



NEWSLETTER 131 December 1997

Christmas is Coming ...

... and so is the Christmas Tree. Once again the Council has given us a tree which may well have appeared in Regency Square by the time you read this.

Although the tree is free the lights and insurance are not. Donations towards these costs will be very welcome. They can be sent to the Treasurer, Roger Hinton, 39 Regency Square, Brighton.

... with Music and Good Cheer



Members of the Strictly Background Quartet will be playing carols around the Christmas tree at 7:30 pm on Wednesday 17 December. Society committee members will be there. Some of us may even be singing along. Please join us.

**MERRY CHRISTMAS FROM
THE COMMITTEE TO ALL
SOCIETY MEMBERS**

Decision Day on the Pier

Tuesday 16 December 1997 could well go down as a crucial date in the long history of the West Pier. That is when the Heritage Lottery Fund will decide whether to grant money for the restoration of the sub-structure and deck.

This money is vital. Without it the Pier is unlikely to be saved. At the AGM of the West Pier Trust last month the chairman Sir Lindsey Bryson was optimistic that the decision will be "yes". He said there may be further delay, but it is unlikely that the Pier will be turned down flat.

If the decision is "yes" then restoration will start around Easter next year. News of the decision is unlikely to be made public before Christmas.

Mews News

Thanks to hard work by Society secretary Pat McCulloch, the street name sign at the top end of Queensbury Mews is now back in its old place.

It was removed during the re-development of number 50 Regency Square. The Council had wanted to locate the sign on the pavement. The Society pressed for it to be on the side of the house where it can be seen from further away and does not get in the way. It is also out of reach of vandals.

Milkmaid's Plan

The Milkmaid Pavilion Café on the lower promenade has made a planning application to create an entrance at the level of the upper promenade. It would seem to involve building on top of the existing café and putting a walkway across to the upper prom. We are trying to find out more details.

It Couldn't Last

In the last issue we pointed to a number of things that seemed to be improving, including a daily rubbish collection. But problems with rubbish just never end.

The latest is that the road sweeper who used to visit Regency Square every weekday seems to have disappeared. As a result the bits and pieces left lying around by the bin men, go on lying around. And there may be a daily collection but some days it doesn't happen.

There is only one way to keep the streets clean: keep pestering the Council when the job is not being done properly. If you see litter accumulating, or if the bin men miss a collection, please call Ray Jackson at the Council (292056).

Euro litter

We contacted the Council about litter in the shrubbery around Eurodollar car hire at the top of Cannon Place. You can guess the answer: it's private property so the Council is not responsible.

However, they did agree, reluctantly to locate a litter bin nearby to see if that reduces the problem in future. The reluctance is due to the fact that previous bins in this area have encouraged fly tipping and vandalism.



**Join your neighbours
to hear the
Strictly Background
Quartet play carols
round the Christmas
Tree in Regency Square
at 7:30 pm on ednesday
17 December 1997**

Council Says Sorry !

Society member, Gary Spencer, who lives in Queensbury Mews, was so fed up about the Labour Party Conference fiasco that he wrote to Glynn Jones, chief executive of Brighton and Hove Council.

The two page reply he received is too long to quote in full, but here are some of the more interesting bits:

"I appreciate the problems that a number of local residents faced as a result of the Conference and I would like to go on record as apologising for these now."

"... feedback from yourselves and others (will) form a key part of any future planning should the government of the day return to Brighton ..."

Some complaints "specifically related to the Police 'search channel' in Queensbury Mews, its dominating physical presence and the late night noise from the security guards. I understand from the police that they would not repeat this intrusion on your Mews."

"...we didn't get everything right ..."

"We want to continue listening to what people have to say so that, by working together, we can hopefully do better next time."

The letter also emphasises the importance of conferences to the economy of the town, and the need for good security. The important things are the promises to listen to local people and not to repeat the abuse of Queensbury Mews. We must not let him forget !

Wot a lot of pots !

Member, Ken Kennar writes:

I was looking at the variety of chimney pots in the area the other day and wondered if any originals were left. There three quite ornate ones at the rear of Topps Hotel.

Just wondered if anyone in the Society had any knowledge on this subject. There must have been many replacements over the years to increase draughts from the coal fires, but one never knows.



If you can throw any light on the subject please let us know (contact Roger Hinton, 39 Regency Square). Any answers will be in the next issue.

Tele Traffic

How did you enjoy the Telecommunications Managers' conference ? A number of members have complained about the exhibition traffic.

There was a particular problem at the southern junction of Queensbury Mews and Regency Square. Lorries couldn't get out into the Square because cars were parked right up to the exit.

One lorry was manoeuvring for 15 minutes and ended up driving the wrong way up the Square. A car parked in the Square was "bumped" onto the pavement to allow one vehicle get by.

Exhibition traffic is an old problem. Perhaps it is time we raised it again. What do you think ?

SOCIETY CONTACTS

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One way to be sure about the draw

Nothing is certain except death and taxes, they say. But one other thing you can be sure about is that if you don't buy a ticket for the Society draw, you won't win a prize.

Which could be a great pity when you consider the list of prizes, which include a trip to Paris, a day out on the Orient Express, a night or two at a local hotel, dinner at the Grand and much more.

Tickets are still available. Contact Traude Tappin (735167), Roger Hinton (321794) or call in at Daisy Fresh Cleaners in Imperial Arcade (next to Marks and Spencer).

And don't forget to come to the draw:

Prize Draw
7:30 pm
Thursday 11 December
Beach Hotel
Regency Square