

NEWSLETTER 140 December 1998

Fund Raising Auction

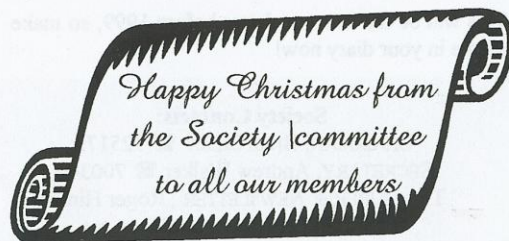
7:45 pm

Thursday 10 December 1998

at the Beach Hotel,
2-4 Regency Square

Meet your neighbours
and support the Regency Square
Improvement Fund

Raffle and refreshments



Dog Warden with no Bite

A Member in Regency Square saw three people exercising dogs in the fenced "no dogs" area. They were carrying Big Issue bags.

She phoned the dog warden. The person she spoke to said there was nothing they could do because if they approached these kind of people they just got abused. Their suggestion was to call the police.

Our member decided to contact the Big Issue office instead (737795). She pointed out that it did nothing for the magazine's image to have sellers behaving in this way. The person she spoke to promised to look into the matter.

Since then the dogs have not been on the green again.

Council Passes the Parking Buck

We complained to the Council about the deteriorating parking conditions in the area, particularly on Sundays.

They have forwarded our complaints to the police who are responsible for enforcement of parking rules.

We suggested that residents' parking should be extended to Sundays and later in the evenings. The Council "has no resources" to extend the scheme at present. However, when the Council takes over responsibility for parking enforcement, this will be one of the first issues to be dealt with.

When will that be? April 2000 is the current target. So it looks like a free for all until then.

Translator Needed

We also complained about the illegal parking of motor bikes on the pavement. The answer to that deserves quoting in full:

"I will make site visits to locate the illegal parking you mention. I shall try to improve things where possible, but motor cycle parking is an increasingly important issue and the Council is under pressure to retain existing parking and where possible to provide more. "Powered two wheelers" are seen as an important form of private transport, less damaging to the environment than private cars."

If you can offer a translation please let us know.

Bring your Leader to me

The Leader newspaper is delivered free to 91,000 homes in the Brighton area but quite a few homes in central Brighton do not receive it. This is a serious omission because it lists planning applications.

Until recently you could collect a free copy from the Argus offices and some local newsagents but this has now been stopped. If you don't get a copy delivered you now have to go to an Argus office and buy one. It seems a pity that a paper that is delivered free of charge to so many homes misses out some right in the heart of the town.

If you don't get a free copy delivered please tell the publishers or let the committee know so that we can try to get a better delivery.

Rubbish - at last the law is being enforced

Council officials are still searching through rubbish bags dumped in the area. They are also sending letters to people when they find evidence of who has dumped them.

A prosecution is now under way relating to trade refuse in Little Preston Street. "Final warning" letters have been sent to some residential properties in our area. If they are ignored a fixed penalty of £25 can be imposed followed by prosecution if necessary.

Rubbish - Agents Warned

The Council has also been in contact with the managing agent of one property in Regency Square. The agent had been telling new tenants that they should leave their rubbish on the cobbled area at the north east corner of the square. He has now been told to find a storage area on the property.

Rubbish - a Member's View

Member Malcolm Free, who lives in Regency Square, gives his views about rubbish:

I am delighted that the council is paying some attention to the obvious problem in our area, but not impressed with their solutions.

I moved here from a flat in Brunswick Road, Hove, about 14 months ago. When rearranging my council tax payments, I noticed that the charges were higher than in Hove, and when I queried it, I was told that the Regency Square area had seven day rubbish collections, while Hove had twice weekly. Good, I thought, I can live with that arrangement.

Now, we are told that collections are down to once a week. What nonsense. People living in relatively small units cannot accumulate refuse for a whole week. We need at least a three times a week collection.

An added irritation is that a neighbour in my building arranged with the council for our black bags to be stored in the basement storage area beneath the pavement. But the garbage men refused to collect, saying there was insufficient lighting in there. A difficult one to resolve, as there is no power there anyway. So now, unless I remove all the bags and put them on the pavement on Thursday, they remain uncollected. We can't seem to win.

I approve of tightening up on irresponsible rubbish dumpers. They make the place look like a slum. But I do think the council has to be sensible. Settle on three times a week collections, and make it widely known, so that no one can plead ignorance.

Rubbish - Bin Men See the Light

Malcolm has since been in contact with the Council about his collection. The contractor has inspected the basement storage area and agreed that it is suitable to store rubbish. However, rubbish stored there was still not collected last week.

Local Councillor Resigns

Nimrod Ping has resigned from the Council for health reasons. No election will be held until May so Regency ward will have only two councillors for the next few months.

What's on Offer?

Here is a list of some of the items which will be auctioned at the Society's get together at 7:45 pm on Thursday 10 December at the Beach Hotel in Regency Square:

- A BUPA health check (value £350)
 - A day out for two on the Orient Express (value £200)
 - A weekend for two at the Regency Hotel (bed and breakfast)
 - A night for two at the Malvern Hotel (bed and breakfast)
 - Dinner for two at Mama Mia
 - Dinner for two at the Grand Hotel
- ... and more.

There will also be a raffle for smaller items and refreshments will be provided.

All money collected will be put into the Regency Square Improvement Fund and will contribute towards the re-generation of the area.

So make sure you're there - and bring your friends.

Can't Come? - You Can Still Bid

If you think you might not be able to come, but would like to put in a bid on any of the items listed, please send a note to the Chairman, Brian Smith (45 Regency Square). Just tell him your name and address, which item you want and how much you are willing to bid up to. He will then bid on your behalf - and if you're lucky he may be able to get it for you for less than your maximum bid.

Christmas is Coming

With help from the Council we will be putting Christmas tree in Regency Square again this year.

And on Friday 18 December at 7:30pm you are invited to join other members around the tree to hear carols played by Society member Joyce Chester and her recorder group. Who knows, some members may even be bold enough to sing along.



This will be the last newsletter before 1999, so make a note in your diary now!

Society Contacts:

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