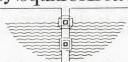


Regency Square Area Society



NEWSLETTER

April 1991

THANKS

Many thanks to all those who helped organise the annual general meeting last month. A particular mention must go to those who prepared the food.

Also, thanks to the Metropole Hotel for the use of their newly re-furbished Chartwell Room (known previously as the Starlit Room), and the Brighton and Hove French Circle for the loan of their projector and screen.

Robert Gregory took us on a fascinating wander around some streets and and buildings that no longer exist. It was interesting, but also rather depressing to see such a graphic illustration of how our area has changed.

Finally thanks to all those members who came to the meeting, and especially to those who contributed to the discussion. The committee will be considering all the ;points raised. Keep reading the newsletter for progress reports.

SOCIETY CONTACTS

CHAIRMAN Roger Hinton: tel 21794 SECRETARY Richard Pau: tel 26711 TREASURER Harold Lawson tel 28203

Bench Cleaning

Make a note in your diary for 11 am on Sunday 19 May. We will be cleaning the two Society benches at the top of Regency Square.

Many hands make light work, so please come along and help if you can.



Is this the beginning of the end for the West

Pier?

The Council has decided that the section of the pier which is on the beach now poses a safety hazard to the public. So they have served a dangerous structure notice on the West Pier Trust.

This means it must either be repaired or demolished. The Trust has applied for permission to demolish it. The result will be a huge gap between the very small re-furbished section at the promenade end, and the remaining section out at sea.

And just as another section of the pier disappears, so to, it seems, do hopes that it will be re-developed.

Merlin International, the company which was planning to turn the pier into a major tourist attraction, was described in a recent Financial Times Report as being "on the verge of collapse". It reported a £26 million loss for the year to June 1990 and is now the subject of a controversial takeover bid.

Last year the West Pier Trust were negotiating to sell Merlin an option to lease the pier. The deal, which would have brought the Trust a much needed £10,000 has not materialised.

The estimated cost of re-developing the pier goes up every time anyone gets out a calculator. Merlin were talking of spending £30 million. Anyone know a friendly billionaire?

Dogs on Patrol

The car park underneath Sussex Heights offers a convenient hiding place for anyone intent on no good. Following a spate of burglaries and vandalism in Queensbury Mews we asked the Metropole Hotel if they could increase security patrols in the car park.

The manager has assured us that they are increasing their security generally. However, the car park is actually the responsibility of NCP who are arranging for it to be patrolled regularly by a security firm using dogs.

TIME TO RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP

Subscriptions were due for re-newal in February. If you haven't re-newed yet please send your subscription to the treasurer using the form below.

Do you have any friends or neighbours who might be interested in the Society's activities? If so, please encourage them to join.

To Harold Lawson, 7 Chartwell Court, Russell Square, Brighton.

Please renew my membership of the Regency Square Area Society for the year 1990/91 in the category ticked below:

	t
Ordinary member	3.00
Family	3.50
Senior Citizen	2.50
Junior	1.00
Associate (non-resident)	2.50
Business (non-resident)	5.50

Name

Addrag

Cheques payable to the Regency Square Area Society please

Communal Bins -No Thank You

The Council is considering the idea that the problem of domestic rubbish in the street could be solved by having communal rubbish bins for use by residents.

The Society has thought carefully about this idea but has decided not to support it.

Communal bins pose a number of problems. It would be difficult to find suitable locations since no one will want them near their own homes. And yet if they are hidden away out of sight they will be less likely to be used.

The people who dump rubbish in the street seem happy to leave it outside their own house rather than take it to a litter bin. So what reason is there to think they will take it to a communal bin?

The bins could be marked for residents use only but they would be a great temptation to some of the local small traders who have to pay to have their rubbish removed.

The answer to the problem is not more bins. It is a better cleansing service. An area as densely populated as this needs more than one collection a week. And those who are involved in cleansing need to work more closely together to ensure the streets are clean.

New legislation recently came into force which imposes strict new duties on the local authority in relation to cleansing. The Society will be investigating the implications of this new law to see if it provides us with better means of putting pressure on the Council for a decent cleansing service.

COMING SOON

The Little Theatre in Clarence gardens has two interesting productions planned for next month:

4 - 11 May Are You Lonesome Tonight ? by Alan Bleasdale

18 - 25 May The Crucible by Henry Miller

Of Black Bags and Black Bins

At last some common sense: in January we complained to the Council that although litter bins in Regency Square were emptied daily, any bags of rubbish dumped near them was left.

We have now had an assurance from the Senior Cleansing Officer that as from Easter, the bags will also be cleared daily.

He has also suggested that the bins could be replaced with smart black ones which would be fixed to the ground like those in Churchill Square. He has asked the Society's views on this proposal and has suggested that perhaps not so many bins would be needed.

If you have any views on this idea please contact Roger Hinton (tel 21794).

Skip Skip Skip

As a result of the two bank holidays over Easter, the normal collection day for rubbish in most of our area is now Friday.

And just as you get used to that, it will move to Monday after the May bank holiday, and then to Tuesday after the late Spring holiday.

The Council call it "skip a day". We call it a good system for ensuring that people put rubbish out on the wrong day.

The Haunted Pub

Next time you take a drink in the Regency Tavern, keep half an eye open for the ghost. The story is that a young crippled girl lived on the first floor when the building was a cobblers shop. One day she smelt gas and leapt to her death.

Her ghost still lives there now, or at least so says Tim Carder in his Encyclopædia of Brighton.

This amazing book is packed with stories about Brighton, some of which might even be true. You can buy it at The Royal Pavilion shop for £11.95.

Buses Keep Out !!!

Plans to pedestrianse Churchill Square and redirect buses down Cannon Place have met with overwhelming opposition in this area.

The Society has sent an objection to the Council and has written to all residents in the areas immediately affected giving them details of the scheme.

Society member, John Valentine of Russell Square organised a petition of residents. He collected 100 signatures.

The Metropole Hotel has objected to the increased traffic in Cannon Place which will make the loading and unloading of exhibitions even more difficult than it is now.

If democracy means anything this scheme will be thrown out.

Committee Members

The members of the existing committee were all reelected at the Annual General Meeting. They are:

Roger Hinton	Regency Square
Richard Pau	Regency Square
Harold Lawson	Chartwell Court
Ros Boulden	Oueensbury Mews
Clive Buxton	Regency Square
Kate Dessau	Abbotts
Joyce Evans	Regents Court
Pat McCullock	Queensbury Mews
Pat Millson	Regents Court
Jon Phipps	Kings Rd
Stephen Wynn	Clarence Cdns
	Richard Pau Harold Lawson Ros Boulden Clive Buxton Kate Dessau Joyce Evans Pat McCullock Pat Millson Jon Phipps

We have no committee member representing Sussex Heights. The committee can co-opt members so if anyone is interested in joining please contact Roger Hinton or Richard Pau.