

NEWSLETTER 84
September 1992

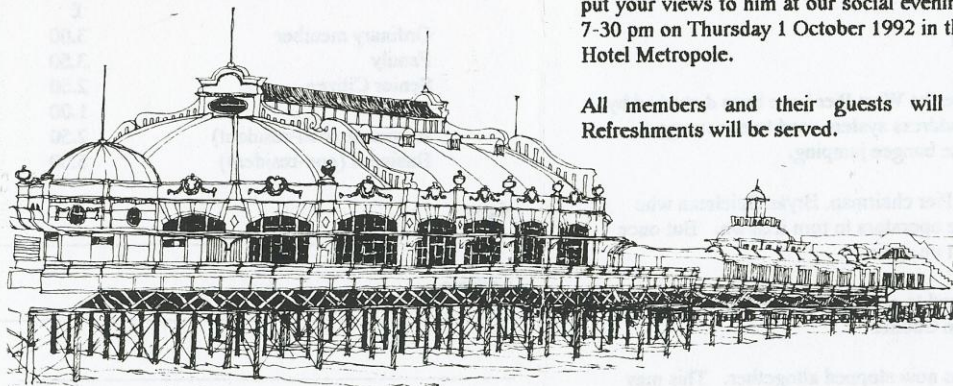
The Future of the West Pier

a meeting with Bryan Spielman
Chairman of the West Pier Trust

7-30 pm
Thursday 1 October 1992

York Room, Hotel Metropole

Refreshments will be served.



The Future of the West Pier

The past twelve months have seen lots of activity around the West Pier. There is a feeling that after many years of inactivity things are beginning to happen.

One of the main causes of this new lease of life for the West Pier campaign is Bryan Spielman who was elected as the new Chairman of the West Pier Trust last year.

He has worked hard to bring the pier back into the public eye and the earn money to keep the Trust going. There are now activities such as aerobics and bungee jumping; the cafe by the paddling pool, which is owned by the Trust, has been refurbished; the north end of the concert hall has been painted and the old West Pier sign is back on the theatre at the far end.

A planning application has now been made by the Trust to put 16 more kiosks, a tent and five flagpoles on the shore end of the pier. The Society is looking closely at these plans.

All the new activity helps earn money to keep the Trust going from day to day. It will not, of course, save the pier. Bryan Spielman and his fellow directors are well aware of this and have produced a strategy document called "Plan of Endeavour" which sets out how they hope to have the pier fully restored by the end of the century.

Just what are the Trusts plans ? What will they do with the new kiosks and the tent ? How will they raise the money needed to restore the pier ? What will be the impact of all this activity on local residents ?

You will have a chance to hear Bryan Spielman's views and put your views to him at our social evening. It will be held at 7-30 pm on Thursday 1 October 1992 in the York Room at the Hotel Metropole.

All members and their guests will be very welcome. Refreshments will be served.

A Letter from the Chairman

Dear Friends

After much careful thought I have decided not to stand for re-election at the Annual General Meeting next March.

I became chairman in 1984. Before that I had been Treasurer since the Society was formed.

I feel personally that I need a break from holding office. I also think that the Society needs a change.

I will continue to support the Society and hope very much that it will flourish and grow even stronger under new leadership.

Yours sincerely

Roger Hinton

High Finance

The Treasurer has moved the Society's account from Barclays Bank to the Woolwich Building Society.

The reason for the move was that the bank had introduced bank charges. This means that the Society was being charged for banking services as if it was a small business. Although the local manager tried to get the rules waived he was unsuccessful.

The Woolwich account will not be quite as convenient and will mean some extra work for the Treasurer. However it will save the Society about £50 a year in charges.

SOCIETY CONTACTS

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

Parking in Regency Square - your views

Several members have responded to our request for views on the new parking arrangements in Regency Square. Views differed considerably as shown by the following sample:

The number of parking places is about right.

The times for residents parking are about right.

Residents parking should be for the full seven days at all times.

Tow away trucks should be used more frequently.

Roadside parking should be reserved for residents and loading/unloading for hotel guests etc.

The cost of parking in Brighton is prohibitive.

Double sided parking makes Regency Square look like a car park.

Crossing the road with a small child is more difficult.

Double parking creates difficulties for large vehicles.

Given this wide diversity of views it has not been possible for the committee to formulate a Society view. We have therefore decided not to send any comment to the Council from the Society.

If you would like your views to be considered when the scheme is reviewed you should write to the Director of Corporate Support Services, Town Hall, Bartholomews Square, Brighton.

Many thanks to those members who responded to our requests for comments.

New Rubbish Collection Day

Following the August bank holiday rubbish is now collected in most parts of this area on a Monday.

Action at Last !

The Council has finally taken formal action to improve the facade of number 32 Regency Square. This building occupies the most prominent position in the Square and has been falling into a worse and worse state as the years go by.

The Society has been pressing the Council to take action. To be fair Council officers have been negotiating with the owner for some time in an attempt to reach a solution without formal action.

The Council has now issued a "repairs notice". This requires the owner to carry out certain specified improvements by 2 March 1993. If they are not done, the Council can then do them itself and charge the owner the cost.

However, the owner has applied for a Townscheme grant. If this is awarded it will mean that the Council and English Heritage will each contribute 20% of the cost of more extensive restoration works than those required by the repairs order.

So it does seem at last as if something is going to happen.

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.

Bungee Silenced

Members living opposite the West Pier have been disturbed by the noise of the public address system used to encourage people to take part in the bungee jumping.

They approached West Pier chairman, Bryan Spielman who did persuade the bungee operators to turn it down. But once he had left they turned it up again.

Eventually the Society had to contact the Environmental Health department at the Council.

The Bungee jumping has now stopped altogether. This may be as much due to the weather as to any official action. However, we have made our point about noise.

Can You Help ?

We need some help with preparing and serving the refreshments at the social evening on 1 October.

If you can help, either by preparing some food or by helping to serve it please telephone Ros Boulden (Brighton 23690).

Brighton Little Theatre, Clarence Gardens

next production:
Match Girls
by
Bill Owen
4 - 10 October

Details: phone Brighton 205000

NEW MEMBERS NEEDED

Each year we lose a few members because they move out of the area. So it is important that we recruit new members to replace them. Do you have any new neighbours who might be interested in joining. If so, why not pass your newsletter on to them - or bring them to the social evening on 1 October.

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

I would like to join 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.