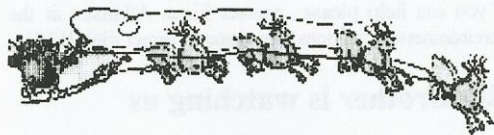


Regency Square Area Society

NEWSLETTER 122
December 1996

Celebrate Christmas with your local Society ...



... Carols Round the Tree

The Choir of St Paul's in West Street will be singing carols round the Christmas Tree in Regency Square from 8 pm on Friday 20 December.

Everyone is welcome. Please come along and join in (or just listen) and bring your friends.

Hot mince pies will be served by the Society in the Regency Tavern afterwards. (If you can contribute

some mince pies please contact Gail Simons at the Regency Hotel on 202690.)

... And a Drink in the Pub

After the carols, at about 830pm, the Society committee and the choir will be meeting for a Christmas drink in the Regency Tavern. Please come along and say hello.

Two Cheers for the Council

We don't often have a kind word for Brighton Council but, for a change, here are a couple:

First of all a thank you for supplying and erecting the Christmas tree in Regency Square. (The Society has provided the lights.)

Secondly, we had an excellent response during the recent windy weather when a window was blown out of a house in Regency Square, leaving large shards of glass on the road and pavement. Our chairman reported this to the Council just before 4 p.m. and by 4:30 the response team had arrived and cleared the glass away.

Parking problems solved by phone ?



As reported in the last issue, we have not yet had much success in persuading the Council to improve the residents' parking scheme.

Nor have we managed to persuade the police to enforce the existing parking rules more rigorously.

But perhaps we need to do more ourselves. The parking wardens have a mobile unit in operation between 10am and 6pm every day except Sunday. They have told us that this unit will always attend if we report illegal parking by phone.

So let's give it a try. The number to call is

Brighton 665531

Draw Raises almost £2,000

The Society's prize draw was held at the Beach Hotel on 28 November. The first prize, a holiday in Tenerife, was won by Mavis who works at the Regency Tavern.

The draw has added a total of £1,864 to the Regency Square Improvement Fund which now stands at well over £4,000.

Thanks ...

... to everyone who helped make the draw such a success. In particular those who contributed prizes. Members responded so generously to the request for items for a Christmas hamper that we were able to make two. One is being donated to the Evening Argus Christmas appeal.

Thanks also to Tony Watts of Wasa Insurance whose company donated £100 to the fund.

The draw would not have worked without the support of those local shops and pubs which sold tickets. And a special thanks to the Beach hotel for providing a room and to Topps Hotel for providing wine at the start of the evening.

Thanks also of course to everyone who supported the draw by buying tickets, and last but very far from least to Society Committee member, Traude Tappin who organised the whole thing.

And commiserations ...

... to Councillor Nimrod Ping who had volunteered to draw the winning ticket. Unfortunately he was taken ill that evening and had to spend the night in hospital.



HAPPY CHRISTMAS

from the committee to all our members.

Please join us round the Christmas tree for carols at 8pm on Friday 20 December



Lights at the end of the Pier

The Brighton West Pier Trust invited the mayor to switch on lights along the pier earlier this month. The Trust chairman, Sir Lindsay Bryson said that they will stay on "through thick and thin" until the pier is restored.

But are there any lights visible at the end of the tunnel as far as the pier's future is concerned?

The answer seems to be yes. At the Trust's AGM last month there was a real feeling that things are moving forward.

£1 million has already been spent on emergency work and on providing an access link from the land. This money came mainly from the National Lottery. A feasibility study is now being made by accountants.

The purpose of the study is to find out if commercial operations on the pier will be able to generate enough income to maintain the structure. If the answer is yes then a further £4.2m of Lottery money will become available for the next stage of the repairs.

The interesting question for those of us who live near the pier is, what sort of commercial activity will there be. At the moment there is no answer to that. The Trust chairman has mentioned various possibilities such as a casino, a hotel, shops and restaurants.

The truth is that no one will know what will really happen on the pier until a developer actually signs up to develop it. However, the trust has laid down some conditions which they intend to impose on any commercial operator of the pier:

- the pier and the buildings on it must be returned to their 1920's external appearance.
- the general public should have access to the full length of the pier.
- the usage's of the restored pier must include artistic and educational activities.
- the Trust will retain responsibility for the long term stewardship of the pier, including maintenance of the structure.

Meanwhile plans are in hand to open a visitors centre in the arches near the pier. The trust is also raising money by running guided tours of the pier every Thursday at 3pm, but places are limited so you should book ahead (tel 321499). A donation of £15 is suggested (£10 for Trust members).

"Not just railings and roses"

The Council recently asked us to fill in a questionnaire about how we would like to see the area regenerated. The results were summarised in a previous newsletter.

"Not just railings and roses" is the name of the Council's report on the results. The title is a quote from one of the many comments which people wrote after ticking their answers to questions. These comments are all listed in the report. One or two certainly deserve wider publication.

For example, one person suggested that the Regency Square car park should be "blocked off with the NCP Chairman inside."

Someone else said "No provision for vandals" but it is not quite clear what sort of provision they had in mind.

One person in Russell Square described their neighbours as "tenants from hell."

What is going to happen ?

As reported recently, the Council hopes to collect enough funds to spend about half a million pounds on Russell, Clarence, Regency and Bedford Squares. Work on the first two will be done in 1997. Regency Square will be a bigger project and therefore more time will be needed to deal with it. Work will start in 1998.

Exactly what will be done is still to be decided. Our chairman is a member of the group set up by the Council to review the proposed schemes so we will keep you informed as news becomes available.

Remembering the railings

One idea for Regency Square is to replace the original railings. The trouble is that the Council officers are not sure exactly what they looked like. So they are keen to get hold of old photographs with railings visible.

If you can help please contact Fiona Atkinson at the Environmental Services Department, direct dial 712934

Big Brother is watching us

A new piece of street furniture has appeared on the seafront opposite Regency Square. It is a pole which will have a security video camera on top linked to the police station.

The camera will give a view into the square and each way along Kings Road. The pictures will be recorded.

So, if you're doing anything you shouldn't be, make sure you're out of sight.

SOCIETY CONTACTS

CHAIRMAN Brian Smith ☎ 325175
SECRETARY Pat McCulloch ☎ 773275
TREASURER Gail Simons ☎ 202690
NEWSLETTER Roger Hinton ☎ 321794

