

Regency Square Area Society

NEWSLETTER 90
May 1993

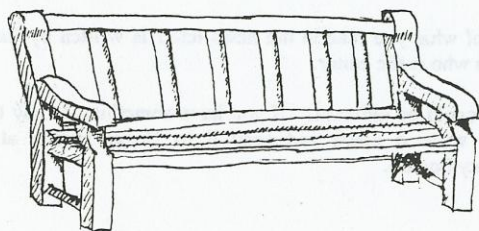
Bench Cleaning Time is Here Again

The Society owns two benches at the top of Regency Square. Each spring we try to clean and oil them.

So, at 11 am on Sunday 23 May the benches will be cleaned. Both benches need to be rubbed down with sand paper and then have teak oil applied.

Please come and help if you can. All materials are provided. Bring a pair of old gloves to protect your hands.

Last year only two members came so it was only possible to clean one bench. Please try to come - many hands make light work!



On the Beat

Did you know that we have our own community policeman?

He is PC Dan Maskell. He covers a fairly large area of the town centre, from the clock tower, up to Seven Dials and down to the Hove border.

He walks round the whole area most days and he is trying to get to know as many people as possible. Last month he came to the Society committee meeting and we promised to keep in touch with him regarding any problems where the police might be able to help.

If you want to talk to him about anything, phone the police station (606744); he may not be there but you can leave a message for him to contact you.

You Can't Trust Anyone!

The rug in the lobby of Chartwell Court was stolen recently.

A resident actually saw the thief rolling it up but thought he was moving it to work on the floor.

Meanwhile Sussex Heights residents are considering installing video surveillance in their lobby which recently suffered serious vandalism.

Pavements are for People

There was a time when you never saw a car on the pavement. Now they are everywhere.

Recently a member saw a Rolls Royce pull onto the pavement out side Halfords at the top of Preston Street; the driver blew his horn at two pedestrians who were standing on the pavement chatting where he wanted to park. They moved!

Vehicles on the pavement often force pedestrians into the road, especially those with prams. They pose a threat to the disabled, especially the blind. Heavy vehicles also damage pavements.

The police have recently been targeting illegal pavement parking in the town centre. They will need to get a lot tougher before this particular form of selfishness is eliminated.

Collapsing Coal Holes? - not likely!

We raised the question in a recent issue of whether pavement parking in Russell square was likely to cause damage to the coal holes underneath. Houses in regency Square have similar coal holes under the pavement.

A member in Russell Square has now had his coal hole surveyed. The surveyors report indicates that the hole actually runs beyond the pavement and about 20 inches under the road.

Even so, there is no sign of any damage cause by traffic. In fact the surveyor comments that the cellar is "in a condition very rarely found in premises of this age and type of property."

We had asked for opinions about whether it would be desirable to install bollards on the pavement in Russell Square. No strong views have been expressed either way. So, since there seems to be no danger of collapsing coal holes, we have decided not to pursue the matter.

Have You Paid Yet???

Please renew your membership today, if you have not already done so.

To Brian Smith, 45 Regency 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

Chèques payable to the Regency Square Area Society please.

What to do about Noise

The Society recently had a very useful meeting with Alan Keeling and Tim Nicholls of the Council's Environmental Health department. They explained to us what can and can't be done about noise.

Late Night Noise

As we reported in our last issue, there is little that can be done immediately about late night noise. The only way action can be taken is when there are lots of complaints to the police so that the duty inspector decides to call out the environmental health officer who can then issue a notice on the spot requiring the noise to be stopped.

If the notice is ignored the police can get a warrant from a magistrate permitting them to confiscate the equipment causing the noise (eg disco equipment). All this can be done within a few hours but it is not likely to happen except in extreme cases.

Persistent Noise

If you suffer repeatedly from the same noise the Council can help you to take action to stop it.

The most important step is to keep a diary of each disturbance,; note the date and time of the noise, its nature (eg loud music from flat above) and how it disturbed you (eg woke you up, prevented you from hearing the TV etc).

Try to find another neighbour who is also suffering. The Council will take action on your behalf if two or more people complain. If you are the only sufferer, the Environmental Health department will offer you advice but you will have to take your own legal action.

The Council deal with 2,000 complaints a year (compared with around 400 in other local coastal towns). They have a very good success rate with those cases they take up.

If you want to make a complaint, contact Alan Keeling on Brighton 712717.

The Society has copies of a Government leaflet called "Bothered by Noise?" If you would like one contact Roger Hinton (Tel 321794).

Bench Cleaning

11 am Sunday 23 May 1993
Regency Square (top)

Lend a hand to keep our benches in good condition.

A Duo's OK



The Regency Tavern has recently started to have live music at weekends.

Do they need a music license? Apparently not, provided the number of performers does not exceed two.

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.

Summer Bus Times

We have received copies of the new bus map and timetable for Brighton. If you would like a copy, call Roger Hinton on 321794.

SOCIETY CONTACTS

CHAIRMAN Harold Lawson tel 328203
SECRETARY Richard Pau: tel 326711
TREASURER Brian Smith tel 325175

Claiming the Glory

The litter bins in Regency Square are emptied every day. Until recently any bags of rubbish lying next to them were not cleared. Now they are also being taken away daily.

The interesting question is how this improvement was achieved.

Local councillors recently wrote to all local residents claiming that it was the result of their actions.

The Society had a meeting with the Director of Environmental Services earlier in the year when the problem was also discussed. In a subsequent letter to the Society the Director said that the company which empties the litter bins are not contracted to take domestic rubbish. However, he has negotiated a special exception for Regency Square because "the appearance of the Square must come first."

Other local residents and hoteliers have also been complaining about the problem. So the solution is the result of combined pressure from a variety of sources, as is often the case.

The main point is that bags of rubbish left next to a litter bins in Regency Square will be cleared within 24 hours. Those dumped elsewhere will lie around for anything up to seven days until the next weekly collection.

But it is illegal to dump domestic rubbish next to litter bins. Who said crime doesn't pay?

Who Writes all this Stuff?

Most of what you read in the news letter is written by Roger Hinton who is the editor.

But it could be different. If you have something to say then please write it down and send it to Roger Hinton at 39 Regency Square.