



Regency Square Area Society

NEWSLETTER 98

May 1994

Si elle était en France

A French visitor was walking along the seafront when he came across the West Pier. He expressed amazement that such a beautiful piece of architecture could have been allowed to fall into a state of disrepair.

He then went on to explain why there was a gap between the land and the main part of the pier: it is trying to get to France because it knows it would be better treated there.

This is just one of the many amusing anecdotes used by Gavin Henderson to illustrate his talk at our recent AGM.

A Cultural Future ?

Although his talk was entitled "The Festival and Historic Brighton", the main subject of Gavin Henderson's talk was the future of the West Pier.

The main point he made was that the Pier needs a vision. All the schemes to save it that have been proposed recently have assumed that once restored, the purpose of the pier will be to make money.

But who will provide money (public or private) to restore a piece of architectural heritage, just to watch others then use it to make money ?

The West Pier has a great history as a cultural centre. After all, the two main buildings are a theatre and a concert centre. It could become the same again.

There is money for projects of this kind. A new opera house is being built at Glyndebourne. Part of the income from the National Lottery is going to be made available for heritage projects.

If the people who control this kind of money could be persuaded to share a vision of Brighton's West Pier as a major centre for the arts, maybe it could still have a future.

KEEP ON PHONING

Don't forget to phone the Council if you find rubbish dumped in the street. The free number to call is 0800 525573.

From One Extreme . . .

Time was when you only had to leave your car in the wrong place for ten minutes and it would be whisked away to the pound - and you would be quite a few pounds worse off after you had got it back.

Now it seems that it is possible to park on double yellow lines with impunity. The problem has got so bad that during the bank holiday weekend a large coach was unable to get round the north east corner of Regency Square because of illegally park cars.

The driver had to reverse right across top of the Square and into Preston Street !

We are consulting the police to see if a happy medium can be achieved between excessive zeal and anarchy.

Thanks !

To everyone who helped with the AGM. To the Metropole for the use of the room and the provision of sandwiches. And especially to Gavin Henderson who took time out from the busy run up to his final Festival to come and talk to us.

It's Time to Renew your Subscription

Thanks to those members who have renewed subscriptions. If you have not done so yet, please use the form below.

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.

Not Again !

Does anyone know what has happened to the Society's bench that was at the top of Regency Square ? It has the Society name carved in it and a commemorative plaque below the seat.

It disappeared shortly before Easter. We have reported it to the Police. This is the second time that one of our benches has been stolen. Both benches were chained and padlocked to the railings, but the padlock on this one had been broken by vandals and had not yet been replaced.

It seems amazing that someone could bring a lorry to take it away. If you have any information about its whereabouts please call Roger Hinton (321794).

Your New Committee

At the AGM the following people were elected:

| | |
|-------------------------|------------------|
| Chairman: Harold Lawson | Chartwell Court |
| Secretary: Richard Pau | Regency Square |
| Treasurer: Brian Smith | Regency Square |
| Committee: | |
| Clive Buxton | Regency Square |
| Diana Dunn | Clarence Gardens |
| Roger Hinton | Regency Square |
| Pat McCulloch | Queensbury Mews |
| Kate Page | Queensbury Mews |
| Neil Rosborough | Sussex Heights |

Tower Block Immortalised in Paint

31 March was a busy day in this area for Gavin Henderson. In the evening he was at our AGM but at lunch time he was the guest of Sussex Heights residents where he unveiled Caroline Bilson's painting of the tower. It is now on view in the foyer.

Working for the Community

The St John Ambulance has a national reputation for the work of its volunteer workers. Now our local Regency Division has found a way to combine its valuable work in the community with help for the unemployed.

Society member Terry Wing is Superintendent of the Division. He has announced a scheme for unemployed people to help with the Division's work and gain valuable training and experience at the same time.

The scheme is open to anyone who has been unemployed and receiving benefit for over a year. For more details call Terry on 696969.

Residents Parking: it's not for your convenience !

We recently asked the Council if they would change the resident parking scheme to include Sunday now that Sunday trading is the norm.

The answer is maybe but not yet. The situation is being monitored. And of course if Sunday was included, the fee might have to be increased.

In their reply they make two other points which are worth quoting in full: "1 The Council has no duty to provide parking for residents. 2 The reason for residents parking is really to help residents during Voucher Parking hours when otherwise they would not be able to park on street for more than 2 or 4 hours (residents' convenience is to some extent a valuable side benefit)." So now you know !

Calling All Gardeners

If you live in this area you probably don't have a very big garden. Here is your chance to take on something really substantial !

The Council has recently put some new planting around Regency Square. They had also planned to re-instate the automatic watering system but have now found that is not possible.

So volunteers are needed to water the plants. It needs to be done every day because there is so little depth of soil. The Council will provide a stand pipe if someone is willing to wield the hose.

If you are interested call Pat McCulloch on 773275.

The Planners Get Tough

Planners have been trying for some time to persuade the owner of 128 Kings Rd to re-instate the balconies and windows which have been removed from the front of the building. But to no avail. They now plan to take enforcement action.

SOCIETY CONTACTS

CHAIRMAN Harold Lawson tel 328203
SECRETARY Richard Pau: tel 326711
TREASURER Brian Smith tel 325175
NEWSLETTER Roger Hinton tel 321794