



Regency Square Area Society

## NEWSLETTER 60

MAY 1989

### Bench Cleaning

Spring is here, and it is time to give our bench in Regency Square its annual clean. This year we only have one bench to clean because the other one has been stolen. However, thanks to the generosity of an anonymous member a replacement has now been ordered.

Cleaning will take place at 11 am on Sunday 28 May, weather permitting. Come along and lend a hand - or just encouragement.

### Don't be a Drip

Two residents of Regents Court in Regency Square, who had been away for several weeks, returned home to find their flat wrecked. Ceilings had collapsed and furnishings were ruined by water.

The cause was a tap dripping into a blocked kitchen sink in an unoccupied flat. The water eventually penetrated right through the building. The moral is: turn of your supply at the stopcock when going away, even for a couple of days.

### TOWAWAYS

One of the issues raised by members at the AGM was the way in which the tow-away squad works. It was suggested that contractors vehicles get preferential treatment and that vehicles are still towed away even though the owners may have returned to them.

We have been in touch with the police about these points. They were unable to comment on the way in which vehicles are selected for towing.

However, they did clarify the rules about what happens when an owner returns while the tow-away team is taking a vehicle. The rule is that if the wheels have been lifted off the road then the vehicle has been "towed" and will be taken to the pound. If the wheels are on the road, or on the lifting gear but not yet lifted, then the vehicle can be released and the owner will only have to pay the parking fine.

### END OF THE BREEZE

The Breeze into Brighton traffic scheme has been scrapped. We had opposed it in relation to its effect on Preston Street which would have become a major, one way bus route.

Our survey of residents and traders in Preston Street showed the vast majority to be against the scheme. We passed on these views to the Council.

So, what happens now? Brighton still has big traffic problems. On 17 June there is to be a conference; speakers with experience of how other towns have tackled traffic problems will give their ideas on what could be done here.

The conference will be open to the public. One of our committee members will be attending and we will report the outcome in the next newsletter. Watch the press for details of the venue if you want to go, or telephone one of the the Society officers nearer the date.

### Have YOU Paid ?



#### SUBSCRIPTIONS

Subscriptions are now due for 1989/90. Please send your subscription today to the Treasurer.

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 1990 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

## PIER BATTLES

The West Pier Trust which owns the West Pier, has resumed its old habit of fighting in public.

The current battle is between two groups on the Trust's governing board. The majority group, led by chairman, John Smith, want to go ahead with the £28m development scheme proposed by Merlin International.

This scheme involves re-building the theatre at the far end one storey higher to create a large exhibition/entertainment space. It also involves a large building at the shore end facing Regency Square.

The problem with the scheme is that it will change the pier so much that it will be unable to retain its status as a grade one listed building and will lose the government grants that it has been awarded.

The minority group, including veteran pier campaigner, John Lloyd, wants to preserve the Pier much more in its original form. The problem with this view is that it requires very large sums of money to be found for restoration, many times more than the grant which will be lost under the other scheme. In spite of many years of effort the Trust has still not found financial support on anything like the scale required.

Members of our society differ in their views about what should happen to the pier. Some think it should be re-developed and others that it should be demolished as soon as possible. The committee has therefore avoided coming down for or against any particular scheme.

However, we do believe that if there is to continue to be a pier opposite Regency Square, then a scheme like Merlin's offers the best chance of achieving it. We therefore believe that the Trust should take the steps needed to allow Merlin to work out their scheme in detail.

It will then be submitted to the planning process, which in this case will involve both local and central government. At that stage everyone will have a chance to see the proposed scheme in its full detail and to have their say on whether it should be built.

If the Merlin scheme is rejected now, then we will be back to square one, with an ever deteriorating pier and little or no money to do anything about it.

The Trust has called an extraordinary general meeting of all its members for 7 pm on Friday 26 May at the Old Ship Hotel. A decision will be taken then as to which direction the Trust should take.

## Planners Apologise

The Castle Snooker Club in Castle Street has tried yet again to get permission to stay open later. Local residents were naturally concerned when they received a letter from the Planning Officer telling them that the application had been approved.

In fact, this was a brilliant piece of official "logic". In fact the hours of opening of the club are to remain the same. All that was approved was use of the roof top car park, and even this was subject to a condition that a sound proofing barrier be erected around it first. Once the barrier is in place the car park can be used between 8 am and 7 pm, seven days a week.

The opening hours of the club remain as before, 9 am to 11 pm Monday to Saturday and 10 am to midnight on Sunday.

In a letter to the Society the Planning Officer said "I apologise that local residents when notified about the outcome of the application were not given details of this condition and may consequently have been misled."

## PETWORTH

The Kingscliffe Conservation Society are organising a coach trip to Petworth on 20 May. Members of our society have been invited to join them. The charge is £6 (or £4 for National Trust members). Tel 683436 for information.

## Thanks !

Our tenth Annual General Meeting was held at the Metropole Hotel at the end of March. Many thanks to those who helped to organise it.

Special thanks to the General Manager of the hotel, who gave us the use of the room, and the staff who set it up. Also to Jackie Penfold of the Regency Tavern who helped with the buffet, and the Brighton and Hove french Circle for the loan of their projector and screen.

## Your Committee

No new committee members were nominated at the AGM but two members have been co-opted since then; they are Pat Millson and Jonathan Phipps. The full committee is now as follows:

CHAIRMAN: Roger Hinton  
39 Regency Square  
Tel 21794

SECRETARY: Richard Pau  
40 Regency Square  
Tel 26711

TREASURER: Harold Lawson  
7 Chartwell Court  
Russell Square  
Tel 28203

MEMBERS: Ros Boulden, Queensbury Mews  
Clive Buxton, Regency Square  
Joyce Evans, Regency Square  
Pat McCulloch, Queensbury Mews  
Pat Millson, Regency Square  
Jonathan Phipps, Kings Rd  
Trudi Tappin, Sussex Heights