



Regency Square Area Society

NEWSLETTER 86
December 1992

Season's Greetings

From the Society committee to all
members, a happy Christmas and very
best wishes for the New Year.



Metropole Comes Second

The new entrance to the Metropole Hotel has won joint second place in the Brighton Council's 1992 Design Awards.

The entrance is white iron work and glass which seems to borrow more in style from the neighbouring Grand Hotel than from the red brick of the Metropole itself. However, it is certainly a big improvement on the tatty wooden canopy which had adorned the front of the hotel for the past few years.

When the Metropole was first opened in 1890 it was described as the ugliest building in Brighton. Needless to say, it had lost that title long before the new entrance was constructed.

First place in the awards went to local architects Garbutt Macmillan for the restoration of number 6 Western Terrace.

Worth Waiting For . . .

The scaffolding has now been removed from number 32 Regency Square and the restoration of the facade is almost complete. The front door has been temporarily removed.

Investigations have led to the conclusion that the lower half of the front door is in fact original. The very distinctive design is the same as a number of other front doors in the Square. If possible the top part of the door will be re-instated to the original design.

.Why have the balcony windows been changed to small panes? It seems that the Council stipulates this for all grant aided conservation work in Regency Square. Was this the original design of the windows in these houses? If you have any evidence on this please let us know (telephone Roger Hinton on 321794).

Whatever the original design, the new windows are different from those in the neighbouring houses and it is likely to be many years before all the others are renewed to match.

However, it is good to see that the building is at last being repaired - and it looks as if a good job is being done which should mean that the result will have been worth waiting for.

SOCIETY CONTACTS

CHAIRMAN Roger Hinton: tel 321794
SECRETARY Richard Pau: tel 326711
TREASURER Harold Lawson tel 328203

Farewell to the 5 digit numbers

You may not have noticed but all the telephone numbers in our "Society Contacts" box have changed. The reason is that they were all old five digit numbers. There are now no five digit numbers in Brighton - they have all had a 3 put in front.

Council Sees Hope for the West Pier

Two members of the Society committee attended a meeting recently to hear about the Council's scheme to improve the sea front.

The scheme is an extensive one which includes ideas ranging from putting part of the main road underground to planting better shrubs in Regency Square.

But perhaps the most interesting thing to come out of the meeting was the view that the restoration of the West Pier is seen as the single most important element of the whole scheme!

This doesn't mean there is any new money available for the Pier. But it does indicate that the Council see restoration of the Pier as a serious possibility rather than just a pipe dream.

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.



Committee News

At the AGM in April, Dr Matte of Sussex Heights was elected to the committee. Unfortunately we have now lost touch with him. He had only attended one meeting so we have decided to discontinue his membership.

We are very pleased to welcome Mr Neil Rosborough as a co-opted member. He is a member of the Sussex Heights Residents Association and we look forward to co-operating with them on matters of common interest.

Please Don't Bang the Door !

One such matter is the door leading from the Metropole car-park to Queensbury Mews.

NCP who run the car-park have recently locked the door as a security measure. In the past, residents of Sussex Heights have used the door as a short cut when walking towards Preston Street.

They are trying to persuade NCP to provide keys for residents so that the door can stay locked but still be used as a short cut.

Meanwhile residents of Queensbury Mews remember how at one time the door used to bang loudly at all hours of the day and night. So they have asked that if the door is to be used, it should be fitted with a good quality closing device which closes it securely without any noise.

NCP Wins Back its Halo

We reported about a year ago that the Council had refused permission for NCP to erect three "halo effect" illuminated signs on their new carpark in Cannon Place.

NCP appealed to the Department of the Environment which has now overturned the Council's ruling. So we will now have the halos with the blessing of the Secretary of State.



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Regency Residents

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A new group of local societies has been formed under the name "Regency Residents". Our Society is part of the group which also includes societies from Oriental Place, Cavendish Place and Bedford Towers.

If you want more information about the group contact Edward Glauser (tel 328273).

And if you would like to meet other residents in the area, come to the group's Christmas party. It will be at The West Beach Hotel at 7-30 pm on Sunday 20 December - enquire at reception on arrival.

All members of the Society are welcome - bring a bottle (wine only please - other drinks will be available at the hotel bar) and/or some mince pies.



Parking Places - Who Decides ?

Following the introduction of several new parking spaces around the area, we recently asked the Council to explain the procedure.

The answer is that the new spaces were introduced on an experimental basis. This required the Council to give seven days notice in the local press and on the street. After that there is a six month experimental period during which the public is invited to comment.

That period has just ended for the first batch of new spaces in Regency Square and we are waiting to find out if they have been made permanent.

Meanwhile it seems that the new space introduced more recently in Castle Street has already been removed.

Now you can't . . now you can

The Society has obtained a copy of the new electoral register for this area.

For many years we used the register to send a leaflet personally addressed to every resident, inviting them to join the Society. When the Poll Tax was introduced, the rules were changed and we were told that we could no longer have a copy of the register.

Recently a night club in West Street sent an invitation to a member's son inviting him to hold his 18th birthday celebrations at their premises. Investigations revealed that they had obtained his name, address and age from the electoral register which was now being made available to marketing companies for a fee.

So it seems the rules have been changed again. As a result we will be able to mount a big membership drive in the New Year.

