



# *The Kemp Town Society*



## **THE WINTER NEWSLETTER – 2008**

**Dear Members,**

**Thank you for taking time to open this and reading through its contents. There is a lot for you to digest – so please take more than a casual moment to read it through.**

**If you are not a Society member and the content in anyway piques your interest and you know you are vicariously benefiting from our voluntary efforts, your acknowledgement or feedback is most welcome!**

**This year we celebrate our 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary. We are very much still in business, but no time to celebrate just yet!**

**Judged by the static information on your website over the last two months it may suggest nothing has been going on at KTS – rest assured that has not been the case – there is lots to hearten you that we are making progress on a number of fronts!**

### **The Website**

**Our website is partially dormant because of the added time commitment it takes to communicate through it. Most of us know only too well that “web” maintenance is yet another duty requiring specific computer expertise. Slowly as time and funds permit, we are going through an upgrade or two. Some of this requires your FEEDBACK, so we have a sense of what is not welcome as we endeavour to move this project along.**

**Nearly everyone communicates through their email at home or office as a matter of course. As Chairman, I value greatly traditional letter writing and I for one write my emails as an old fashioned letter; if not on paper too. I am sure many of you do likewise! However, by the time a traditional letter is prepared, printed and voluntarily distributed, the urgency of our time sensitive communication is very often lost. Hence some of the above mentioned inactivity.**

**It is my goal to ensure the KTS website will soon be the standard means of communication in addition to the formal notices (AGM) and printed newsletters. Then we can communicate on a more timely basis and ease the administrative pressures. Added to which, we are aware of the legal parameters which now exist with respect to website communications.**

**We are looking into adding to the site the means of payment of our social events and membership. We will keep the arrangements as they are, but add the ability of payment by credit card through a secure online banking payment system that everyone can readily use without fear of their account being “hacked” or alarm at the loss of the**

current arrangements. Standing orders will not change. We will introduce the considered changes with care, but it is a necessity to embrace the now standard computer-based services, which save time and money and provide convenience to members. Your “management team’s ” pressure of work should, in time, be much reduced, which must not be overlooked, given the voluntary nature of it.

I have some initial work to complete to ensure the best long term decisions are made, but if such a system is abhorrent to you or you would encourage the idea of doing things this way, PLEASE LET ME KNOW.

Next, a little trophy of success!

## **Communal Bins**

We have essentially won the Battle of the Bins. The Council Cabinet voted to save Sussex Square, Lewes Crescent, Arundel and Chichester Terraces from communal bins as well as the prime Hove Squares and Crescent.

### ***The Extract from the Council minutes:***

- (1) *That the Cabinet approves the introduction of a communal bin scheme in the central areas of Brighton and Hove as defined in Annex 1.*
- (2) *That the Cabinet notes the following historic squares and terraces be excluded from the scheme:*
  - (i) *Sussex Square, Lewes Crescent, Chichester Terrace and Arundel Terrace*
  - (ii) *Brunswick Square and Brunswick Terrace*
  - (iii) *Adelaide Crescent / Palmeira Square*

However, you should be aware that elsewhere the Cabinet have also inserted a clause that:

“Due to the unique setting and architectural significance of Lewes Crescent, Sussex Square, Chichester Terrace, Arundel Terrace, Brunswick Square and Terrace and Palmeira Square and Adelaide Crescent it is proposed that the application of communal bins is deferred to allow for a review of the means to minimise the visual impact of any proposed containers. These areas can be excluded without affecting the viability of the rest of the scheme.”

So, as written, City Clean has given with one hand and taken with the other! Keeping their options open so wide that you can drive a rubbish truck through it is not exactly an honest decision! In time, I will seek clarification from City Clean. However, the suggestion here affects Hove more than Kemp Town, from what I have gathered. The cost of hiding the bins is beyond the financial remit of the council’s current capacity.

A special THANK YOU to Tom Chavasse, now Chairman of the Friends of Palmeira and Adelaide including Brunswick Terrace for his unyielding efforts with Councillors and before Council. We took the decision that a joint effort would work better than going it alone. It seems to have paid off.

Generally 70% of the Estate voted in favour of maintaining the black bag collection.

## **The Marina Development**

**The drama of the Marina re-development has again raised its ugly head (tower blocks!), as many of you will know. We are now contending with the new amended application by Explore Living to increase the number of flats to 1,301. Matters are very much underway to keep the pressure on Councillors on the main Planning Committee informed of our views along with the other area residents associations and organisations. A flyer is to be distributed very shortly through your door (or accompanies this hand delivered Newsletter).**

**Many of you will have sent in emails or letters into Council with your objections. Perhaps even support. My flyer outlines more comprehensive reasons why I do not take favourably to this planning application. It is full of good intentions, but will deliver more problems than it solves. More research is being explored to test the validity of the “regeneration”.**

**We seek as many as possible to attend the public meetings being held at 3.0pm on December 4<sup>th</sup> at the Council Offices ahead of the Full Council where questions may be asked, if lodged a minimum of 5 days beforehand. We encourage active support by any means of intended letters, emails yet to be sent – and a protest march on the Council offices on 12<sup>th</sup> December a 12.30 at the Hove Town Hall – the DECISION DAY.**

## **English Heritage**

**KTS committee members are to hold a meeting with English Heritage here. It is to address the Marina development, but it is also to seek advice with respect to the new Energy Assessment Certificates and an understanding of the Heritage Protection Bill (yet put into law). Advice with respect to property improvements won't go amiss either. So more news about this in due course.**

**The principle reason for this meeting is to engage with EH, who previously failed to reply to my letter of March this year. Their agreement to come here is a plus – and with some hope that it will start a comprehensive dialogue, so that our local opinions are taken into account when they make recommendations on planning matters.**

**The Council Leader and our local Councillor, Mary Mears did a personal site tour of the Estate to hear of our concerns about specific matters. She has actioned a number of important measures.**

- 1) The Street lights along Marine Parade are to be repaired/replaced and repainted**
- 2) Seafront railings are to be reviewed for painting**
- 3) Estate pavements are to be repaired and tarmac removed and replaced by paving**
- 4) A comprehensive review of the Chichester Terrace paving situation is underway**
- 5) Bicycle hoops are to be installed in the near future on pre-approved locations to stop the chaining of bikes to the railings**
- 6) The project to re-install the garden enclosure railings along Marine Parade will be given a higher priority by Council, when our proposal is put forward. Quotes to cost this work (all being undertaken with the Enclosures) has commenced**

## **Volunteers**

**As many of you will be aware, I have sought the able assistance of others in the volunteer work, which is expended on behalf of the Members. This is particularly important on the social activities.**

**Is there anyone reading this who could come forward to assist the Social Committee in making the ticket and dining arrangements for the shows or following up on the phone to make sure all Society tickets are sold (to avoid making a loss on the day!) – it would be invaluable. Please let someone know – Joan Griffiths, on the Social Committee, would be the ideal person.**

**Some future Dates.**

**December 4<sup>th</sup> - The WarHorse.**

**The Christmas Tree lighting. We are keen to repeat this for the children in the neighbourhood. We are looking for volunteers to assist us with this two weeks before Christmas. ANYONE AVAILABLE?**

**With Best Wishes to you all.**

**Paul Phillips, Chairman**

**Flat 2,  
7 Chichester Terrace,  
BN2 1FG**