



Regency Square Area Society

NEWSLETTER 48

May 1987

Spring Cleaning Picnic

The Society has two commemorative benches at the top of Regency Square. The winter weather has taken its toll of the woodwork so the time has come to clean them up.

We have decided to do this on Sunday 31 May weather permitting. If the weather is too bad we will postpone it until the following Sunday.

Please do come along and help. The work is not exactly hard and it is a good chance to meet your neighbours. To make it into something of an occasion we are planning to have a picnic when we have finished; bring your own food: coffee and squash will be provided.

Cleaning will start at 11 am and the picnic at around 1230 pm.

Squatters move in

Squatters have moved into Regency House, two large properties at the top of Regency Square which have been used as offices.

A large banner was hung from the second floor proclaiming "Squat the World".

Attitudes towards squatting tend to be mixed. The building seems to have been empty for some time and squatters do draw attention to the need for more housing.

On the other hand a squat can cause problems for neighbours, and hoteliers fear that it will harm their trade.

Two members of the Society went to meet the squatters. They told us that they were holding a squatters' conference over the weekend of 16/17 May. They claimed that 200 people were in the building.

We asked if they planned to stay on; they said that not all 200 would stay but some might.

We also discussed with them the possible effect of their presence on hotel trade and asked if they would be willing to take down their banner. They were not very sympathetic and said that if hotels could put up signs to attract customers, they could put up a banner to attract squatters.

The property is owned by a London based company who have already written to the squatters, no doubt giving them notice to leave. However, as the law stands it seems that if they choose not to do so, it could be some time before they would be forced by the courts to go.

Thanks

Many thanks to Peter Smith and Joan Fraser of Brighton Little Theatre for their interesting talk at the AGM.

The Little Theatre, in Clarence Gardens is closed for repairs and an appeal has been launched to find the money needed.

For more information contact Joan Fraser, 45 the Martlet, the Upper Drive, Hove tel 506724.

TIME TO RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP

To renew your membership please fill in the form below and send it with your subscription to Harold Lawson, Flat 7, Chartwell Court, Russell Square, Brighton.

Please renew my membership for the year 1987/88 in the category of membership ticked below

	£
Ordinary member	2.50
Family	3.00
Senior Citizen	2.00
Junior (8 - 18 years)	0.50
Associate (non-resident)	2.00
Business (non-resident)	5.00

Cheques payable to the Regency Square Area Society please.

Name

Address

Parking Chaos

If you look around Russell Square or Regency Square on a fine weekend you would be inclined to think that Brighton must be overflowing with visitors. Cars park on every available inch of double yellow line, not to mention the pavements in some places.

However, before you do jump to conclusions about Brighton's success as a tourist attraction, take a look in the underground car park. You will probably find that it looks like a huge cavern - an empty cavern.

People do not park illegally because they have to. They do it to avoid paying parking fees.

For local people who pay rates and residents' parking charges this is no joke. But what do the police and wardens do? Too often they turn a blind eye.

The Society has complained to the Police about this situation.

West Pier

The poor old West Pier is in the news again.

The latest engineer's report states that there is still a danger of a major collapse of the seaward end in spite of recent repairs.

If this did happen it could mean the end of plans to save the Pier according to Trust Chairman, John Smith. The Trust needs £4 million to make the structure properly sound.

They have had to abandon plans to set up cabins on the landward end. All resources are being channelled into repairs to the substructure. Pressure is being put on Brighton and Hove Councils for more money.

Don Phillips who spoke at a Society meeting last year has given up his post as full time chief executive of the Trust. He will continue to help on a part time basis.

These developments are worrying. Regency Square has had this disused and decaying structure opposite for over a decade now. It seemed earlier in the year that things were starting to happen but this latest news is not good.

The question on many people's minds must be When do we stop trying to save it and start campaigning for it to be taken away?

What do you think? Please let the Society know your views.

CAB on the move

The Citizen's Advice Bureau has moved offices. They are now at 39-41 Surrey Street opposite the Station.

The offices in St George's Place and Ditchling Rise have closed.

The Bureau is available to anyone as a source of free, confidential advice on a wide range of problems such as benefits, employment, debt, housing and legal matters.

Which Cream?

Regency Square has been subject to uniform painting scheme since 1980. As a result many houses have now been painted cream.

The problem is that there are different shades of cream. But there is only one correct one: it is known by its British Standard number BS 10 C 31.

If you ask in a paint shop without specifying this number you may end up with Hove Regency Cream which is the colour used in Brunswick Square and is darker.

Litter in Clarence Sq

Clarence Square may look like a residential area but it is actually a waste disposal unit for some of the town's main shops.

Businesses in Western Road put their rubbish into their back yards at the top of the square and the wind does the rest.

We are compiling a dossier of photographs to illustrate this problem. We plan to use it to try and persuade the shops to take more care in the way they dispose of rubbish.

If you have any suitable pictures please give them to Roger Hinton, 38 Regency Square.

New Committee

The following people were elected at the AGM to serve on the committee:

CHAIRMAN Roger Hinton
38 Regency Sq. Tel 21794

SECRETARY Richard Pau
40 Regency Sq. Tel 26711

TREASURER Harold Lawson
7 Chartwell Court, Russell Sq
Tel 28203

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Ros Boulden, Queensbury Mews
Clive Buxton, Adelaide Hotel, Regency Sq
Kate Dessau, Abbots, Kings Rd
Joyce Evans, Regents Court, Regency Sq
John Henderson, Sussex Heights
Ken Kennard, Russell Sq
Pat McCulloch, Queensbury Mews
Trudy Tappin, Imperial Arcade

Please contact any of the committee if you have a problem or a suggestion that you think the Society can help with.