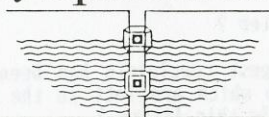


Regency Square Area Society



NEWSLETTER 74
July 1991

A TRIP BACK IN TIME

There is a Regency house in Brunswick Square which is being restored to its original condition. The owners are painstakingly replacing all the original features.

We have arranged a visit to see the house at 4 pm on Sunday 21 July. The owners will show us round and tell us about the architect, Charles Busby, who designed it and many of Brighton's other sea-front buildings.

The tour lasts about 30 minutes and a fee of £3 per person is charged by the owners as a contribution to the cost of their project.

If you would like to join the group please telephone Roger Hinton (21794).

WHAT A MESS !

Clarence Square and Russell Squares are a mess. They have been re-surfaced but the new surface is almost as bad as the old one and the loose gravel has spread all around the area.

We have written to the Council to find out why they have made such a poor job of this work but have not yet had a reply.

And to cap it all, no sooner was the road re-surfaced than it was dug up again in Russell Square to lay pipes for the new buildings in Regency Mews.

IS THIS THE END OF THE PIER ?

There will be an extra-ordinary general meeting of the West Pier Trust on Tuesday 16 July at the Norfolk Hotel.

One of the motions before the meeting calls for the Trust to be wound up on the grounds that the amount needed to restore the pier is more than could ever be raised by charitable donation.

Two other motions call for the Trust to continue its fight to save the pier.

This crisis in the Trust's life has been caused by a number of factors. Merlin International, which was planning to invest £28 million in the pier has now withdrawn. The Council has demolished the section of the pier on the beach at a cost of £30,000; the Trust will be asked to pay this bill but since it is already in debt it will not be able to do so.

What will happen to the pier if the Trust is wound up ? Ownership of it will probably pass back to the Crown Estates from whom it was bought by the Trust. After that it is anybody's guess.

If one of the other two motions is passed then the Trust will need to re-new its attempts to raise money to restore the pier. One way they will try to do this is to exploit more fully the small restored section at the northern end. This could include locating gaming machines on the lower promenade under the pier.

The meeting for Trust members, where these motions will be decided will be preceded at 7 pm by a public meeting. Admission will be by ticket only because of limited space. Tickets can be bought from the Trust office on the pier between 11 am and 2 pm from Monday 8th to Friday 12th of July. They cost 50 pence.

The future of the pier itself is as un-certain as ever but the future of the Trust that owns it will probably be decided on July 16th.

SOCIETY CONTACTS

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

MORE POLICE PLEASE

A member recently saw a group of people pushing over the lamp standards around the paddling pool and throwing wooden benches into the pool.

It was the weekend and the hour was late. Presumably their activities were part of the evening's entertainment.

Late night vandalism is common on the lower promenade. The beach chalets opposite the paddling pool are broken into frequently.

What can be done ? We have asked the police whether it would be possible to provide more frequent patrols late at night.

IS YOUR SUBSCRIPTION UP TO DATE ?

Most member have now re-newed for the current year (starting last March) but a few are still outstanding. If there is a cross in the box, please send your subscription to the treasurer, using the form below.

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

Please renew my membership of the Regency Square Area Society for the year 1991/92 in the category ticked below:

	£
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

Address

Cheques payable to the Regency Square Area Society please.

A cross in
the box means
your sub. is overdue

THE COUNCIL LISTENS TO RESIDENTS !

Bin lorries are regular visitors to Little Preston Street where rubbish from restaurants piles up daily.

The problem is that cars park on the east side, where the rubbish is left, thus making life difficult for the bin men. Why not park the cars on the west side ?

This question, which was raised at our AGM, was put to the Council.

The answer is that in 1989 the Council did consider just such a change. They wrote to all the residents of Little Preston Street to ask their opinion.

They got one reply, an objection from someone living on the west side.

So they decided not to do anything.

We always say that the Council should consult local people. It seems they did, and they acted on what they heard.

FIRE !

Flames leapt into the air in the early hours of Thursday 20 June and thick smoke filled Regency Mews.

The cause was the road sweepers yard in Castle Street. A fire which started in a rest room took two and half hours to bring under control and left the old building on the south side of the yard a ruin.

WHAT A FLAP !

The Fitness Factory in castle Street has fitted two large banners above its front door.

Their aim is presumably to advertise the business but they also flap in the wind. At night this can create quite a noise and keeps local people awake.

The banners were put up without planning permission. Retrospective approval is now being sought and local people have raised a petition in opposition.

THE "SQUARE" HOUSE

The issue which most seems to concern members at the moment is the state of number 32 Regency Square, the house with the word "Square" at the top.

More people have approached the Society to ask for something to be done to improve its appearance than about any other subject.

The house is privately owned and it is not easy for the Society, the Council or anyone else to force the owner to improve its condition.

However, the Council does have some powers to ensure that listed buildings are properly looked after. We have written to the Planning Officer pointing out that this building is in a very prominent position and that all the other properties along the top of the Square have been recently re-decorated.

One of the reasons why the house is in such a poor condition may be that it is a "house in multiple occupation" which means that it probably does not produce much of an income for the owner. A planning application for conversion to self-contained flats was rejected after an appeal to the Secretary of State.

A new planning application has now been made for conversion from 15 non-self-contained units to one self-contained unit and 10 non-self-contained.



WHEN IS A SPADE NOT A SPADE ?

Regular readers will know that we have devoted more column inches of the newsletter to litter than to almost any other subject.

But what is litter ?

One of our biggest complaints has been about the bags of rubbish which are left in the street for days on end. Is this litter ?

According to the Council it is not. They have reached this conclusion after studying the Government guide-lines on street cleanliness. These guide-lines, which are issued under the Environmental Protection Act, give the public the right to require the Council to clean streets within a specified time if they contain a specified level of litter.

If bags of rubbish were litter, we could phone the Council and ask that they be removed and the law would require them to do it.

But since rubbish bags are not litter, we can't, or at least so says the Council.

We are trying to find out whether the Government thinks bags full of rubbish are litter. So there are still a few more column inches to come !

DON'T LET IT LIE !

While the legal experts grapple with definition of "litter", we still have rubbish lying in the street.

If you see a pile of un-collected rubbish, phone the Council and ask for it to be moved. The call is free if you use this number

0800 525573

The man to speak to is the Area Inspector, Mr Tracy Andrew.