

Regency Square Area Society

NEWSLETTER 61

AUGUST 1989

A New Bench

Thanks to the generosity of an anonymous member we now have a new bench at the top of Regency Square. It replaces the previous one which was stolen. Both the Society's benches are now padlocked to the railings so hopefully they will stay put. Keys for the padlocks are kept by Society chairman Roger Hinton (Tel 21794) and Secretary Richard Pau (Tel 26711).

The previous bench was in memory the Society's founding chairman, Eddie Edwards so a commemorative plaque is being made for the new one.

Collection Day Changes

Don't forget the new arrangements for rubbish collection over bank holidays. At the moment most bins in the Regency Square Area are emptied on a Thursday. After the August bank holiday this will change to Friday.

SOCIETY CONTACTS

Roger Hinton (Chairman) Tel 21794
Richard Pau (Secretary) Tel 26711
Harold Lawson (Treasurer) Tel 28203

The Pier

Following a meeting of the West Pier Trust last month the fight to restore the Pier has moved one small step forward.

The meeting was called to resolve a dispute amongst members of the Trust's Board of Directors. Some Directors believed the Pier should only be restored in its original form; others believe that it only has a future if it can be developed commercially, which probably means an enlarged building at the far end and a new building at the shore end facing Regency Square.

At the meeting the latter view won majority support. Let's hope this means an end to internal disputes within the Trust because such arguments only serve to sap what little confidence potential developers might have.

Merlin International is the development company which is now hoped to come up with firm plans for the commercial development of the pier. Once those plans are submitted for planning approval, local people will have a chance to have their say and a definite decision about the Pier's future can be made.

DIARY DATE

We are planning a meeting of the Society for Thursday 12 October at the Metropole Hotel. There will be a talk about the history of this area illustrated with slides.

Full details in the next newsletter; meanwhile, make a note in your diary!

Turn it down !

Don't forget that while the weather is warm and your windows are open a loud radio or TV may disturb your neighbours. Please, keep the volume down, or use headphones.

Save your Paper !

There will be a waste paper skip at the end of New Road on the first weekend each month. So why not do your bit for the environment: sort out your old newspapers and magazines from the other refuse and take them down to New Road once a month.

SUBSCRIPTIONS

A few members have still not renewed their subscriptions for this year. If there is a cross in the box below it means your subscription is still due. Future newsletters will only be sent to paid up members.

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

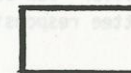
Please renew my membership of the Society for the year ending 28 February 1990 in the category of membership shown below.

	£
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



RUBBISH No Improvement

About a year ago the Society complained to the Council about the amount of rubbish being dumped illegally in the streets. Plastic bags full of domestic refuse are often left on the pavement days before a collection is due; the road sweepers and litter bin emptiers ignore them.

The Council's reply was that they were aware of the problem; their proposed solution was to devote more effort to enforcement of the litter laws: bags would be opened to find evidence of who had dumped them; the offenders would be sent bills asking them to pay for the removal of the rubbish. If they persisted they would be prosecuted.

The Council were unwilling to simply pick up rubbish that had been dumped because that would encourage more people to dump rubbish.

We accepted these ideas but we also started a regular survey to find out if the Council's proposed way of solving the problem actually worked.

A year later the answer is clear: it does not. We have surveyed the whole area once every two or three weeks, counting the number of rubbish bags. Although numbers vary from week to week the overall picture, to emerge from the survey, is of a steady level of dumping. The one large peak is over the Christmas period when refuse collection became totally chaotic.

Not only has the situation on the streets stayed the same but figures supplied by the Council indicate that they have not been successful in tracking down the offenders. There has been only one prosecution in the whole of Brighton

This is an unacceptable situation. We are seeking a meeting with Councillor Ian Duncan who is chair of the Council committee responsible.

Listed Buildings

Many buildings in our area are listed as being of architectural or historic interest. They include the whole of Regency Square apart from numbers 46A to 50. These are the small houses between the Regency Tavern and the top of Queensbury Mews.

The Society was asked recently if we wished to nominate any additional buildings for listing. We have decided to suggest these remaining few buildings in Regency Square, together with the Regency Tavern itself.

Not only buildings can be listed but also street furniture. So we are also suggesting the two bollards in the twitten outside the tavern. These feature in the opening shot of the Boulting Brothers' 1947 film of "Brighton Rock" and create the typical Brighton view through from Russell Square.

If our suggestions are accepted it will mean that the pleasant north east corner of Regency Square will be further protected from unsympathetic development.

POOP SCOOPS

The lower two greens of Regency Square are to be included in the Council's new "poop scoop" scheme which will come into effect in the Autumn. Special waste bins for dog mess will be provided; they will have plastic liners and will be emptied once a day by the Council.

At first the scheme will be voluntary but once the bye-laws are approved early next year, those exercising dogs on the greens will be obliged to clear up after them. The exact wording of the bye law is:

Every person in charge of a dog (other than a registered blind person in charge of a dog) which is within the grounds who, without reasonable excuse, fails to remove forthwith from the grounds any faeces deposited by the dog shall be guilty of an offence.

The bye law also says that it will "not be a reasonable excuse that a person in charge of a dog did not have with him any means of removal of the faeces".

After the Breeze

Following the rejection by the Council of the Breeze into Brighton traffic scheme, a conference was organised to consider possible next moves in the fight to solve Brighton's traffic problems.

Jon Phipps represented our committee at the conference and reports some of the points to arise:

Conference convenor, Roy Edgely explained that any alternative to "Breeze into Brighton" must be generated from the grass roots up and not imposed from above without proper consultation.

Hove and East Sussex Councils must be involved in any future transport studies. To treat Brighton traffic problems in isolation from those of its neighbours would make an incomplete solution.

International experts spoke giving examples of successful traffic management schemes but it was depressing to note that almost all the success stories were from the continent.

One speaker highlighted the popular myth that new or wider roads help solve congestion. This myth is exploded by the M25 (Europe's largest car park). The idea that you can build your way out of congestion was abandoned by the rest of Europe years ago. The powerful transport lobby at Westminster ensures that the UK retains this obsolete policy.

It became clear during the course of the day that a great many people care passionately about keeping their town a uniquely attractive place in which to live and work, or visit. To lose this to an ill thought out, unpopular and unnecessary scheme must be avoided. A popular solution with grass roots support has still to be found.