



## NEWSLETTER 113 January 1996

### You Win One - You Lose One

Society Treasurer, Brian Smith has been nominated for election as chairman, to take over from Harold Lawson at the AGM in March.

Harold has been chairman since 1993. Before that he was treasurer for several years. He plans to stay on the committee and will continue to represent the Society at the Conservation Areas Advisory Group.

The job of Treasurer is obviously a good training ground. Assuming he is elected, Brian will be the third person to move from it to the job of Chairman.

We are now looking for a new Treasurer. Any suggestions?

### Society Contacts

Chairman:	Harold Lawson	☎	328203
Secretary	Pat McCulloch	☎	773275
Treasurer	Brian Smith	☎	325175
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### What to do with a cool £2 million

Brighton has been allocated money in the form of something called a single re-generation grant. £2.1 million has been earmarked for the improvement of our area. The availability of the money is dependent on the possibility of matching funds being generated from other sources.

"Improvement" can apparently be interpreted very widely. Various schemes have already been mentioned such as

- traffic calming in Preston Street
- railings in Regency Square
- training scheme for hotel and restaurant staff.

There may well be other ideas being put forward. We have contacted the Council to find out what kind of schemes can be proposed and what the arrangements will be for choosing those to be implemented.

### Counting the Cost of Christmas

The Society's Christmas Tree twinkled merrily in the Regency Square throughout the Christmas period.

We now have to count the cost. The tree itself was provided free by the Council. The Society has to meet the cost of electricity and insurance which between them will come to about £200.

### Hot Dog Dump

The pavement outside the Prince of Wales pub is a mess. It seems to be used as a rubbish store by the operators of the hot dog stand which operates in Churchill Square

We are trying to get the Council to do something to improve the situation.

### Pavements are for People

Further along the same road the pavement gets much narrower outside the back of the Halifax Building Society and the Olympus Sports shop.

Staff from these businesses regularly park their car in a way which partially blocks the pavement. Olympus also put their rubbish skip on the pavement.

This blocks the way for pedestrians and causes particular difficulty for the disabled. Given that many disabled people park in the area for easy access to shops, it is important that the pavements should be kept clear.

We have taken photographs of the offending vehicles and will be sending them to the head offices of the companies concerned.

### Yellow Lines or White Words?

We mentioned on the last issue that we had asked the Council to consider putting a double yellow line at the eastern end of Regency Square, by the Regency Tavern, to discourage drivers from parking in the middle of the road.

The traffic officer dealing with the area has responded saying that he could not accept this suggestion because it might be "confusing". It is hard to understand what he is getting at. Drivers often ignore double yellow lines but surely they are not confused about what they mean.

The Council official has suggested an alternative solution which is the words "keep clear" in large white letters in the middle of the roadway.

These words would have no legal force and would certainly not be an attractive addition to the conservation area. We have therefore asked that the Council re-consider our original idea.



## No Loss of Resident Parking

Various road closure applications are being made in connection with the re-development of Churchill Square. Some will involve the loss of parking bays.

The disabled bays near the Prince of Wales pub will go but will be replaced elsewhere. However, we have been assured that there will be no loss of resident bays.

## Something to Remember

When former Society secretary Richard Pau and his family left Brighton last autumn his colleagues on the committee gave them a drawing of their house in Regency Square.

The drawing was commissioned from Gerald Lip whose work can often be seen in the Evening Argus.

## Brighton in Bloom

Flowers will be sprouting from balconies and lampposts again later this year.

It costs £200 to sponsor a lamppost. There are 56 lampposts eligible throughout Brighton and we are investigating how many are in our area and where they are located.

Topps Hotel in Regency Square has pledged £100. This has been matched by £100 from Society funds (but not from the money raised by the prize draw which is being kept separate).

So we can have at least one lamppost festooned with flowers. If you would be able to help with further sponsorship please let us know.

## A Silent Auction

We are planning to hold a "silent auction" to raise more money for the Regency Square Improvement Fund.

What is a silent auction?

It is very simple. Items for auction are displayed on tables, each with a small form attached. Bidders make a note on the form of how much they bid for the item. Later they can increase their bid if someone else has bid higher - just like in a noisy auction.

And in between bidding people pass the time talking to each other and drinking wine.

More details in a future newsletter. But in the meantime, if you've got anything you don't need perhaps you might consider donating it for auction. All sorts of things can be included, books, ornaments bottles and so on, either new or second-hand items in reasonable condition.

