



**Regency Square Area Society**

## NEWSLETTER 145 May 1999

### West Pier to go Up in the World ...

When (if?) the West Pier is restored, its deck will be about 1 metre higher than it is a present.

The reason is to allow for climate change since 1866 and predictions about rising sea levels.

The pavilion at the seaward end of the pier will almost certainly have to be dismantled and re-constructed. The same may well happen to the concert hall in the centre. However, the buildings will retain the appearance they had in the 1920s and as much original material as possible will be used.

### ... If it Can Find the Money

All this depends of course on getting National Lottery money to restore the pier's structure. That, in turn, depends on finding a commercial partner willing to restore and run the restored buildings.

The previous partner (BPR) pulled out in January when their plans for a large building at the shore end were rejected.

The new partner is a consortium called "Eugenius" (named after the pier's original designer). Boxer, Chris Eubank is the best known member of this group and it now includes the Prestbury Group plc.

New plans for a building at the shore end have been put to the planners. Development work will not start until spring next year at the earliest.

Before then, the plans need to be approved. This decision must not be made behind closed doors and then published for "rubber stamping" by the planning authority. Public opinion, and especially the opinions of those of us who live near the pier, must be part of the real decision making process.

Let's hope that our newly elected councillors can make sure this happens.

### Have Some Lottery Money !

There will be £400,000 a year available for the next 2 years in the form of grants to owners of historic properties. The grants will meet up to 75% of the cost of repairs and re-instatement of original features.

Money from this fund has already been allocated for work at the following properties in our area:

- Clarence Square - numbers 6, 10, 13, 22
- Regency Square - numbers 1, 5, 10, 11, 12a, 14, 15, 19, 21, 22, 23, 37, 43, 52.
- Regency Mews - number 10
- Russell Square - numbers 28/29, 36, 37, 46

For more information call Lesley Johnston (292104) or Claire Vint (292053) at the Council.

### No Privacy for Penthouse Home

The peregrine falcons on Sussex Heights have produced four eggs which have just hatched. A video camera has been installed to monitor progress.

### Brown Field in Castle Street

The Council yard in Castle Street is used by Ecovert as a base for their street sweeping operation. Neighbours have been complaining that the street sweepers start early and cause unacceptable levels of noise.

Ecovert has received a lot of publicity recently because of its attempt to pull out of the street sweeping contract.

Society member, Enid Darby, who lives in Castle Street, has taken this opportunity to make a radical suggestion. She has written to MP, David Lepper suggesting that the yard should be used for housing development.

She points out that it is in the middle of a residential area and is not suitable for commercial use. The government is committed to developing town centre, "brown field" sites for housing, so the idea might just catch on.

### Planning Role Changes Hands

Newly elected committee member Ros Boulden has taken over from Ambrose Simons as the Society's representative on the Conservation Area Advisory Group.



## Rubbish

It was no surprise that members are still not happy with rubbish collection arrangements. One point raised was that the Council say they collect on Thursdays but they actually collect at other times as well, thus causing confusion. A related point was that many people do not have room to store rubbish hygienically for a whole week.

These are not new issues but they are still important. We will be raising them again with Council officials.

## ... and so on

There isn't room in this month's newsletter to consider all the other points raised, which included illegal parking, especially in Castle Street, the provision of secure cycle parking, the unused taxi rank in Cannon Place, the use of bushes in Regency Square as a toilet and the future of the Beach Hotel.

No doubt they will re-appear in future months.

Our two local councillors, Roy Pennington and John Warmington were both at the meeting. Roy Pennington said that they had made a note of all the issues raised and would be looking into them.

## Twenty Years of Service

The Society's treasurer, Roger Hinton received a special vote of thanks at the AGM. Proposing it, Clive Buxton said that Roger has been a committee member since the Society first started in 1979. He described him as the Society's "anchor man" who had made a major contribution to its success.

As a token of their thanks Roger's fellow committee members had decided to give him and his wife, Suzanne a weekend in Paris by Eurostar.

## Rubbish Bags and Daffodils ...

... were amongst the items from the Society's 20 years history which were illustrated in a slide show which rounded off the AGM evening.

Some slides showed buildings which no longer exist such as the ballroom of the Portland House Hotel, where the Society's first meeting was held, and the Garage in Regency Mews where the BUPA offices and Russell Mews now stand.

The slides were presented by Roger Hinton, with comments and recollections from other members.

## Deliveries Message Delivered

Members in Castle Street and Russell Square have been concerned about deliveries to the BUPA office. Castle Street is largely residential and is already very busy. Deliveries to the BUPA building are supposed to go via Preston Street and Regency Mews.

We had a useful meeting with Alan Farley of BUPA to tell him about the problems being experienced. He assures us that he is doing everything possible to persuade suppliers to deliver at reasonable times and to use Regency Mews. He has written to suppliers and asked for smaller vehicles to be used because of the narrow entrance to Regency Mews.

## Still Leaderless

In spite of letters, emails and a visit to the offices we have still not persuaded the publishers of the Leader to deliver to this area. They deliver north of Western Road but not south.

We have also asked the Council to stop advertising planning applications in the Leader, and to use the Argus instead because we cannot get the Leader. So far they have not replied. Other residents in the town have this information delivered to their door. Our right to know what developments are planned in this area is being denied. We will continue the fight.

### Society Contacts:

CHAIRMAN, Brian Smith ☎ 325175;  
SECRETARY, Andrew Walker ☎ 700340;  
TREASURER & NEWSLETTER, Roger Hinton  
☎ 321794 email hinton@clara.net

## Let's Do It Again

The 20th AGM was one of the best attended for some years and was much enjoyed by those who came. We are hoping to run more social events soon. If you have any suggestions, let us know.

## Membership Renewal Form

About half the members have paid their subs for 1999 / 2000. If yours is still due you will see a cross in the box below. Please renew today!

To Roger Hinton, 39 Regency Square, Brighton.

I would like to renew my membership of the Regency Square Area Society for the year 1999/2000 in the category ticked below:

	£
Ordinary member	4.00
Family	4.50
Senior Citizen	3.50
Junior	2.00
Associate (non-resident)	3.50
Business (non-resident)	6.50

Basic subscription \_\_\_\_\_  
Optional donation \_\_\_\_\_  
Total enclosed \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Cheques payable to the Regency Square Area Society please  
Members' details are stored on computer for administrative purposes only.

A cross in the box  
means your sub is due.

☐

Thanks to the Metropole Hotel  
for the use of the Chartwell Room  
for the AGM, and to Roy Pennington  
for bringing a screen for the slides.



## Why we are Leaderless

The Society has at last got an explanation from The Leader about why it is not delivered in this area.

In a letter from Newsquest (Sussex) Ltd, who also publish the Argus, we are given three reasons why deliveries were stopped in 1995. Firstly, delivery agents could not get into many of the blocks of flats.

Secondly, "there are many businesses in the area who told us they would prefer not to receive The Leader for security reasons."

Finally, "Landlords of flats raised concern at our delivery agents gaining access to the flats as it was considered to be a potential health and safety risk."

Newsquest say that we can buy The Leader for 20p at the Dyke Rd office. But you have to be quick if you want to get one!

We are still concerned that the Council publishes planning notices in The Leader rather than the Argus, which means that people in this area find it hard to see them.

## Another Barrier Broken

The money collected from the raffle at the Society's AGM in March has been put into the Regency Square Improvement Fund, taking the total collected to just over £9,000.

## Not Amused

A planning application has been submitted to convert a former betting shop in Preston Street into an amusement arcade. The Society has objected.



## Shops: Keep Out

Shop keepers normally try to encourage people into their premises. So why has the gate into the Churchill Square car park been closed? It provided the quickest way into the shopping mall for many people in this area.

The Society is arranging a meeting with the managers of Churchill Square to discuss this and other problems, such as the continuing noise from the ventilation ducts in Cannon Place. If you have any other issues you think we should raise please contact Andrew Walker (700340).

In the meantime, don't be put off by the locked gate. It can be easily opened from the inside because it is a fire escape. If you have long fingers or a suitably shaped hook you can also open it from outside.

Alternatively there is another gate which is not locked. It is on the right just as you enter Granville Place and is just as quick a way into the shops or through to West Street.

## Farewell

Committee members past and present got together recently to say farewell to Harold Lawson.

He retired this year from the Society committee after many years service during which he was Treasurer and then Chairman. He will shortly moving away from Brighton to live near relatives.

As a "thank you" for his service to the Society we presented him with a framed print showing a map of Brighton as it was in the days before the Regency Square area had been developed.

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