



Regency Square Area Society

NEWSLETTER 103
December 1994

The Christmas Tree Arrives

Lights are now twinkling at the top of Regency Square as the Christmas tree sways in breeze,

The Society is grateful to Brighton Council who supplied and erected the tree.

The cost of electricity and insurance will be met from Society funds.



**A merry Christmas
and a happy new year
from the Society Committee
to all members.**

Recipe for Success

Take forty neighbours and place in a room. Add a dozen bottles of wine, two litres of orange juice and several plates of sandwiches.

Flavour with local politicians from opposing parties and a sprinkling of controversy. Stir gently.

What do you get? A very enjoyable and informative evening.

Thanks . . .

. . . to everyone who helped make the evening a success, especially the Metropole Hotel for the use of the room and for the sandwiches.

And most important of all, many thanks to councillors Martin Boggon and Roy Pennington for putting themselves in the firing line.

What was Said ?

Where are the Wardens ?

There were complaints that since the removal of the tow-away squad the enforcement of parking regulations has become too lax. Motorists can now park on double yellow lines and even on the pavements with little or no risk of any penalty.

Councillor Boggon said that he has discussed this with the Chief Officer at Brighton Police Station. He was told that the tow-away squad does still operate and cars on pavements and double yellow lines are still liable to be removed.

This information produced sounds of disbelief from around the room. Councillor Boggon promised to pass local views back to the police.

Pavement Advertising

The next problem raised was advertising boards on the pavements in Preston Street. Councillor Boggon reported that this is a national problem which is currently under review.

At present the police have no powers to remove these signs but he is hopeful that there will be legislation which will enable them to do so.

Councillor Pennington suggested that since the Council has powers to license restaurants to put chairs and tables on the pavement, it might be appropriate for it to be given similar powers for advertising boards.

Rubbish

No Society meeting is complete without a moan about plastic bags full of rubbish. Councillor Boggon reported that a new contract for the collection of rubbish and street cleaning would come into effect in the latter part of next year.

He assured us that in future the same contractor would be responsible for street cleaning and domestic refuse.

He was pressing for Regency Square to have extra collections because of its importance for the town's tourist industry. However, he emphasised that resources are limited and it would never be possible to provide a level of cleansing that would satisfy everyone.

Wot no politics ?

It was interesting to note that there was quite a lot of agreement between the two councillors even though they represent different parties. But there was one issue which did reveal some differences. . . . PTO

Who Should Live Where ?

It was the fact that Brighton Council Housing Department is using some hotels in Regency Square to provide bed and breakfast accommodation for homeless people.

There were complaints that this brings criminals, drug addict and alcoholics into the area . This causes problems for those hotels which are still trying to cater for tourists and conference visitors.

Councillor Boggon agreed and said that he was trying to persuade the Housing Department not to use bed and breakfast hotels in Regency Square. He believes there is plenty of space elsewhere in the town.

Councillor Pennington sympathised with the problems being faced by hoteliers in the area but he did not think the solution was as simple as Councillor Boggon had suggested. He does not think there is necessarily plenty of space elsewhere and he believes that homeless people themselves should have some say in where they are accommodated.

Above all he was unhappy that homeless people were being stigmatised. He suggested that the problem was not really one of homelessness: it was a wider one caused by economic conditions.

Public Transport Map

We have been sent several copies of the East Sussex public transport map which gives information about bus and rail routes.

If you would like a copy call Roger Hinton (321794).

Pavements - some good news and some bad news

The good news is that pavements in Stone Street are due for repair during 1995/6 and that pavements in Preston Street will have major repairs after completion of the cabling work by Nynex.

The bad news is that there are no plans for repairs in Castle Street. After a request by the Society, Council officers have inspected the pavements in Castle Street but are not able to carry out any major repairs in the foreseeable future.

They assure us that day to day defects will be dealt with when necessary.

Watch Your Step !

Work is progressing on the new flats at 40-41 Castle Street.

The front doors seem to be rather high off the ground and some concern has been expressed that the contractors may be planning to build steps out on the pavement.

We have consulted the Council about this and have been assured that they could not do this without a license. No license has been applied for to date.

SOCIETY CONTACTS

CHAIRMAN Harold Lawson tel 328203
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Please Pay your Subs - but only once

Most members have now paid for the current year which runs until the end of February. One or two members have been offering to pay twice during the year - which is very generous but not really fair.

So please look at the box below. If it has a cross in it your subscription for the current year is overdue. If it is blank you are up to date.

To Brian Smith, 45 Regency Square, Brighton.

I would like to renew my membership of the Regency Square Area Society for the year 1994/95 in the category ticked below:

	£
Ordinary member	3.00
Family	3.50
Senior Citizen	2.50
Junior	1.00
Associate (non-resident)	2.50
Business (non-resident)	5.50

Name

Address

Cheques payable to the Regency Square Area Society please.

A cross in the box means your subscription is due.

