



## Regency Square Area Society

NEWSLETTER 87  
January 1993

### DATE FIXED FOR ELECTION OF NEW CHAIRMAN

The Society AGM will be at 7-30 pm on Thursday 25 March at the Metropole Hotel.

The current Chairman, Roger Hinton, has announced that he will not be standing for re-election so this meeting will need to elect a new person to take the chair.

One nomination has been received so far, namely Harold Lawson, the current treasurer.

### MORE COMMITTEE CHANGES

Pat Millson has been a committee member for several years. However, she has recently found it increasingly hard to attend meetings because her work involves extensive travel. She has therefore resigned from the committee. We thank her for her support of the Society.

Meanwhile the committee has co-opted a further new member. He is Brian Smith who lives in Regency Square.

#### SOCIETY CONTACTS

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

### 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.

### IS IT WORTH IT ?

In each newsletter we publish the above message. But do phone calls to this number really work ?

One member tried to phone just after Christmas to find out what day the next collection would be. He got no reply. A committee member phoned early in January to ask for rubbish to be cleared from Clarence Square: he left a message on the answering machine but 48 hours later the rubbish was still there.

We are contacting the Council for clarification of what happens when calls are made to this number.

In the mean time, please do use it, even if the chance of response seems slim. After all it costs nothing apart from a few moments of your time, and if it is not used there will be little case for asking for responses to it to be improved.

### WHAT IS NATIONAL HERITAGE ?

One thing we know about National heritage is that it has money to give away. For example, it provided half of the grant given for the restoration of the facade of 32 Regency Square.

It also provided a large sum of money for emergency works to West Pier some years ago and then threatened to ask for it back when the West Pier Trust proposed a commercial scheme for the Pier in conjunction with Merlin property developers.

But how much money does it have and how does it decide on priorities ? We will have a chance to put these and other questions to one of its staff, Dr Richard Morrice who will be our guest speaker at the AGM in March.

### EXIT IN EMERGENCY ONLY

In our last issue we reported that residents of Sussex Heights have asked National Car Parks (NCP) to give them keys so they can use the door in Queensbury Mews as a back way into their flats.

NCP have said "No" on security grounds so a residents' petition is now being organised.

This door, which was originally left open, has been closed by NCP to block a possible escape route for anyone caught interfering with cars. The interesting thing is that it is a fire escape and so has to be usable in emergency.

Imminent arrest is obviously seen as an emergency by potential car thieves or others up to no good. As a result the emergency exit glass has already been broken several times since the door was closed up.

### YOUR SUBSCRIPTION WILL SOON RUN OUT

Membership subscriptions are due for renewal next month. Please help the Treasurer by renewing early if possible.

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

I would like to renew my membership of the Regency Square Area Society for the year 1993/94 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.



## SLIP A DAY CLICKS WITH THE COUNCIL !

The Council invented "slip a day" to cope with rubbish collection over bank holidays. The system is that after each bank holiday everyone's collection day "slips" to the next day. It stays there until the next holiday when it slips again.

The problem is that most people either don't know about this system or don't understand it. That is why the streets are usually littered with rubbish bags for several weeks after a holiday.

To make matters worse, even the Council has had problems understanding how it should work over Christmas and New Year - at least they did have until this year when they actually got it right.

After the Christmas / Boxing Day holidays the collection was correctly slipped by two days to Wednesday. Now, after the New Year Holiday it has slipped to Thursday where it should stay until Easter.

But even if the Council Officers have finally worked it out, we still have rubbish in the streets while the rest of us catch up.

For this reason we have asked the Council to review the whole system. We believe that it is not appropriate in a densely populated area like this. Many people have limited rubbish storage space and the rapid turnover of population guarantees that there will always be people who do not know the system.

We have asked for a permanent collection day. After a holiday double shifts should be worked to clear the streets.

It is true this will cost money, but surely in a tourist town tidy streets should be a high priority, especially at the time of public holidays. What is more, the Council has a statutory duty to clear dumped rubbish within a few hours of being informed of it - so do keep on using the free phone number.

Collection day for rubbish in most parts of  
the Regency Square Area is now

THURSDAY

Please keep the streets tidy:  
do not put rubbish out at other times.



## HAVE A QUIET NEW YEAR

We reported last year on steps being taken nationally to deal with the nuisance caused by noise. Locally our members have been particularly disturbed recently by noisy late night parties. Car alarms can also still be a problem though less of them seem to go on for hours at a time.

A private member's bill designed to deal with some of these problems will, hopefully, get its second reading this month and the Society has written to local MP, Sir Derek Spencer to ask him to support it.

The Department of the Environment has recently announced that regulations will be introduced limiting the period for which a car alarm may sound to 30 seconds, after which it should not repeat unless the car is interfered with again. At present the limit is 5 minutes.

Perhaps the best news of all as far as public awareness and opinion is concerned is that the highly successful TV police series, The Bill, recently devoted a whole episode to noisy parties. During the story a local authority late night "noise patrol" officer with police support entered a party and confiscated the sound system.

Any chance of Brighton putting officers on the street at midnight, searching for noise ?

The Regency Square Area Society

## Annual General Meeting

7-30 pm  
Thursday 25 March 1993  
Hotel Metropole

## PAVEMENTS ARE FOR WALKING

Pavement parking is becoming increasingly common in central Brighton. We believe it is an anti-social habit which causes inconvenience to pedestrians, possible danger to the disabled, and damages pavement surfaces.

The pavement next to the new wing of the Grand Hotel at the bottom of Cannon Place has become a regular carpark. We have written to the manager of the hotel to ask if bollards can be erected to keep cars off.

## WATCH OUT FOR THE COAL HOLE !

We are also concerned about the pavement on the southern side of Russell Square. This is often used by delivery vehicles because the road is narrow.

Underneath this pavement are storage areas, designed originally as coal holes for the houses. They were not designed to carry the weight of 20th century motor vehicles and might be damaged by pavement parkers.

Would it be desirable to locate cast iron bollards along this pavement to keep vehicles in the road ? We are considering whether we should ask the Council to do this.

What do you think ? Please let us have your views before a decision is made at our next committee meeting at the beginning of February. (Contact Roger Hinton tel 321794.)

## MARKET FREE FOR ALL

The new market at the back of Churchill Square was given planning permission with some fairly strict conditions attached.

Residents of Chartwell Court are now complaining to the Council that those conditions are being ignored.

They are particularly unhappy that stalls are being set up much earlier in the morning than they should be, thus creating noise when people are asleep. They also object to the illegal parking of traders' vehicles in Regency Road underneath the Square.

