

# THE FRIENDS OF PALMEIRA AND ADELAIDE

NEWSLETTER  
2010 No 1



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## LETTER FROM THE CHAIR

**This is my first letter to you as the new Chair of the Friends of Palmeira and Adelaide Committee, and I do realise I have much to live up to. However, I shall do my very best to keep the good work of the Committee moving on.**

There are quite a few new plans for 2010, and these are mostly taken from the ideas and suggestions that came from the response to our survey. A big thank you to everyone who took the time to reply.

The repair and renovation of the retaining wall at the sea end of Adelaide Crescent will be one of our main aims for the future. It's poor state has not been helped by the bad weather this year, and because it is Listed we will need all the help of the Council officers to achieve a result. The other major undertaking is to see if the road in front of Palmeira Mansions can be taken over by the Council and improved so that it can be used safely.

These two issues will take some time, but are high on our list. We have already had a visit from John Barradell, the new Chief Executive of Brighton and Hove City Council and have shown him these problem areas.

From comments on the survey the other issues we plan to look into are - an improvement to the paths in the gardens, more facilities for cycle parking, the removal of the unsightly Portakabins and last but very definitely not least, some help with a scheme to discourage the pigeons in the Square and Crescent.

On the pigeon issue, we have a representative from an agency called 'Hawkforce' coming to talk to us at our next meeting on 27 March. Everyone will have plenty of questions on this subject I am sure. Our meetings at the Cornerstone for this year will be on 27 March and 23 October. We have just arranged two for this year, but we hope to have something similar to our AGM presentation those mornings as well.

We have also taken note of some comments about the Summer Party, and although everyone who came to the last ones thoroughly enjoyed them, some people had suggested that it would be good to have a free event. So for this summer we thought we could have a picnic, open to all our residents. The date we propose is Sunday 11th July, from mid-day to whenever and suggest everyone brings their own picnic, which will give us the chance to meet as many



neighbours as possible. Of course it could rain! So the plan is, if the weather is bad, we will try again the following Sunday, 18 July.

However, we have kept our Christmas Party, and the planned date is Friday 10 December and this will be a ticket event – so something for everyone.

Finally, a few changes to our newsletter. From this year our newsletters will be sent out by e-mail to all Members who have given us their contact information. We will, though, still deliver paper copies to anyone who does not have that option. Where there are items of news that cannot wait for the newsletter, these will be sent out as and when they arise. So several changes for a new decade, but our association, the Friends of Palmeira and Adelaide, remains the same, I hope you will agree.

With best wishes,

Susan

## Committee for 2010

**Susan Hunter** *Chair*

**Richard Hawkes** *Secretary*

**Katherine Simpson** *Treasurer*

**Ruth Addison** *Planning and Conservation*

**Rory Connelly** *Streetscape*

**Tim Kirkup** *Website*

**Susie de Castilho** *Gardens*

**Balint Bodroghy** *North of the Square*

## Parking Permit waiting time may be reduced



Acting for Residents Associations within Zone M, our Ward Cllr. Paul Elgood presented a petition to the Council Meeting on 10<sup>th</sup> December calling for action to reduce the one year waiting time for a parking permit. The adjoining Zones N and O having no waiting time, the proposal was to amalgamate the three to ease

the load. The petition went forward to the Environment Cabinet Meeting on 26<sup>th</sup> January where it was decided to reject amalgamation of all three Zones but possibly consider joining M with O to the north of us. Lansdowne Area Residents Association are leading the action on this.

## New Chief Executive visits Palmeira and Adelaide



On 29<sup>th</sup> January the new Chief Executive of Brighton and Hove City Council, John Barradell, visited Brunswick and Adelaide Ward, and started with a short tour of Palmeira and Adelaide. Our Ward Cllrs. Paul Elgood and David Watkins hosted the tour, with our Chairman Susan Hunter and two other FOPA Committee members. We were pleased to show him the various improvements we have been able to make over the last decade, and draw his attention to a number of current concerns. He seemed genuinely interested and such personal contact with those at the top of local government is invaluable.

## Police Local Action Team



LAT meetings for Brunswick and Adelaide are held quarterly at the Cornerstone Centre, attended on our behalf by our Chairman Susan Hunter. On 27<sup>th</sup> January a number of topics were discussed including, most importantly, drug dealing in the gardens, which the Police are keen that we report with, if possible, photos of people, car number plates etc.. In the first instance use the Police call centre 0845 60 70 99 or, if a genuine emergency, use 999. There is also an email address [contactcentre@sussex.pnn.police.uk](mailto:contactcentre@sussex.pnn.police.uk) Other concerns raised were an increase in burglaries including bogus

callers posing as police, parking problems in St.John's Road and a persistent increase in licensed retailers in the area. The meeting was also attended by Cityclean who were taken to task over their performance with snow and ice clearance during the recent freezing weather. The next meeting is on 17<sup>th</sup> March at 7.15pm and is open to all.

## Brunswick and Adelaide Residents Group

The four principal Residents Associations within Brunswick and Adelaide meet periodically to discuss and act on issues of mutual interest. The last meeting was on 1<sup>st</sup> February attended on our behalf by our Chairman Susan Hunter. Amongst the subjects this time were the enquiry into estate agents boards to be held at Hove Town Hall on 9<sup>th</sup> March; more cycle racks within the ward; the new Brunswick Town walking map; concerns about alcohol sales at and deliveries to the new Sainsbury's; and this year's arrangements for 'Brunswick in Bloom'.



BARG is also the vehicle for our seat at the Conservation Advisory Group which inspects planning applications within Conservation Areas. For many years FOPA provided the representative, but this position is now very ably filled by Juliette Hunting of Lansdowne Area RA.

## Reduction in Speed Limit to be considered



The Council have set up a city-wide Scrutiny Panel to look at lowering the speed limit in residential streets to 20 mph. FOPA have submitted a comment generally welcoming any move to increase street safety, but querying the practicality of such a control here, where speeds are generally slow other than a few tearaways who will take no notice anyway, and the necessity for effective enforcement. We also stated that we would not wish to see speed humps or any increase in street signage. We are proud of our traffic management layout in this area, which FOPA designed, and we have asked to work closely with the Council on this proposal. Our Ward Cllr. Paul Elgood is a member of the Scrutiny Panel.

## Summer Picnic

A number of members and others have suggested that our Summer Party in the gardens should be a free event. We have therefore decided to make this a no-ticket, no-charge informal gathering bringing your own picnic. Currently scheduled for Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> July, if the weather turns bad we shall defer until the next Sunday, and so on until a fine day! A flyer will be delivered to all houses encouraging all residents to come along.



# The Gardens



The Council have plans to resurface the paths in the same manner as Brunswick Square, with captive gravel; this will greatly improve both appearance and safety.

We can also report that there are also plans to improve the redundant enclosure base in the Crescent, known as the 'concrete pad, on which we shall be consulted in detail. Currently the

proposal is to remove some of the pad, install two benches, a large planter and improved retaining walls.

There have been a number of suggestions as to what might be done with the redundant portakabins in the Crescent, including covered bicycle storage and even a café. This has been discussed with the grounds manager, but the problem of attracting drug dealing and vagrants prevents leaving the doors open.



Tree planting continues, with three more donated by a member added to the Square last month. After much pressure from FOPA the Council have at last pruned the trees overhanging the ring of donated pink prunus in the rose garden in the Square, which should improve their growth.

For 2010 we have a number of new ideas, including a low hedge along the perimeter of the top of the Square, to form a visual barrier and a frame for the gardens. This would need long term protection until established, but should grow fairly quickly if the new one at the top of the Crescent gardens is anything to go by. The height will be kept low so that the view will not be obstructed.



## Controlling the Pigeon Population



Hawkforce will be giving a presentation to our meeting at the Cornerstone Centre Saturday on 27<sup>th</sup> March. This company were responsible for the clearance of Trafalgar Square without the killing

of any birds. Their Harris Hawks scare only pigeons and, by doing so regularly, break the nesting cycle in the area. It takes several months to do this, but once done the pigeons do not return. Song birds are not affected. Our survey gave a clear mandate to look at this and so we are making it a project for 2010.

### Calendar for 2010

#### Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> March

Cornerstone Centre 10.30am – Coffee from 10am  
Association Meeting with presentation by Hawkforce

#### Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> July

Midday to 5pm  
Bring your own picnic Garden Party in the Crescent  
or to be deferred to the 18<sup>th</sup> if bad weather

#### Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> October

Cornerstone Centre 10.30am  
Coffee from 10am  
Association Meeting with presentation to be announced

#### Friday 10<sup>th</sup> December

6pm to 8pm  
Christmas Party at Studio323  
32 Palmeira Square  
Details to be announced

## CORNERSTONE MEETING

Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> of March 2010  
Cornerstone Centre church road  
10:30am  
coffee from 10am

Association Meeting with Presentation by

**HAWK FORCE**

Controlling the Pigeons  
in Palmeira Square  
and Adelaide Crescent

all are welcome



## Survey Results

472 survey forms were delivered with 123 forms returned as completed, making a 26% response rate. Half of the responses were from members with the other half coming from non members. These were the results:

QUESTIONS	yes	no
Do you think that more trees and shrubs should be planted in the gardens?	56	39
Are you in favour of the summer meadow adjacent to the new hedge on the North Side of AC?	91	8
Are you in favour of allowing the gardens to be used for barbeques?	33	64
Do you think the enclosed public garden in Brunswick Square is more attractive than our two gardens?	18	75
Are you content with the existing arrangements for household rubbish collection?	73	24
<b>Would you be in favour of:</b>		
a children's playground?	24	74
stronger measures to eliminate dog fouling in the gardens and pavements?	83	13
an increased provision of stands for bicycles?	82	15
the southern retaining wall of Adelaide garden?	94	5
measures to humanely control the pigeon population?	79	18
the introduction of a 20mph speed limit to increase road safety?	80	18
adoption by the council of the service roads in front of Palmeira Mansions and the introduction of parking controls?	60	23
prohibition of fireworks in the gardens?	67	31
lighting in Adelaide garden, similar to that in Palmeira rose garden?	75	22
Cornerstone meetings addressing only FOPA matters without outside speakers	42	35
Cornerstone meetings always with outside speakers?	34	40
Cornerstone meetings followed by a pre-lunch glass of wine?	58	14
social evenings among FOPA members with a glass of wine?	67	8
group trips for older members to places like Nymans or Wakehurst Place?	55	18
Have you visited the FOPA websites, <a href="http://www.fopa.co.uk">www.fopa.co.uk</a> or <a href="http://www.fopagardens.org">www.fopagardens.org</a> ?	41	53
Do you think these sites could be improved?	17	21

The slide show of the survey results, presented at the Annual General Meeting in January, can be seen at the FOPA website : [www.fopa.co.uk](http://www.fopa.co.uk)