



NEWSLETTER 83 August 1992

Watch Out

There are thieves about !

Basement flats are particularly at risk. Several have been broken into in Regency Square in recent weeks. Keep your doors locked - preferably with a mortice lock that is more difficult to force.

Windows should be locked so that they cannot be opened simply breaking the glass and reaching in.

Car break ins are also increasing both in car parks and on the street. There was a whole series recently in Queensbury Mews.

The carpark door in Queensbury Mews was blocked recently by NCP to remove a quick escape route for thieves operating in the carpark. It has had to be opened again because it is a fire escape.

Residents in Queensbury Mews and the north east corner of Regency Square are planning to meet to form a neighbourhood watch scheme - contact Roger Hinton (21794) for latest developments.

And keep your eyes open. If you see anything - phone the police (tel 606744 or 999 in an emergency).

SOCIETY CONTACTS

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



A Date for your Diary

There will be a Society social evening in the York Room at the Metropole Hotel on Thursday 1 October at 7-30 pm.

Full details in the next newsletter.

Just Like That !

Twelve months ago the West Pier Trust was a bankrupt organisation. Its debts exceeded its assets by thousands of pounds and there was serious talk of it being wound up.

Its new annual accounts published last month show a financially sound organisation with strong reserves. How has this been achieved ? By employing an accountant who reached parts of the balance sheet others cannot.

The Trust's new accountant, who is giving his services free, noticed that the root end of the pier was shown in the old accounts as having no significant value. He also noticed that the Trust was earning rent from it.

If it earns rent it must have a value. So he decided to re-value it. The new accounts show it as being worth £170,000. This figure was arrived at by estimating the rent that the Trust expects to earn from it over the next six years.

This means that the Trust hopes to earn £28,000 a year in rent, almost double what it earned in 1991. There are already signs of increased activities: market stalls operate on the beach below the pier. There are plans to erect more kiosks on the upper deck.

There are plenty of ideas around: one member of the Trust even suggested erecting a restored Sussex farm barn on the upper deck !

Brighton Little Theatre, Clarence Gardens

next production:
Single Spies
by
Alan Bennett
16 - 22 August 28 June - 4 July

Details: phone Brighton 205000

Living with the Colonel



Whether Kentucky Fried Chicken deserves a place in a "Where to Eat in Brighton" guide is, perhaps, a matter of opinion. One thing that is not open to doubt is that the restaurant in Western Rd certainly doesn't get any awards for good neighbourliness.

The restaurant's back door is in Stone Street where residents have become increasingly fed up with the colonel and his friends.

Whenever the back yard was washed down, greasy water spilled over the pavement and into the road. After considerable pressure including a letter from the Society, the restaurant has now installed a drain which partly solves that problem.

What it doesn't do is reduce the noise from refrigerated lorries that deliver at 6-30 in the morning.

Colonel Saunders is now applying to open his restaurant earlier in the morning, in order to compete with his fellow countryman, Ronald MacDonald over the road. Residents, who fear that this may lead to even earlier deliveries are opposing the application and the Society is supporting them.

Delivery lorries should not be allowed in a narrow residential streets at times when people are likely to be still in bed.

A DAY OUT IN ROCHESTER

The Kingscliffe Conservation Society has organised a coach trip to Rochester.

It is on Wednesday 5 August leaving Brighton at 10am and returning about 7 pm. The cost is £6.

Rochester is an ancient city on the river Medway. You can visit the Norman Castle, and the Charles Dickens Centre or take a trip on the river and see Chatham dockyard (entrance fees extra).

For details or to book a place telephone Ray Sheridan (684040) or Jean Penney (694240).

Parking in Regency Square

What do you think of the new parking arrangements in Regency Square ?

The new scheme is experimental. At its next meeting the Society's committee will decide whether to support the new scheme, criticise it or say nothing.

THE ISSUES !

The Council has been issuing more and more permits so it was becoming increasingly hard for residents to find a space. The new scheme provides many more residents' spaces, not only in Regency Square but also in Russell and Clarence Squares.

BUT - residents still find it hard to park in the evening when anyone can park free on their spaces. Why not apply the "residents only" scheme for longer hours.

BUT - it would be hard to enforce at other times when less traffic wardens were on duty.

BUT - the tow-away trucks operate all the time and, presumably, pay for themselves

BUT - the tow-away trucks are already very unpopular and are in danger of frightening visitors away from Brighton.

BUT - why not change the residents' scheme so that people with permits could park free on voucher spaces. Then there would be no need for special residents' places.

BUT - that could mean even less spaces for visitors. Brighton competes with other resorts and shopping centres. People with money to spend travel by car. If parking is made too difficult they will go elsewhere. Hoteliers in the Square have already complained about the new arrangements and persuaded the Council to provide more spaces for visitors, mainly by increasing the overall number of on-street spaces.

BUT - this results in parking on both sides of the road almost all the way round the Square. One of Brighton's finest pieces of architectural heritage looks like a carpark and it is now more dangerous to cross the road to get to the green especially for children and elderly people.

BUT - do we need to clutter up the road with cars ? There is a huge car park under the Square, built at public expense. It is largely empty most of the time. Why not put the cars in there and keep the road way safe and attractive ?

BUT - drivers don't like using the carpark. It is dirty and smelly. It is expensive. There is a higher risk of car theft than in the street. Single women feel at risk on its deserted stairways.

BUT - the Council could improve it. Clean it up ! Install more lights ! Install video cameras ! Ask the police to drive through regularly ! Put up signs advising drivers to park on the bottom level near the pay booth ! Bring down the prices !

BUT the Council does not have any money to do these sorts of things.

BUT ...

THE QUESTIONS

The Society must decide whether or not to comment on the experimental scheme.

We need your views on these questions:

Are there enough or too many residents' spaces in Regency Square ?

Do you think there should be parking on both sides of the road around the Square ?

Are the double yellow lines in the underpass at the southern end of the Square an improvement on the single yellow lines which were there before ?

Should the present residents' scheme be replaced with one allowing residents to park free on any voucher space ?

Should residents' spaces be reserved for residents for longer hours than at present - if so, for how long ?

Should the Council spend money improving the car park - if so, where should the money come from ?

Please send your answers and any other views to Roger Hinton, 39 Regency Square.

GIVE THEM A LEAFLET !



Why do some people insist on putting rubbish in the street days before the collection ?

Perhaps they don't know when the collection is - it's Friday morning in most of this area.

Perhaps they don't think anyone cares about rubbish in the street.

Now you can tell them when the collection is and show them that you care by giving them a leaflet. A copy is enclosed with the newsletter and you can get more by phoning Harold Lawson on 28203.

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.

