Tel 26711  
Harold Lawson, Treasurer, 7 Chartwell Court Tel 28203  
Ros Boulden, Queensbury Mews  
Clive Buxton, Adelaide Hotel  
Kate Dessau, Abbots  
Joyce Evans, Regents Court  
Ken Kennar, Russell Square  
Pat McCulloch, Queensbury Mews  
Trudy Tappin, Sussex Heights

Please contact any of the committee if you have a problem or suggestion that you think the Society can help with.