



**NEWSLETTER 79**  
**February 1992**

## IT DOESN'T GO AWAY

"It" is 32 Regency Square and what doesn't go away is the problem of how to get its facade repaired

In a recent Argus article Stuart Corson of the Prince Regent Hotel says that he believes potential hotel customers are put off by the state of the property.

In reply, planning officer Chris Whitwell explains that repair work to the interior of the building will start soon and expresses the hope that the owner will also repair the facade.

However, a surveyor employed by the owner of the property claims that "it will be some years before the outside can be improved." He blames the Council for this: an application for conversion to self-contained flats was turned down by the Council who wish to retain single room accommodation. According to the surveyor, single room tenants do not provide sufficient income to meet the cost of the necessary repairs.

We have written to the planning officer urging the Council to take enforcement action on the grounds that a listed building is being allowed to fall into dis-repair. Too much time has been wasted, waiting and hoping that the owner will repair the property voluntarily.

Out of fairness to the many property owners in the square who do maintain their properties, the Council should use its enforcement powers without further delay.

## CABLE TV IS COMING

TV fans may welcome the increased choice that cable TV will offer. But what will the cables do to the environment. ?

Information is sketchy at present but it seems that the cable company has a legal right to dig up the pavements, without any approval from the Council. In areas like Regency Square, which still have paving stones, this could create a very unsightly mess unless they replace the paving stones properly.

There are also fears that junction boxes will be installed on the pavement. One expert has quoted a figure of one box for every 30 households. In areas with large houses divided into flats this could mean a box every 5 or 6 houses.

There is apparently a right of appeal against the location of a box, but only after it has been installed.

We are trying to find out more precise information.

## MONDAY IS THE DAY

Rubbish collections for most of this area are now on Monday.

If you see rubbish in the street at other times, please call the Council and ask them to move it. You can telephone free of charge on 0800 525573.

## ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The Society's AGM will be held at 7-30 pm on Friday 4 April at the Metropole Hotel.

Refreshments will be provided and the meeting will be followed by an illustrated talk on the Royal Pavilion by Ken Francis who is a Pavilion guide.

Full details in the next newsletter.

## SOCIETY CONTACTS

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

**Brighton Little Theatre, Clarence Gardens**

**next production:**  
**SMALL CRAFT WARNING**  
**by Tennessee Williams**  
**March 8 - 14**

**Details: phone Brighton 205000**

## PUT THE COUNCIL ON THE SPOT

Did you know that each of the Council's main committees holds a regular public question time ? Questions must be submitted in writing in advance and will be answered by the Chair of the committee. the questioner is then allowed one follow up question.

For more details call the Committee Secretaries on 29801.

## SUBSCRIPTIONS PLEASE !



Subscriptions are due for re-newal at the end of this month. Please send your subscription to the Treasurer using the form below:

To Harold Lawson, 14 Chartwell Court, Russell Square, Brighton.

I would like to re-new my membership of the Regency Square Area Society for the year 1992/93 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.



## WHAT NEXT IN WESTERN ROAD ?

Some members responded to our request for comments of the Western road traffic scheme. Views are divided on the overall question of whether the scheme should become permanent, so we have decided to restrict the Society's comments to points of detail.

We have written to the Council with the following points:

- traffic calming measures are needed to slow traffic down in Western Road;
- pelican crossings are needed to allow the disabled, especially the blind, to cross in safety;
- the "No Vehicles" sign at the top of Preston Street is confusing and drivers still turn down Preston Street; the sign should say "No Entry" and proper road markings should be provided;
- double yellow lines outside the betting shop in Clarence Square make it impossible for residents of Clarence Gardens to stop at any time, even to unload; single yellow lines might be better;
- much of the road layout work has been left un-finished, for example at the top of Preston Street; it needs to be tidied up and properly finished off;
- residents' parking spaces in Crown St and Dean St are reserved for residents of those streets; some residents of nearby streets, such as Clarence Square/Gdns feel that they should also be able to park there.

If you want to make a personal comment on the scheme, write to Mr R A Divine, Head of Legal and Democratic Services, Brighton Borough Council, Town Hall, Brighton, BN1 1JA. The closing date for comment is 10 May.

### KEEP ON PHONING

Don't forget to phone the Council if you find rubbish dumped in the street. The free number to call is

0800 525573.

## WEST PIER NEWS

In a recent letter to members of the West Pier Trust, chairman Bryan Spielman reported a number of interesting developments.

The illuminated sign saying "WEST PIER" has been restored and is to be re-installed on the theatre building. A power supply has also been provided by means of an underwater cable so it is hoped to be able to light up the sign as a reminder of happier days in the pier's history.

New survey work has raised hopes that the eventual cost of restoring the pier and its buildings might be "considerably less than any of the guesses which have been given in the press or on radio in recent times."

The area under the pier has been tidied up and hoardings erected. These are to have murals painted on them by local schools which it is hoped will be unveiled during this year's Brighton Festival.

The Trust hopes to raise some money by renting space to small businesses. These could include amusements below the pier and increased activity on the new deck by the rock shop.

Finally there are plans to improve the appearance of the Concert Hall by painting it. "Nimble volunteers" are needed. If you are interested, contact the Trust via its office on the pier behind the bicycle hire shop.

## ALL QUIET ON THE WEST PIER FRONT ?

Those with good memories will re-call the awful day a few summers ago when a mechanical organ was located on West Pier next the Rock Shop as part of a charity event. It played the same tunes over and over again all day.

The owner had left someone in charge who did not even know how to turn it off !

The West Pier Trust is hoping to increase its income by renting space to more businesses. We have asked them to insert a clause in their rental contract requiring the businesses not to make noise likely to disturb local residents.

We have also urged the Trust to take action to prevent the new deck area being used as a car park.

## BANNERS BANNED

The Fitness Factory in Castle Street erected two advertising banners above their entrance without planning permission.

They appealed against a refusal of permission and the appeal has now been rejected. So the banners should be coming down.

## PLANS FOR CHURCHILL SQUARE ?

In a recent letter to the Society, Council chief executive, Glynn Jones says "We are hopeful that major plans for the area will be forthcoming in the near future with a view to re-furbishment being completed in the next three to five years."

Meanwhile Standard Life, who lease the Square from the Council, are planning some short term improvements: the "Spirit of Brighton" statue is to be demolished and an illuminated bandstand erected.

The steps down to Cranbourne Street, by the butcher's shop, are to be widened.

A planning application has been made to pave over the area outside the Prince of Wales pub and allow tables and chairs to be located there. The Society has asked that this should only be allowed, provided the disabled parking spaces can be suitably re-located.

## RE-CYCLING CENTRE ? NO THANKS !

A recent report in the Argus stated that Regency Square was one of a number of sites under consideration for a re-cycling centre, involving "wheelie bins".

We are totally opposed to such an idea. Look at the glass banks in Norfolk Square and Montpelier Crescent: they are ugly and attract litter. It would be completely un-acceptable to locate similar disposal units in Regency Square.

The Council lays down strict rules about how properties in the Square must be painted. They also prevent owners from making changes to the appearance of their property which is out of keeping with the architectural heritage of the area.

How can this same Council propose to locate waste disposal units outside these historic buildings ?