



**NEWSLETTER 158**  
**October 2000**

## How was it for you?

The Labour Party Conference that is. It certainly doesn't seem to have been as much of an inconvenience as last time. But let us know if you had any specific problems.

## It proves some things can be done

During the conference the amount of illegal parking in the area decreased to almost nil. The only remaining offenders seemed to be the emergency services.

One member complained to the police about three police vans parked on double yellow lines on the south side of Russell Square; they were making it almost impossible for other traffic to get through.

Graffiti in Queensbury Mews disappeared just before the conference started.

And generally the level of security was extremely high. Did anyone suffer a break in during the week?

## ... and some can't

The one problem which remained unsolved was rubbish. Bags of the stuff made their appearance on the pavements as always. And as if to prove the point, Russell and Clarence Square did not receive a collection on the Thursday the conference ended nor the following day.

## Talking to the Councillors

We were very grateful to councillors Roy Pennington and John Warmington who took time off from party conference activities to come and talk to the committee about rubbish.

We had what the diplomats would describe as a "useful exchange of views". They understand fully the complaints that local people have. They also know what the council officials are doing, and not doing at present to try and solve the problems.

Our main message for the councillors was that they need to spend more money on refuse collection in densely populated parts of the town, like ours.

They suggested the possibility of two collections a week plus a "snatch squad" to visit known black spots regularly on other days (without the need for a phone call). This would certainly be an improvement, though it could simply encourage those people who dump their rubbish whenever they feel like it to carry on doing so.

The real truth seems to be that no one really knows what the solution is - not the council officers, not the councillors, not the local residents. Perhaps the council needs to find someone who has a track record in solving these kind of problems.

Do our elected representative believe this problem is

serious enough to justify spending extra money to solve it? We will see.

### **Rubbish**

Contact number for refuse and street cleaning problems: call SITA on **274674**

## No Through Road

Local councillor, John Warmington has suggested that a number of "No through road" signs should be put up in Russell and Clarence Square. The purpose would be to discourage visiting motorists who drive up Cannon Place from cruising round the squares in the hope of finding a parking space or a way out to Western Road.

## Do you remember the fish?

Society member, Teddy Mason has dug out some interesting photographs taken in Regency Square in the early 1970's. They show the "Festival of Fish". Does anyone remember anything about this? If so, please contact Roger Hinton (☎ 321794).

## Bye Bye Campers

When campers appeared in Russell Square a few weeks ago, the police were unwilling to move them on because they were unsure whether there was a bye law against camping.

A similar problem in St Anne's Well Gardens in Hove was dealt with promptly. We have now been advised by council officer Keith Smith (☎ 293004) that there is a bye law covering our squares.

So next time the campers appear, we should be able to get as prompt a response as residents did in Hove.

**Visit the Society web site! [www.regencybrighton.com](http://www.regencybrighton.com)**

## Are you a "flat earther"

The West Pier Trust has found a potential new commercial partner called St Modwen Properties plc.

West Pier chief executive Geof Lockwood says that "all of the signs are positive about eventual success." But he is worried about what he calls "flat earthers ... who believe that restoration can be achieved without the enabling development." This is a reference to the buildings which the Trust want to locate on the lower promenade, either side of the pier.

To make way for these, the paddling pool has now closed for the last time. A play area, including a new paddling pool, will be built to the west of the Al Fresco restaurant. It should be ready by January..

Let's hope the site of the old paddling pool can be re-developed quickly and sympathetically, before it joins the West Pier as a local eye sore.

## St Modwen Properties plc

The future of the West Pier depends on finding a private sector partner who will invest enough money to restore the buildings. Once a partner is committed, National Lottery money to restore the structure and deck should then become available.

St Modwen Properties plc is the third company to express interest in becoming the partner. The previous contender was Eugenius, a consortium of local companies which fell out of the picture when their main backer lost interest in the deal.

St Modwen is a well established property company based in Birmingham. Their chairman, Stanley Clarke has recently got involved in developments in the Brighton area: the company owns Brighton race course and the old Sunblest factory at Woodingdean.

As a property company they are not just interested in building something to sell. Their intention for the pier would be to develop it and then manage it.

Two important things make them different from Eugenius. Firstly, they already have the cash needed for the development, so they will not be dependent on financial backers. The second is that they are a single company, not a consortium.

## Hopeful Again

So the future of the pier looks more hopeful now than it has for some time. The Trust expects to sign a deal with St Modwen any day now. It will then take about 25 weeks to get planning permission.

This will be the critical period for local people because this is when we will see what is development proposed for the lower promenade. The Council has promised full public consultation, so we should have a chance to influence the planning decision.

## A Market on the Pier?

Meanwhile, the West Pier Trust has applied for planning permission to run markets under and on the pier deck. We have asked that there should be a condition to prevent any music or other loud noise which would be a nuisance to residents opposite.

We have also expressed concerns about the current use of the pier deck as a car park. This does not seem to be consistent with it being a market.

### Society Contacts:

Chairman: Roger Hinton ☎ 321794 email [hinton@clara.net](mailto:hinton@clara.net)  
Secretary: Andrew Walker ☎ 700340;  
Treasurer: Paul Stanford ☎ 777582

[www.regencybrighton.com](http://www.regencybrighton.com)

## On the case

Local community PC Andy Rolmanis has been trying to get the CCTV camera re-instated on Mitre House at the top of Preston Street. It was removed when the building was scaffolded for repairs.

The delay has been caused by a change of owners. The police need to get a document signed by the new owners before they can replace the camera. It should be back in place soon.

## A few subs still due

If there is a cross in the box below, your annual subscription is overdue. Please help the Society by sending your subscription today.

To Paul Stanford, 50 Regency Square, Brighton BN1 2FJ

I would like to renew my membership of the Regency Square Area Society for the year 2000/2001 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.



## **Rubbish**

Contact number for refuse and  
street cleaning problems: call SITA



**274674**