

NEWSLETTER 334 October 2019

Perennial Parking Problem

The City Council is proposing the removal of 15 shared use (permit holders and pay-per-hour) parking spaces on the east side of the west carriage way of Regency Square. The aim is to avoid traffic tailbacks at busy times.

This is the Society's response to the proposal, based on responses we have received from members on this issue over the last 2 years:

- congestion has increased in recent years as the car park has become the designated car park for the i360. Residents on the west side of the square continue to be concerned about noise, pollution and not being able to access their cars on busy days;
- However, the vast majority of car-owning residents wish to retain the parking spaces. A few have raised concerns about the effectiveness of the proposed solution. The Society therefore opposes the removal of these spaces ...
- But has proposed that these spaces could be removed if an equal or higher number of other shared spaces around the square were re-designated as "permit only spaces".
- The Society has objected to parking bays being created in front of the war memorial: 5 additional parking bays would still mean the loss of 10-12 parking spaces. The Society's initial view (prior to wider consultation) is that it would be inappropriate to introduce parking so close to a war memorial. There may be safety implications given this space is currently used for drop off/pick up, including for visitors to the BA i360.

Please may we stay out later?

The Society is also pushing for an extension of the parking hours to be extended from 6pm until 10pm. The vast majority of residents are acutely aware that the Regency Square area is unusual in that a large number of people are attracted to the area by the many good restaurants in Preston Street.

Unfortunately, this means that there is plenty of free parking for visitors but virtually nowhere to park for residents returning home after 6pm. Do let the Society know if you support this move to longer permit hours.

Vehicle Damage



Local lads may cause a lot of problems in Clarence Square ... but it needs a large vehicle to knock down a hole chunk of heritage railings, as happened in the square last month.

Society committee member, Nigel Massey, contacted the City Council immediately (and repeatedly) to request a repair. Thanks to Nigel's persistence, the railings were righted and looking nearly as good as new within three weeks – far, far quicker than last time the same thing happened a year or so ago.

Graffiti

The Society will not publish and images of graffiti. It is counter-productive to give publicity to this anti-social behaviour. We have all seen it. We all know where it is. We all know that it is getting out of hand in the area.

Some residents painted out a two large area of graffiti in Regency Square two weeks ago. Graffiti re-appeared on the same wall within a week. It has been removed again. Many thanks to the owners or neighbours who have done this.

Is painting out graffiti the answer? Dedicated residents and the Society will continue to do so, but perhaps there are other solutions. Let the Society know what your think?

Thank you, gardeners

Neil Doyle (City Parks Ranger) and his team of volunteer gardeners tidied up a large amount of weeds, dead branches etc from Regency Square last week. The gardens area between the top and middle gardens is greatly improved.



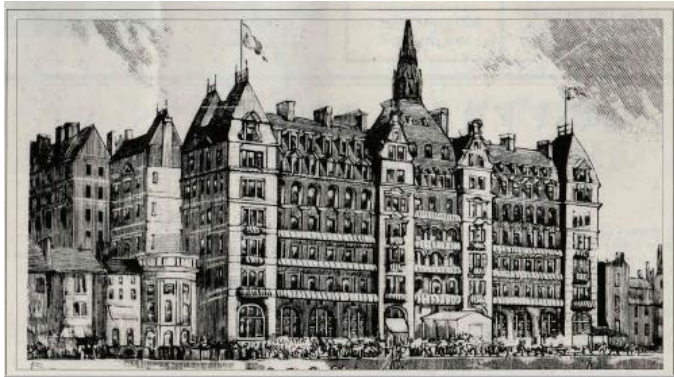
Local resident Gill Wales is now a qualified Practical Volunteer Tasks leader, so most of the work started by Neil will be continued by resident volunteer gardeners. Their task is to keep the gardens neat and tidy. Planting may be carried out only with permission from City Parks.

Redevelopment of the Metropole

Strictly speaking, it is the Metropole Exhibition halls that have been earmarked for development. So far, no planning application has been submitted to the City Council. That makes neighbours of the Metropole rather nervous.

Two executives from development company, First Base, have offered to meet a small group of the Metropole's closest neighbours. At the first meeting Mike Davis will represent the Society. Other representatives will be from:

- 46b to 50 Regency Square (the properties share a party wall with the Exhibition Halls);
- St Margaret's Place (residents have suffered for many years with movement of heavy goods vehicles in the tiny residential street);
- residents of Abbots who overlook the halls and
- Queensbury Mews whose properties face the Exhibition Halls.



The developers have also promised to hold more public meetings once their plans have been submitted. The Society will be keeping a close eye on the plans which will be of city-wide importance and under city-wide scrutiny and will, of course, let members know what meetings are planned.

October Quiz

Following the "modernisation" of the Metropole in the late 1960s, name the room in the hotel was the first in Britain to be used as a licenced casino?

Planning

Former HSBC Bank, Western Road BH2019/02497 and BH2019/02496. The second application is simply a technicality as the building is Grade II listed.

The plan is to create a restaurant in the old banking hall and to form three one-bedroom flats above. This plan includes a new mansard roof which will be visible from Western Road above the parapet. The Society has therefore objected to the application.



As the property is a listed building, the plans will be discussed at the Conservation Advisory Group. Our CAG member, Mike Davis, will be able to make any representations on behalf of residents in this area. Do contact him if you have any concerns: mikedavieshello@gmail.com

18 Stone Street (rear of 66 Western Road) BH2019/02606
This is virtually identical to the approved application from 2016 which had expired at the end of three years. The Society will not be commenting on the application.

August Quiz Answer

Which restaurant in this area started life as a 'Kinema' in March 1896? **The Melrose in Kings Road**

Who's on the bench

The Society has funded three benches in the Regency Square gardens. Private individuals have funded others in the area. We would love to know more about some of the people commemorated on these benches.

Do you have any information about Gwen Birch or Joan Hudson? Do get in contact with Suzanne Hinton (see contact details below)

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