

## Regency Square Area Society

NEWSLETTER 82  
June 1992

### One Law for the Big and One for the Small

A large commercial vehicle was parked for 24 hours in Regency Square near the top of Queensbury Mews. It was occupying a resident's bay and the double yellow lines.

The parking warden gave it a ticket but it was too big for the tow-away truck to move.

When another large vehicle came by it could not turn down the mews because of the first one. So the occupants started man-handling a car opposite onto the pavement to give them turning space. The car, which belongs to a Society member, was legally parked. Fortunately a neighbour persuaded them to stop moving it.

There is something wrong here. Small cars are towed away quickly enough when illegally parked, even if they are not causing an obstruction. This large vehicle, which was really in the way, got convenient 24 hour town centre parking for the price of a parking ticket.

### On the Buses

The Society has been given copies of the Summer 1992 bus map showing routes throughout East Sussex. If you would like a copy contact the Chairman (Tel 21794).

#### SOCIETY CONTACTS

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

### West Pier to be Re-opened - in 1999

This is the plan laid out by the new Directors of the West Pier Trust in their recently published "Plan of Endeavour".

Things have already started to happen: the illuminated West Pier sign has now been restored; hoardings have been built to hide the mess under the pier; these will soon be decorated with a mural painted by local school children. This will be inaugurated at 11am on Friday July 3rd on the lower promenade and every one is welcome.

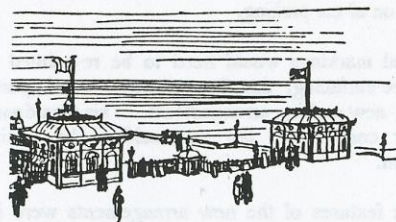
There are also signs of increasing activity on the restored upper deck of the pier. A new kiosk has been erected, possibly the first of several. Various activities such as aerobics are taking place.

But what of the longer term?

The Trust's document sets out its plans to restore the pier over the next few years ending with a grand opening in 1999.

It does all depend of course on money being forthcoming. The latest estimate of the amount needed is £15 million. The Trust hopes to raise much of this by means of donations and grants. They recognise that some of it will have to come from commercial investors and that this in turn may mean some commercial development at the shore end.

The Trust's AGM will be held at the Metropole Hotel at 7-45 pm on 10 July. Non-members will be admitted as observers, so if you want to know more about the Trust's plans, that is the time to find out.



### Half a Job Done

This year's bench cleaning exercise was only half a success.

It was a beautifully sunny Sunday morning but only two members arrived to do the job. After cleaning and oiling one bench they ran out of time and energy and so the second one was left untouched.

### Throw Away the Key

The Society's two benches are chained to the railings in Regency Square to prevent a repeat of the incident some years ago when one was stolen.

The chains are locked with high quality weather proof padlocks. Unfortunately an inquisitive passer by has undone both the waterproof covers over the key holes. As a result they are now jammed. In spite of a liberal dose of penetrating oil in the keyholes, the keys will not turn.

Not that it really matters until we want, to move them. But it is sad that one person's careless action can ruin other people's good intentions. Life's like that!

### HAVE YOU PAID YOUR SUBSCRIPTION?

Some members have not yet paid their subscription for the current year. If there is a cross in the box below, your subscription is overdue. Please help to keep the Society strong by renewing today!

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.



Special Sticky Tar Issue  
See over for the full story.



## IT'S A LONG STICKY ROAD

It all started when Brighton Council decided - not before time - to re-surface Regency Square.

They used a "cost effective" method known as re-tread which is suitable for roads with little traffic. The result was that grit from the road was thrown up by passing cars.

It found its way into basement areas where it blocked drains and into front lobbies where it damaged carpets. One member swept a whole rubbish bag full of grit from around his property and put it out for the bin lorry to take away.

It seems that the Council had failed to allow for the fact that Regency square is a heavily used road. The other fact they overlooked was that the sun sometimes shines on Brighton.

When it did, the tar, exposed beneath the grit, melted. Pedestrians shoes carried it onto the pavements and from there into hallways to further damage carpets.

## The Council Gets the Message

Council officials soon began to realise that something was wrong. One member who complained was told by an officer in the Environmental Services department to send in an estimate of the cost of cleaning her carpet. Eventually the Council sent a letter to all residents of the Square which apologised for the inconvenience and stated that a new surface would be laid on Thursday 4 June.

That day came and went with no sign of any work being done. Meanwhile a lorry came round to spray more grit onto the melting tar.

Where will it all end? Presumably a proper surface will eventually be laid. But why do we have to suffer all this chaos in the process?

### Brighton Little Theatre, Clarence Gardens

next production:  
**Arms and the Man**  
by Bernard Shaw  
28 June - 4 July

Details: phone Brighton 205000

## The Society has its Say

The Society has been putting pressure on the Council throughout. When the "cost effective" surface was first laid we wrote to the Council to say it was not adequate because of the high levels of traffic in the Square.

We have also written to Councillor Peter Squires suggesting that there should be an investigation of the way in which the project has been managed. We wrote to him because he had asked for the Society's support in Brighton's campaign to keep responsibility for roads in the Borough. After discussion at the AGM we did give support on the ground that Brighton Council was nearer and easier to kick than East Sussex when things went wrong.

## Blame it on Lewes

In his reply Councillor Squires made two important points. The first is that although Brighton Council has been responsible for road maintenance in the town, it has had to work under strict financial constraints laid down by the County Council.

The second is that the Borough has lost its fight and the job of looking after the roads will now pass to the County. Since the County already holds the purse strings we cannot expect this to result in any more money being spent.

## Cars Cars Everywhere and not a Place to Park!

The story does not end with the road surface. There is also the question of car parking.

Since road markings would need to be re-painted after the original re-surfacing, the Council took the opportunity to introduce new parking arrangements. This was done without any prior consultation but was said to be a six month experiment.

The main features of the new arrangements were increased residents' places and parking on both sides of the eastern carriageway.

In the last newsletter we asked for your views on these new arrangements so that we could formulate the Society's comments on the experiment. Some members have made comments and we will report on these in the next issue.

## Those who Speak First Get Heard

A group of hoteliers who were very unhappy with the new scheme quickly complained to the Council. As a result the Council now plans to revise the scheme when the road is re-surfaced. The changes will involve swapping the positions of some residents' and voucher bays, providing more voucher bays and changing some double yellow lines to single thus allowing further two sided parking. The single yellow lines in the underpass by the car park exit will be changed to double - a change advocated unsuccessfully by the Society for many years.

The Society's view is that these changes should not be introduced now, regardless of whether they are desirable or not. It was wrong of the Council to introduce the original scheme without consultation. It is also wrong to make major changes to the scheme during the experimental period to take account of the views of those people who have objected quickly. Others, including the Society, may well have comments which they were delaying making until the scheme had been in operation for a while.

Regardless of whether the revised arrangements are introduced, the scheme is still experimental. In the next issue we will examine its pros and cons in detail and report on members' views. If you have a comment please send it to the Chairman at 39 Regency Square or telephone 21794.

**Late News:** contractors have announced that surfacing work in Regency Square will start on 18 or 19 June subject to suitable weather.

## 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.**



## Friday is the Day

Following the bank holidays in May, the rubbish collection day for most parts of this area is now Friday.

It should stay the same now until the August bank holiday.

The Society is planning to distribute a leaflet reminding people which day to put out their rubbish.