

NEWSLETTER 267 January 2012

Anyone for the Skywheel?

Join us for a trip on Brighton's newest attraction, near the pier. You get three complete revolutions - not the French sort of course, although we wonder whether we might be able to see the French coast from the top.

At 50m above sea level we should certainly get fantastic views of Brighton's landmarks, and the coastline. A commentary is given during the ride.

We will meet by the ticket office opposite the Sealife Centre at 3:30pm on Saturday 4th February. Bring a copy of this newsletter to hold prominently, so we all recognise each other and can make up a group.

Ticket costs £8 for an adult and £6.50 for a child.

Society Contacts:

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Progress with garden improvements



A new bed has been dug in the top garden of Regency Square. The work was donated to the Society by Webber Construction Ltd.

In the spring the bed will be planted with shrubs paid for from the Society's Regency Square improvement fund. This should help to deter footballers from using that area, leaving it safe for young children.

Wild flowers and grasses have been planted on the bank at the top of the middle garden.



We have installed two new seats in the top garden and we are looking at the possibility of repairing the damaged seats on the lower lawns.

The unsightly dog waste bins have been removed. (Dog waste can now be put in normal litter bins provided it is properly bagged.) The railings will be painted in the spring.

Meanwhile our "gardening club" meets regularly at 11am on Saturdays to continue tidying up the gardens. We are taking a look at Russell and Clarence Squares as well to see if there is work to be done there.

More help is needed, so please come along and give a hand if you can. Nigel Rose and Duncan Cameron will be delighted to see you.

We are planning to plant some bulbs soon, but the Council can't supply these. Please contact Nigel Rose (☎ 0785 003 1082) if you know of a cheap source of bulbs or if you can help with the cost.

Oops!

In the last issue we suggested that there would be free parking in the car park for residents on the waiting list for permits. At a recent meeting with Ian Davey, lead councillor for transport, we learnt that this is unlikely to be the case. A car park pass will be available but it will be expensive and will only be valid at certain hours. Sorry to disappoint!

Let there be light!

Following a late night attack in the twitten between Russell and Regency Squares we have asked the Council to improve the street lighting. Once the Regency Tavern switches off its lights much of Russell Square and the twitten are unacceptably dark.

Local councillor, Jason Kitkat has told us that after April there will be improvements to street lighting in various parts of the city. He will ask if Russell Square can be included in the scheme.

Ibsen at the Little Theatre

We are planning a visit to the Little Theatre to see Ibsen's "Hedda Gabler" at 7:45pm on Thursday 8th March. Tickets cost £8.

If you would like to join us please send your name, telephone number and the money for your ticket(s) to Trix Webber, 42 Regency Square, Brighton BN1 2FJ, by **15th February** at the latest. Cheques payable to T Webber please.

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Who are we?

Who runs the Regency Square Area Society? To answer this question we will be publishing brief profiles of the committee members, including any new members who are elected at the AGM in March.

Only four members are standing for re-election. So if you are interested in joining the committee please contact the chairman, or any member for information.



Trix Webber

Our first profile is of Trix Webber, the Society's treasurer. Trix used to work as a lecturer at Brighton University. She lives in Regency Square and has been a member of the Society for eleven years.

She was elected as treasurer in March 2011 and will be standing for re-election this year. She is a keen member of our Saturday gardening club, a group of volunteers who are helping to improve the gardens in our squares.

Recognition at last!

Charles Dickens has long been recognised as one of England's greatest writers, but has Brighton been recognised for its part in his success?

Apparently he loved the town and stayed at the Old Ship and Bedford hotels. He wrote parts of *Bleak House* and *Barnaby Rudge* here. Part of *Dombey and Son* is set in Upper Rock Gardens.

So why is it the Holiday Inn Hotel on which a blue plaque is to be mounted to commemorate Dickens's visits to the town? Because, of course, the Holiday Inn used to be called the Bedford Hotel. In fact the block of flats above it is still called Bedford Towers.

Needless to say, the building to which the plaque will be fixed is not the one that Dickens knew. The original Bedford Hotel was destroyed by fire in 1964.

The plaque is to be unveiled on 8th February.

Talking to the right people

If you want something done, talk to the person who can do it. Just before Christmas we had a meeting with Councillor Ian Davey who is the cabinet member for transport. He came to Regency Square to see at first hand the problems caused when car park queues form on the west side of the square.

We have proposed that some parking spaces should be removed on the garden side of the road so that traffic queuing to get into the car park does not block through traffic.

Councillor Davey has promised to investigate the possibility. However, he tells us that he has already had one letter from someone who opposes the idea, so there's no guarantee it will happen.

What about enforcement?

If parking spaces can't be moved then perhaps the answer is enforcement. Vehicles which block the road are queuing back beyond the signs which say "No queuing beyond this point". So why can't the police deal with the problem?

You've probably guessed the answer: not enough person power. Maybe CCTV with number plate recognition technology would do the trick.

One thing is clear. The present chaotic situation cannot be allowed to continue.

And what about Cannon Place?

Similar problems exist in Cannon Place. Residents of Clarence Square and neighbouring streets want to be allowed to drive home along Western Road, to avoid the queues.

Councillor Davey is also looking for possible solutions to this problem.

We have another meeting with him later this month. Any further news will be in the next newsletter.

Police say "no dogs"

The notices on the gates into the top garden in Regency Square say "No Dogs". In our last issue we suggested that if you see someone take a dog into the garden you could dial 101 (the new police non emergency number).

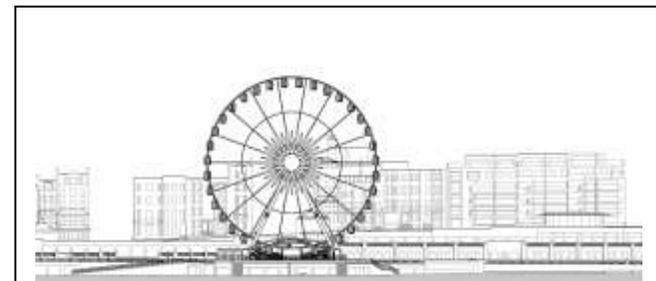
We have now been told that dogs are not a police matter. It is the Council's responsibility to enforce their own "Dogs Exclusion Order", which is the legal basis for excluding dogs from certain areas.

So where does that leave us? Well we could try phoning the Council (☎ 01273 290000) if we see someone taking a dog into the top garden. (Yes, that was a joke!)

Our idea was to put better notices on the gates, explaining why dogs should not be allowed in, namely to keep it clean for young children to play. We suggested this to the Council, but they said - you've guessed it - "No money".

Perhaps the answer simply is to speak to dog owners, and ask them politely, to keep their dogs out of the area.

What do you think?



A ride on the Brighton wheel

Join your neighbours
for a ride on the wheel

3:30pm Saturday 4th February 2012

Meet in front of the wheel.