



**Regency Square Area Society**

**NEWSLETTER 233**  
**June 2008**

## The Writing's on the Wall

Graffiti makes an area look a mess! The best way to stop it is to get rid of it as soon as it appears. This encourages graffiti artists to take their talents elsewhere.

We plan to act jointly with the Council to achieve this, but we need your help. The Council's graffiti team will carry out a major clean in our area. Local volunteers will then monitor specific walls that attract graffiti.

Each volunteer will be supplied by the Council with paint of the appropriate colour, a paint roller, and some "wet paint" tape. As soon as graffiti appears the volunteer paints it out.

The Council will get a signed indemnity from property owners so that volunteers can't be sued for painting other people's walls.

Where graffiti appears on a surface that can't be painted, such as brickwork, we will be able to ask the Council to send a specialist team to clean it.

It's a simple scheme allowing local people to work together with the Council. If you are interested in volunteering to look after a specific area please contact Roger Hinton (☎ 321794 ✉ hinton@clara.net).

## The Painting on the War Memorial

Many people have criticised the restoration of the war memorial in Regency Square. The main complaint is that the metal statue and memorial plaques have been painted, when originally they were plain metal.

One letter to the Argus stated the problem very clearly: "The bugler, like most bronze sculptures, was given a carefully intentioned patination after casting, which was intended to enhance and preserve it. Now it is covered with thick metallic paint, which will soon become weather-beaten. For want of an expert restorer, the council has damaged the original surface."

We put these complaints to the Council and have had the following reply from property Manager, Pete Wickson:

"I would like to correct the belief that the features had previously unpainted surfaces. They have in fact been painted in the past and the work at the time was carried out by the same stonemason who undertook the recent refurbishment.

What has happened over the years is that the surface has dulled and eroded to give the impression that it was bare metal.

The work has been done using a specialist paint treatment that is meant to 'weather' down over time, whilst protecting the metal underneath."

Time will tell who is right.

## The Bins Are Back

At the request of the Society, the Council has put three new litter bins in Regency Square to replace ones that have gone missing. Many thanks to Joe in the Customer Services team at Cityclean for his help in getting a fast response.

## A Boat Trips Round the Piers

We are organising a 45-minute boat trip from Brighton Marina around the two piers

It will be at 7pm on Thursday 31 July. The cost is £7.50 (payable in advance). To reserve a place, please send your money (cash or cheque payable to the Regency Square Area Society) to Paul Michaelson as soon as possible (1E Sussex Heights, St Margaret's Place, Brighton BN1 2FQ).

Details from Paul (723078) or [www.watertours.co.uk](http://www.watertours.co.uk).

## Church for Sale

The congregation of the French Church in Queensbury Mews have reluctantly decided to give up the battle to maintain their ageing building. They will continue to worship together, but in another church.

So the church is up for sale, possibly for residential, office, medical or leisure use. One of the final events in the Church will be a local wedding on 26 July.

## Needles are Nasty

We are glad to welcome back our local road sweeper, John Lawrence who has made a good recovery after recent hospital treatment.

He is now back at work, dealing with some of the nastier aspects of city centre life, such as the used hypodermic needles that have been turning up next to the Esca Bar bins at the junction of Preston Street and Regency Square, in rubbish bags or just dumped on the pavement.

These needles pose a real safety hazard. John has warned his fellow street cleaners to watch out for them. The Society has asked the police if they can do anything; they have promised to try to find out where they are coming from.

## Keep trade waste off the streets!

More and more businesses are using the public footways to store their trade waste. We have



asked the Council to take action at locations in Clarence Square, Stone Street and Castle Street.

Just what is the Council's policy on storage of trade waste? If it doesn't have one, then it needs to develop one, and to consult before doing so.

Our view is that storage of trade waste is one of the costs of running a business; by blocking the pavements, businesses are transferring that cost to their neighbours, which is unacceptable.

Pavements are for people!

## Postie Farewell

Mark, who has been the regular post person for much of our area for several years, is now moving on to work on delivery vans. Many thanks to him and best wishes for the future.

We are sad to report the death of **Phyl Edwards**, who lived in Regency Square. Phyl had been a member of the Society since it was first set up. She served on the committee from 1980 to 1982, and her late husband, Eddie was our first chairman. She will be much missed by family and friends.

## An answer at last – but the wrong one

We have been waiting since December 2006 find out what the Council will do about the Esca bar's trade waste bins. They are blocking the pavement near the junction of Regency Square and Preston Street. They are also used by graffiti artists to stand on in order to reach higher up the wall.

Councillor Jason Kitcat has finally had an answer from Cityclean:

“The size of the bins have been reduced from 1100 litre bins to 760 litre so as to reduce the size (which has meant an increase in collection). As well as this the owner has ensured his bins are locked and regulated his refuse to an amenable standard.

In essence little more can be done. The space on the pavement has increased and we have had no complaints to this effect regarding access. We can re-evaluate this if required.”

This is not acceptable. The gap left for passers by is less than one metre and so does not meet the standard for accessibility. People using mobility vehicles or pushing children's' buggies are likely to be forced into the road at a dangerous junction.

We have asked Jason if he can pursue this further. The Council has enforcement powers and it should use them.

## Listed means listed!

The Council's conservation officer has told the Highways Department that they must apply for retrospective listed building consent if they want to leave the bollard that is outside the Regency Tavern in its new position. He has also suggested that it should be removed to the workshop rather than being welded on site. Watch this space!

## What legacy will we leave?

Member, John Clinton's reaction to photos from the past:

“Just had a look at the wonderful James Gray photographs ... When you look at these and compare the views today you want to cry. If there is a God above you would think he would have said, stop this destruction of the built landscape, this is not progress but vandalism! Ah, the consequences of planning, the results of which we live in to-day.”

You can see the James Gray collection at <http://regencysociety-jamesgray.com/volume29/>. Let us know your thoughts.

## Peregrine rescue!!

On 9<sup>th</sup> June we heard that a peregrine was in a backyard near the foot of Sussex Heights. It turned out to be the female chick, identified by the ring number 23.

We were able to catch her and return her to the roof of Sussex Heights.. Hopefully this will be the only time in her life when she travels in a lift!!

The chicks grow quickly, but if they try to fly before they have fully built up their strength they find it difficult to return to the roof of Sussex Heights.

The following day the same chick made a temporary crash landing on a sixteenth floor balcony in Chartwell Court, apparently without any damage.

## Come for a boat trip!



7pm, Thursday 31 July  
from Brighton Marina.  
Advance booking required.  
Full details over the page.